

Recreational Saltwater Fishing Limits

New York State Marine & Coastal District



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Effective April 21, 2021, DEC requires that anglers use circle hooks when fishing for striped bass with bait.

Learn more about circle hooks and best saltwater fishing practices here: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8377.html

Register for New York's Recreational Marine Fishing Registry: 1-866-933-2257 or www.dec.ny.gov/permits/54950.html

Check current regulations in effect by calling (631) 444-0430 or visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html

The official regulation by the Department of State are the official source of DEC regulations.

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE (¹) (Total Length in	DAILY POSSESSION LIMITS (Number of Fish)	OPEN SEASONS
Winter flounder	12	2	April 1 - May 30
Striped bass: Hudson River ⁽²⁾ (North of George Washington Bridge)	Slot Size: 18 - 28	1	April 1 - Nov 30
Striped bass: marine waters ⁽²⁾ (South of George Washington Bridge)	Slot Size: 28 - 35	1	April 15 - Dec 15
2022 Updated Regulation Summer flounder (fluke) ⁽³⁾	18.5	4	May 1 - Oct 9
2022 Updated Regulation Black Sea Bass ⁽⁴⁾	16	3 6	June 23 – Aug 31 Sept 1 – Dec 31
Oyster toadfish	10	3	July 16 - May 14
Tautog (blackfish) *Long Island Sound Region	16	2 3	April 1 – April 30 Oct 11 - Dec 9
Tautog (blackfish) *NY Bight Region	16	2 4	April 1 – April 30 Oct 15 - Dec 22
American eel	9	25 for individuals 50 for anglers aboard licensed party/charter boats	All year
American eel New York City: Harlem and East Rivers and Hudson River north to Troy Dam	9 – 14 for use as bait only, otherwise possession prohibited	25 for use as bait only, otherwise possession prohibited	All year for use as bait only, otherwise possession prohibited
Atlantic cod	21	10	All year
Atlantic menhaden	No size limit	100	All year
Bluefish (including "snappers")	No size limit	3 for individuals 5 for anglers aboard licensed party/charter boats	All year
Cobia	37	2	All year
Haddock	18	No limit	All year

For more information, or to sign-up for email updates from NYSDEC, visit our website:

www.dec.ny.gov

****Regulations were last changed on June 21, 2022 and are subject to change at any time.****

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE (1) (Total Length in	DAILY POSSESSION LIMITS (Number of Fish)	OPEN SEASONS
Hickory shad	No size limit	5	All year
King mackerel	23	3	All year
Monkfish (goosefish)	17 11" tail length	No limit	All year
Pollock	19	No limit	All year
Red drum	No size limit	No limit for fish >27" TL Fish <27" TL shall not be possessed	All year
2022 Updated Regulation Scup (Porgy)	10	30 for individuals	All year
		50 for anglers aboard licensed party/charter boats	Sept 1 – Oct 31
Spanish mackerel	14	15	All year
Weakfish	16 10" filleted (6) 12" dressed (7)	1	All year
Yellowtail flounder	13	No limit	All Year
Anadromous river herring (North of George Washington Bridge)	No size limit	10 per angler or 50 per boat/day	March 15 – June 15
Anadromous river herring (8) (South of George Washington Bridge)	No possession	No possession allowed	No possession allowed
American shad	No possession	No possession allowed	No possession allowed
Atlantic sturgeon	Moratorium	No possession allowed	No possession allowed

**Tautog (blackfish) regulations vary for the Long Island Sound Region (Marine waters lying east of the Throgs Neck Bridge and west of a line that runs from Orient Point, NY to Watch Hill, RI) and NY Bight Region (Marine waters outside of the Long Island Sound Region)*

(1) Total length is the longest straight line measurement from the tip of the snout, with the mouth closed, to the longest lobe of the tail, with the lobes squeezed together, and the fish laid flat on the measuring device. Exception: Black sea bass are measured from the tip of the snout (or jaw), with the mouth closed, to the farthest extremity of the tail, not including the tail filament.

(2) Non-offset (inline) circle hooks must be used when recreationally fishing for striped bass using bait defined as any live or dead, whole or part of a marine or aquatic organism or terrestrial invertebrate. Exemption: Circle hooks are not required when fishing with an artificial lure, whether or not they are tipped with bait as previously defined.

(3) Summer flounder may not have heads or tails removed or be otherwise cleaned, cut, filleted, or skinned until brought to shore, with the following exception: the white side fillet or white skin only of a legal size fluke may be removed to use as bait. The carcass of the fluke with dark side completely intact must be retained for inspection of size limit and counts against the possession limit.

(4) Black sea bass are measured from the tip of the snout (or jaw), with the mouth closed, to the farthest extremity of the tail, not including the tail filament.

(5) A party/charter boat customer who lands and possesses more than 50 scup during September 1 - October 31 must obtain a dated original fare receipt from the licensed vessel.

(6) The fillet length is the longest straight line measurement from end to end of any fleshy side portion of the fish cut lengthwise away from the backbone, which must have the skin intact, laid flat on the measuring device.

(7) Dressed length is the longest straight line measurement from the most anterior portion of the fish, with the head removed, to the longest lobe of the caudal fin (tail), with the caudal fin intact and with the lobes squeezed together, laid flat on the measuring device.

(8) Anadromous river herring is defined in 6 NYCRR Part 10 (except the Hudson River and its tributaries and embayments north of the George Washington Bridge at river mile 11).