

# Recreational Saltwater Fishing Limits

## New York State Marine & Coastal District



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

### Before going fishing, you must:

- Register with the NYS Recreation Marine Fishing Registry:
  - Call **1-866-933-2257** or visit <https://decals.dec.ny.gov/DECALSCitizenWeb>
- Check the current fishing regulations in effect! For the most updated information:
  - Call **(631) 444-0430** or visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html>

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

\*\*Regulations were last changed on May 08, 2020 and are subject to change at any time.\*\*

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE <sup>(1)</sup> (Total Length in Inches)	DAILY POSSESSION LIMITS (Number of Fish)	OPEN SEASONS
<b>Bluefish (including "snappers")</b>	No size limit	<b>3</b>	<b>All year</b>
<b>Bluefish (including "snappers")</b> Anglers aboard licensed party/charter boats	No size limit	<b>5</b>	<b>All year</b>
<b>Scup (Porgy)</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>All year</b>
<b>Scup (Porgy) <sup>(2)</sup></b> Anglers aboard licensed party/charter boats	<b>9</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Sept 1 – Oct 31</b>
<b>Winter flounder</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>April 1 - May 30</b>
<b>Striped bass: Hudson River</b> (North of George Washington Bridge)	<b>Slot Size: 18 - 28</b> (not less than 18" nor greater than 28")	<b>1</b>	<b>April 1 - Nov 30</b>
<b>Striped bass: marine waters</b> (South of George Washington Bridge)	<b>Slot Size: 28 - 35</b> (not less than 28" nor greater than 35")	<b>1</b>	<b>April 15 - Dec 15</b>
<b>Summer flounder (fluke) <sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>May 4 - Sept 30</b>
<b>Black Sea Bass</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b> <b>7</b>	<b>June 23 – Aug 31</b> <b>Sept 1 – Dec 31</b>
<b>Oyster toadfish</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>July 16 - May 14</b>
<b>Tautog (blackfish)</b> *Long Island Sound Region	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b> <b>3</b>	<b>April 1 – April 30</b> <b>Oct 11 - Dec 9</b>
<b>Tautog (blackfish)</b> *NY Bight Region	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b> <b>4</b>	<b>April 1 – April 30</b> <b>Oct 15 - Dec 22</b>
<b>American eel</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>All year</b>
<b>American eel</b> Anglers aboard licensed party/charter boats	<b>9</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>All year</b>
<b>American eel</b> (New York City: Harlem and East Rivers, Hudson River to Troy Dam)	<b>9 – 14</b> for use as bait only	<b>25</b> for use as bait only, otherwise possession prohibited	<b>All year</b> for use as bait only, otherwise possession prohibited

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

[www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)

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<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>MINIMUM SIZE <sup>(1)</sup></b> (Total Length in Inches)	<b>DAILY POSSESSION LIMITS</b> (Number of Fish)	<b>OPEN SEASONS</b>
<b>Atlantic cod</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>All year</b>
<b>Atlantic menhaden</b>	<b>No size limit</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>All year</b>
<b>Cobia</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>All year</b>
<b>Haddock</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>No limit</b>	<b>All year</b>
<b>Hickory shad</b>	<b>No size limit</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>All year</b>
<b>King mackerel</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>All year</b>
<b>Monkfish (goosefish)</b>	<b>17</b> <b>11" tail length</b>	<b>No limit</b>	<b>All year</b>
<b>Pollock</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>No limit</b>	<b>All year</b>
<b>Red drum</b>	<b>No size limit</b>	No limit for fish less than 27" TL Fish greater than 27" TL shall not be possessed	<b>All year</b>
<b>Spanish mackerel</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>All year</b>
<b>Weakfish</b>	<b>16</b> 10" filleted <sup>(4)</sup> 12" dressed <sup>(5)</sup>	<b>1</b>	<b>All year</b>
<b>Yellowtail flounder</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>No limit</b>	<b>All Year</b>
<b>Anadromous river herring</b> (North of George Washington Bridge)	<b>No size limit</b>	<b>10 per angler</b> <b>50 per boat/day</b>	<b>March 15 – June 15</b>
<b>Anadromous river herring <sup>(6)</sup></b> (South of George Washington Bridge)	<b>No possession</b>	<b>No possession allowed</b>	<b>No possession allowed</b>
<b>American shad</b>	<b>No possession</b>	<b>No possession allowed</b>	<b>No possession allowed</b>
<b>Atlantic sturgeon</b>	<b>Moratorium</b>	<b>No possession allowed</b>	<b>No possession allowed</b>

\*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)** 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.

**(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)** 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.

**(5)** 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.

**(6)** 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).