

Recreational Crab, Lobster & Whelk Limits

New York State Marine & Coastal District



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

NYS Recreation Marine Fishing Registry is **not required for taking crab and whelk recreationally**.
A Recreational Lobster Permit is required, please contact the Marine Permit Office at (631) 444-0470.

These regulations may change, please visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html> for the most updated version. **The official regulation by the Department of State are the official source of DEC regulations.**

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE (Total Length in Inches)	DAILY POSSESSION LIMITS (Number of Fish)	OPEN SEASONS
American lobster # Recreational permit required.	3 ³/₈" minimum carapace length 5 ¹/₄" maximum carapace length	6	LMA 4: closed Apr. 30 through May 31 LMA 6: closed Sept. 8 through Nov. 28 All other LMAs: open all year
Blue crab # Hard shell Soft shell Peeler/Shedder*	4 ¹/₂" 3 ¹/₂" 3"	50	All year
Jonah crab #	4 ³/₄"		All year
All Other Crabs #	No size limit		All year
Horseshoe crabs	No size limit	5	All year
Whelk	All waters of NYS Marine & Coastal District except Long Island Sound: 5 ¹/₂" shell length OR 2 ¹/₄" shell height	24	All year
	Long Island Sound: 5" shell length OR 2" shell height		

(#) Lobsters and crabs in spawn (eggs visible thereon) may not be taken or possessed.

(*) Peeler or shedder crabs are hard blue crabs which have a fully formed soft shell beneath the hard outer shell and the impending shedding process is evidenced by the white sign along the outer rim of the paddle-like appendages on the crab's fifth pair of legs

(^) **Long Island Sound (LIS) Region** includes all marine and coastal district waters lying east of the Throgs Neck Bridge and west of a line that runs from Orient Point, NY to Watch Hill, RI

Other provisions: Terrapin Excluder Devices (TEDs) must be used on all non-collapsible crab pots or traps that are fished in creeks, coves, rivers, tributaries, and near-shore harbors of the Marine and Coastal District.

An interactive map is available for reference, visit <https://arcg.is/GG8jH>. TEDs shall be securely fastened inside each funnel entrance of the crab pot to effectively reduce the size of the funnel opening to no larger than 4-³/₄" x 1-³/₄".

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

www.dec.ny.gov

Regulations were last changed on **May 11, 2022 and are subject to change at any time.**