

# RECREATIONAL SALTWATER FISHING REGULATIONS



Department of Environmental Conservation

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

## BEFORE GOING FISHING:

1. Register with the **NYS Recreation Marine Fishing Registry** by calling **1-866-933-2257** or visit: <https://on.ny.gov/decals>
2. Check **current regulations** in effect! Call (631) 444-0430 or visit: <http://on.ny.gov/saltwaterfishregs>

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE (1) (Total Length in Inches)	DAILY POSSESSION LIMITS (Number of Fish)	OPEN SEASONS
Winter flounder	12	2	April 1 - May 30
<i>*Pending Changes for 2024*</i> 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 - 31	1	April 15 - Dec 15
<i>*2024 Updated Regulation*</i> Scup (Porgy)	Shore anglers: 9.5 Vessel anglers: 11	30 for individuals 40 for anglers aboard licensed party/charter boats	May 1 – Dec 31 Sept 1 – Oct 31
<i>*2024 Updated Regulation*</i> Summer flounder (fluke) (4)	19 19.5	3	May 4 – Aug 1 Aug 2- Oct 15
Black Sea Bass	16.5	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, 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
<i>*Pending Changes for 2024*</i> 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	From shore: 1 per angler From vessel: 1 per vessel	All year
Haddock	18	No limit	All year
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

<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 (5) 12" dressed (6)	<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 (7)</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>

**REGULATIONS WERE REVISED ON April 2, 2024 AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME.**

\***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) A party/charter boat customer who lands and possesses more than 30 scup during September 1 - October 31 must obtain a dated original fare receipt from the licensed vessel.

(4) 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.

(5) 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.

(6) 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.

(7) 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).

4-3/4 inch by 1-3/4 inch.