

## Recreational Finfish Regulations

 as of April 30, 2012

Species	Season	Size Limit	Possession Limit
<b>American Eel</b> (1)	All Year	6 in	50 fish
<b>Black Sea Bass</b> (2)	May 11 - Jun 24	14 in	10 fish
	Jun 25 - Oct 31	14 in	20 fish
<b>Blue Marlin</b> (6)	<i>Federal rules apply. Consult <a href="#">NOAA Fisheries</a></i>		
<b>Bluefish</b>	All Year	No Limit	10 fish
<b>Cod</b> (North of Cape Cod) (7) <a href="#">Spring Cod Conservation Zone</a> <a href="#">Winter Cod Conservation Zone</a> All Other Areas in State Waters Private and For-Hire For-Hire Private	Apr 16 - Jul 21		Closed
	Nov 15 - Jan 31		Closed
	Apr 16 - Oct 31	19 in	9 fish
	Nov 01 - Apr 15		Closed
	Nov 01 - Apr 15	24 in	2 fish / person (75 lb / boat)
<b>Cod</b> (South & East of Cape Cod)	All Year	22 in	10 fish
<b>Dab (Plaice)</b>	All Year	14 in	No Limit
<b>Fluke</b>	May 22 - Sep 30	16.5"	5 fish
<b>Gray Sole (Witch)</b>	All Year	14 in	No Limit
<b>Haddock</b> (7)	All Year	18 in	No Limit
<b>Halibut</b> (7)	All Year	41 in	1 fish
<b>Monkfish</b>	All Year	17 in	No Limit
<b>Pollock</b>	All Year	No Limit	No Limit
<b>Redfish</b>	All Year	9 in	No Limit
<b>River Herring</b> (5)	<i>Harvest, possession, sale and use are prohibited</i>		
<b>Sailfish</b> (6)	<i>Federal rules apply. Consult <a href="#">NOAA Fisheries</a></i>		
<b>Scup</b> (3)			
Private	May 1 - Dec 31	10.5"	20 fish/angler (see note 3)
For-Hire (Regular Season)	May 1 - May 10	11"	20 fish
	Jun 25 - Dec 31	11"	20 fish
For-Hire (Bonus)	May 11 - Jun 24	11 "	45 fish
<b>Shad</b>	All Year	No Limit	6 fish
<b>Sharks</b> (excludes spiny dogfish)	<i><a href="#">refer to shark section</a></i>		
<b>Smelt</b>	Jun 16 - Mar 14	No Limit	50 fish
<b>Spiny Dogfish</b>	All Year	No Limit	No Limit
<b>Striped Bass</b> (4)	All Year	28 in	2 fish
<b>Tautog</b>	All Year	16 in	3 fish
<b>Tunas</b>	<i>Federal rules apply. Consult <a href="#">NOAA Fisheries</a></i>		
<b>Weakfish</b>	All Year	16 in	1 fish
<b>White Marlin</b> (6)	<i>Federal rules apply. Consult <a href="#">NOAA Fisheries</a></i>		
<b>White Perch</b>	All Year	8 in	25 fish
<b>Windowpane</b>	All Year	12 in	No Limit
<b>Winter Flounder</b> <a href="#">North of Cape Cod</a>	Nov 1 - Aug 31	12 in	8 fish
<b>Winter Flounder</b> <a href="#">South &amp; East of Cape Cod</a>	Apr 28 - May 27	12 in	2 fish
	Sep 22 - Oct 21	12 in	2 fish
<b>Wolffish</b>			Prohibited
<b>Yellowtail Flounder</b>	All Year	13 in	No Limit

**Notes:**

- 1) Subject to regulation by the Division and local community. Consult local regulations
- 2) Black sea bass are measured from the tip of the snout or jaw (mouth closed) to the farthest extremity of the tail, not including the tail filament
- 3) Maximum 100 scup per private vessel with 6 or more passengers.
- 4) Striped bass must be kept whole, with head, tail and body intact - no mutilation permitted (other than evisceration). The discard of dead, legal size striped bass is prohibited. To prohibit the practice of high-grading, recreational fishermen may not retain legal-sized striped bass and release said fish in favor of another larger legal-sized striped bass captured subsequently. It shall be unlawful to keep striped bass alive in the water by attaching a line or chain to the fish or placing the fish in a live well or holding car. Striped bass are measured from the tip of the snout or jaw (mouth closed) to the farthest extremity of the tail. Note: Permitted party/charter vessel operators may fillet striped bass for their customers. See 322 CMR 6.07 (4)(g) for details.
- 5) It is unlawful for any person to harvest, possess or sell river herring in the Commonwealth or in the waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth.
- 6) Billfish are measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the tail fork
- 7) Federal rules apply beyond state waters. Consult [NOAA Fisheries](#).