

MASSACHUSETTS Saltwater

► **Post-Release
Mortality**
page 13



SPECIAL SHOW EDITION
FULL REGULATIONS COMING IN APRIL

2016 RECREATIONAL FISHING GUIDE

- Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations
- Commonly Caught Species

- Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Derby
- Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Calendar

- Lobstering and Crabbing
- Bait & Tackle Shops
- Charter & Head Boats

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On the Cover:

A Gulf of Maine haddock being reeled to the surface during a tagging trip on Jeffreys Ledge.

Photo by Steve De Neef

Steve De Neef is a photojournalist and videographer focusing on documentary, conservation and underwater stories. www.stevedeneef.com



Get caught up in the excitement of Massachusetts recreational saltwater fishing!

Some places offer a little bit of paradise, but Massachusetts goes well beyond that. For those expecting well-deserved relaxation and excitement, and a splendid saltwater fishing experience, Massachusetts really delivers. Few go away with unmet expectations because our coastline offers variety in many ways; from striped bass caught surfcasting to winter flounder taken from small boats fishing sandy flats, to swift tunas caught aboard charter vessels. Our commonly-caught species offer challenge to fishing skills easily honed by advice provided in our many bait and tackle shops or, for children, through *Marine Fisheries* youth fishing clinics. We never underestimate the importance of instilling love of saltwater fishing into the “big game” anglers of tomorrow.



Dr. David E. Pierce,
Director

This 2016 Saltwater Recreational Fishing Guide provides more than just where and when to fish. It profiles some of our groundbreaking research — such as post-release mortality of hooked fish — commonly done as partnerships with other scientists and fishermen. This research has contributed to a far better understanding of our fisheries and how anglers can better contribute to conservation efforts.

Another trademark of *Marine Fisheries* is the manner in which we collaborate with recreational anglers. We look to your knowledge and opinion on the spending of funds obtained through our recreational saltwater permit. These funds are used to improve shoreline access for anglers and gain knowledge of the fish we target, ensuring a “user-pay / user-benefit” program. Our Marine Recreational Fisheries Development Panel is comprised of five citizens who give us critical advice as to which projects will be of greatest benefit to you, the anglers.

We appreciate all of our Commonwealth anglers and see, through your numbers, the extent and great importance of our recreational fisheries. We issue over 160,000 permits annually and that number doesn't include young anglers, anglers on headboats and chartered vessels, and those anglers traveling from neighboring states that have a reciprocal permit. We work hard to provide you with the best possible fishing experience.

Our challenge and commitment is to advocate for recreational anglers and promote steps to protect and enhance not just target species like tuna, cod, and striped bass but also the forage base on which these fish depend. This has become even more important with a shift in emphasis to ecosystem-based fisheries research and management, and our needing to understand and respect predator-prey relationships.

Please be resolved this year to make many trips to the water and get caught up.



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Matthew A. Beaton
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Division of Fish and Game

David E. Pierce
Director

January 2016



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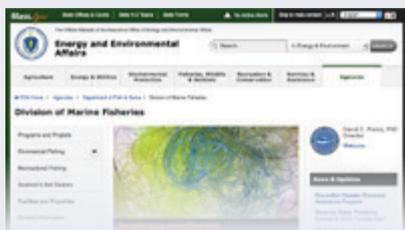
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The Division of Marine Fisheries

The Department of Fish and Game's Division of Marine Fisheries is responsible for the management of the Commonwealth's living marine resources. The Division promotes and develops commercial and recreational fisheries through research, technical assistance, and the collection of statistics. Biologists are assigned to regions of the state and interact with many federal, interstate, state, and local management agencies as well as private fisheries organizations. For further information contact your local Recreational Fisheries Biologists.

Visit our Home Page at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries

To get up to date rule changes and notices you can also join the *Marine Fisheries* Listserv. This is a notification list only, where you will receive timely information from the Division regarding fishery openings and closings, regulation changes and public hearing notices. We hope to use this Listserv to keep our constituents more informed and reduce our reliance on paper mail. Please encourage other interested parties to join this list.



The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries website has:

- Commercial and recreational regulations
- Saltwater Fishing Derby standings
- Permit applications
- *Marine Fisheries* publications and much more!

To join the list,
send e-mail with nothing in the subject or body to:
join-marinefisheries@listserv.state.ma.us

To be removed,
send e-mail to:
leave-marinefisheries@listserv.state.ma.us

Recreational Fisheries Program Biologists

South Shore Office:

Quest Center,
1213 Purchase St.
New Bedford, MA 02740
(508) 990-2860
FAX: (508) 990-0449

John Boardman
S. Shore/S. Coast

Annisquam River Marine Fisheries Station:

30 Emerson Avenue
Gloucester, MA 01930
(978) 282-0308
FAX: (617) 727-3337

Matt Ayer
North Shore/Metro Boston

Boston Office:

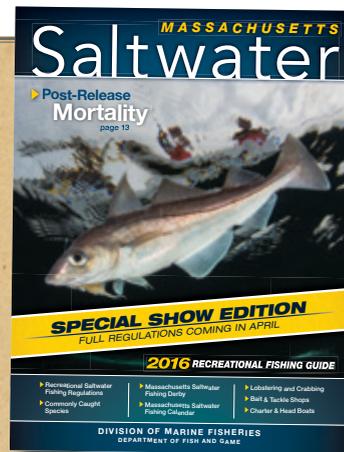
251 Causeway St.,
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Boston, MA 02114
(617) 626-1520
FAX: (617) 626-1509



Office of Law Enforcement

Environmental Police Officers are responsible for enforcing Massachusetts fish and game laws including the commercial and recreational harvest of living marine resources. In addition they also enforce the Commonwealth's boating and recreational vehicle laws and regulations. Fishing violations can be reported to the following number:

Toll-Free Number:
1-800-632-8075



About this Guide

This high-quality guide is offered to you by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

J.F. Griffin is an award winning publishing house that specializes in producing state fish & wildlife regulation books. J.F. Griffin supports MADMF's staff in the design, layout and editing of the guides. They also manage the marketing and sales of advertising to appropriate businesses within the book.

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ATTENTION ANGLERS: REWARD

Acoustic Tagging Research

Marine Fisheries is conducting four tagging studies to investigate the coastal movements of striped bass and the discard mortality rate for Atlantic cod, haddock, and cusk. Fish have been both internally and externally tagged with acoustic transmitters.



Acoustically tagged striped bass



Acoustic Transmitter



Acoustically tagged Atlantic cod



Acoustic Receiver

If you recapture a tagged fish:
Record the: **Date caught, location, length, weight, and tag number.**
If the fish is being harvested, **retain the internal tag.**

To claim your reward contact:
MA Division of Marine Fisheries
Bill Hoffman (978) 282-0308 ext. 106
Bill.Hoffman@state.ma.us



Haddock tagged with acoustic transmitters.

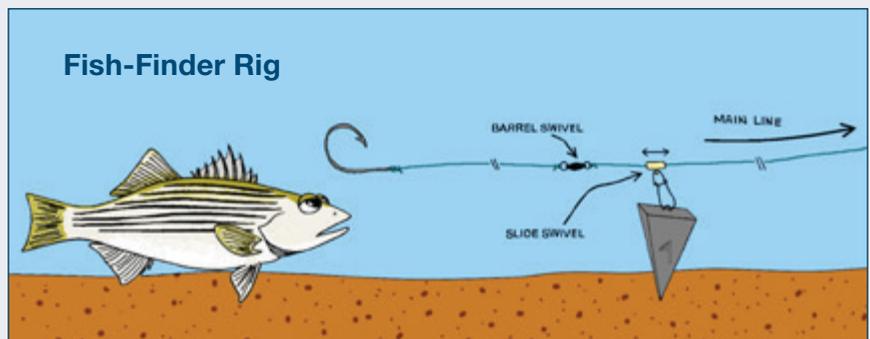
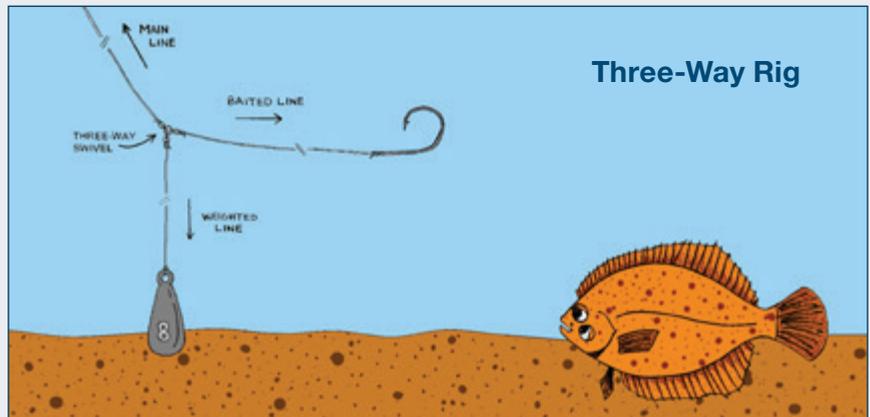


Cusk caught recreationally.

Common Rigs Used for Bait Fishing

Three-Way Rig: Gets its name from using a three-way swivel and is useful for catching striped bass, tautog, winter flounder, and just about any other bottom-dwelling species. Various lengths (6-24 inches) can be used for the weighed leader which carries the bait down in the water column. The baited leader (12-36 inches) presents live or dead bait when stationary or drifting and can be used to slow-troll plugs or other lures.

Fish-Finder Rig: A simple rig to set-up and tie that can be used when fishing for multiple species from shore. This rig allows for large pieces of bait to be presented and allows for the fish to ingest the bait before setting the hook. The weight on the slide swivel holds the line down but allows for the bait to be dropped back to fish such as striped bass, fluke, and many others.



These and more fishing knots are available on waterproof plastic cards at www.proknot.com

Improved Clinch Knot

The improved clinch knot has become one of the most popular knots for tying terminal tackle connections. It is quick and easy to tie and is strong and reliable.

The knot can be difficult to tie in lines in excess of 30 lb test. Five+ turns around the standing line is generally recommended, four can be used in heavy line. This knot is not recommended with braided lines.



1. Thread end of the line through the eye of the hook, swivel or lure. Double back and make five or more turns around the standing line. Bring the end of the line through the first loop formed behind the eye, then through the big loop.



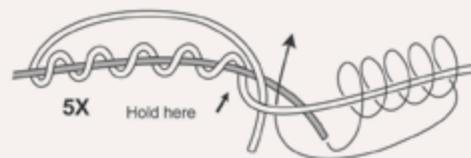
2. Wet knot and pull slightly on the tag end to draw up coils. Pull on the standing line to form knot with coils pressed neatly together.



3. Slide tight against eye and clip tag end.

Blood Knot

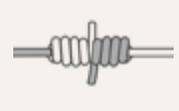
Use this knot to join sections of leader or line together. It works best with line of approximately equal diameter.



1. Overlap ends of lines to be joined. Twist one around the other making 5 turns. Bring tag end back between the two lines. Repeat with other end, wrapping in opposite direction the same number of turns.



2. Slowly pull lines or leaders in opposite directions. Turns will wrap and gather.



3. Pull tight and clip ends closely.

2016 Saltwater Fishing Permit

Get Your **2016** Saltwater Fishing Permit Today!

Who Needs a Permit?

All anglers age 16 or older that wish to engage in the recreational activity of finfishing, with the following exceptions:

- Anglers who regardless of their age otherwise meet the definition of a disabled person in M.G.L. c. 19C
- Anglers fishing on permitted for-hire vessels (charter/head boat)

Reciprocity

- All permitted MA residents may fish in the three neighboring coastal states (NH, RI, CT)
- Permitted anglers from these three neighboring coastal states may also fish in MA waters

Permit Fee

- The fee for an individual angler (resident or non-resident) is \$10
- No charge for fishermen age 60 or over

How will the permit fee money be used?

All money from permit fees will be deposited into a dedicated account and can only be used for implementing projects that will enhance recreational saltwater fishing including:

- Improvement of public access for recreational saltwater anglers
- Development and implementation of education materials for the public
- Other marine recreational fishing programs approved by the recreational fishing development panel

To Obtain a 2016 Massachusetts Recreational Saltwater Fishing Permit:

Visit our website at:

www.mass.gov/marinefisheries

Call toll-free from 5am-5pm:

1-866-703-1925

For a list of permit vendor locations and to view frequently asked questions, please visit our website at:

www.mass.gov/marinefisheries

For questions please email:

marine.fish@state.ma.us

or call:

Boston – (617) 626-1520

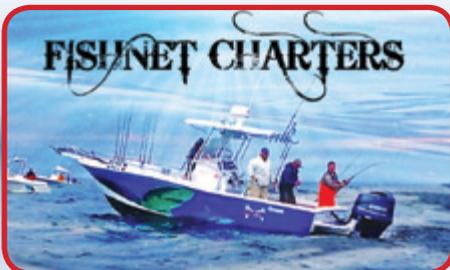
Gloucester – (978) 282-0308 x150

New Bedford – (508) 990-2860 x150

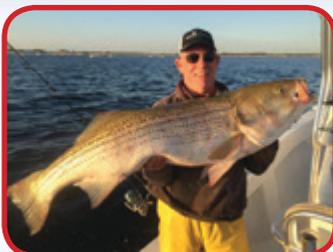
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Have You Fished Today?

Here's What You Could Be Catching!



Photo courtesy Capt. Corey Pietraszek

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Know How To Handle Your Fish — Both On The Line and Off

Use circle hooks.

Circle hooks, along with barbless hooks, greatly reduce the chance of lethally wounding a fish. Make sure that the point is in line with the shank and not offset (often sold as octopus circle hooks); this is especially important in catch and release.

Have a fair fight.

Use appropriate tackle for the size and species of fish you're trying to catch. Stay focused when reeling in fish as higher stress levels and often higher mortality rates are associated with longer fight times.

Stay wet.

When the fish gets close, be sure to handle the fish with wet hands. Using a dry cloth or gloves can remove both slime and scales, both needed for the fish's health.

Keep it in the water.

If you aren't going to keep or measure the fish, try to remove the hook with the fish in the water. This will keep the fish happier and both you and your boat cleaner!

Support the fish.

When removing a fish from the water, be sure to support the full body weight. Place your hand under the belly of the fish as you lift it out of the water. Don't ever grab the fish by the gills or eyes and never hold the fish up by only its jaw.

Get that hook out.

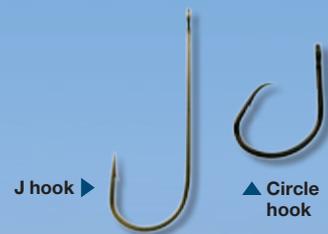
Hopefully you're using a circle hook, but whatever hook it is, get it out quickly. Use a dehooker if you don't need to pull the fish out of the water or pliers if necessary to remove a stubborn hook. If the hook is deep in the mouth or gut, simply cut the line as close to hook as possible before releasing the fish.

Reduce time out of the water.

The longer the fish stays out of the water, the greater the chance of mortality. Get a quick photo or measurement and get it back into the water. Be sure to know the regulations before you start fishing so there is no question as to what the size limit is.

Don't just toss it back.

Remember, a fish out of water is holding its breath! Help it take a "deep breath" by releasing it head-first. If necessary, hold onto the fish and move it back and forth in the water to increase flow of oxygen-rich water over its gills before letting it go.



Marine Fisheries strongly recommends the use of circle hooks for their proven ability to reduce mortality of released fish.

Photo courtesy Capt. Skip Montello



Public Access Update

When legislation was passed in 2009 to create the recreational saltwater fishing permit, the law mandated that one-third of the revenue generated had to be spent on improving public access. To date, monies from the permit have funded 20 projects ranging from \$100 to \$1 million! These projects range throughout the Massachusetts coast, ensuring that we are looking out for your recreational fishing access coastwide.

The largest project of 2015 was a complete rebuilding of the fishing pier at Cashman Park in Newburyport. The new pier offers more space for anglers to fish and is ADA compliant, allowing everyone a chance to catch that monster striped bass! Keep your eyes peeled for leaping sturgeon too! They've been seen a lot in this area.

The Small Grant Program also continued in 2015. The maximum award was increased for this newest round of proposals, from \$10,000 to \$15,000 for each project. The Small Grant Program allows for a city, town, or other group to submit a proposal for the enhancement or improvement to an existing public access site. Improvements to date have included: addition of LED lighting to a site, construction or repair of a fish cleaning station, and the clearing of debris and vegetation at shore access site. Projects in 2015 were completed in the towns of Weymouth, Marshfield, and Eastham.

We would like to remind shore anglers of your access rights in coastal Massachusetts. If you are fishing and have accessed a piece of shoreline via a legal right-of-way, you are legally allowed to continue on the shoreline as long

as it is in the intertidal zone between the high and low tide mark. This is not true for those doing anything besides fishing. Massachusetts does allow for coastal landowners to own to the mean low-tide mark. If you have questions regarding this, please contact *Marine Fisheries* or the Office of Fishing and Boating Access.

As new projects break ground and move forward, we will keep you informed. We also want to know where you think public access improvements need to be made. Call our public access coordinator, Ross Kessler (508-990-2860 x143) or your local area biologists Matt Ayer (978-282-0308 x107 for metro Boston and north) and John Boardman (508-990-2860 x120 for south of metro Boston) if you have suggestions for improvement in your area or if you have issues regarding access.

To Right: Example of new lighting and a fish cleaning station added to an existing access site.

Below: The newly completed rebuild of the fishing pier at Cashman Park in Newburyport.





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Approximately one-half of all saltwater recreational fishing trips take place from shore.

Unfortunately, this highly popular method of fishing is being threatened by the rapidly accelerating loss of public access to coastal waters. Much of this loss is the direct result of acquisition and development of coastal properties by private parties who then post their holdings against public access. In Massachusetts, colonial law granted private ownership to the intertidal zone (the wet sand), but reserved the public rights of fishing, fowling, and navigation. Although the public rights were reserved for certain uses of the intertidal zone, it is often not possible to enjoy those rights because access across private property to the intertidal zone was never reserved.

To guarantee that the public has access to shore based fishing opportunities, the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries and the Department's Office of Fishing and Boating Access (FBA) with help from federal aid in Sport Fish Restoration funds, have made it a priority to find, acquire, and provide access by way of land acquisition of easements and/or tidal property.

Currently there are ten *Marine Fisheries* properties and/or FBA properties or facilities providing anglers with access to shore fishing locations:

- Wareham River Fish Pier, Wareham
- Craven's Landing at Scortons Creek, Sandwich
- Popponeset Beach Shorefishing Area, Mashpee
- Parker River Fishing Pier, Yarmouth
- Bass River Fishing Pier, Yarmouth
- Dogfish Bar, Aquinnah
- Great Rock Bight Shorefishing Area, Chilmark
- Leland Beach, Edgartown
- Fore River Shorefishing Area, Quincy
- Broad Cove Shorefishing Area, Somerset
- Cashman Park Fishing Pier, Newburyport
- Oak Bluffs Fishing Pier, Martha's Vineyard

For more information on *Marine Fisheries* access properties, please visit www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.

For a full listing of access sites see pages 25-29



Post-Release Mortality

What happens to the fish you let go while fishing off a beach or from your boat? You are enjoying a fun day on the water and you catch a fish, but it wasn't big enough to keep or perhaps you were simply catch and release fishing, so you return it back to the water. As you watch it swim or sink out of sight you ask yourself...“is that fish going to live?”

This is a major question for all recreationally caught finfish species and something that *Marine Fisheries* is working hard to unravel. Back in 1996, the recently retired *Marine Fisheries* director Paul Diodati was the state's striped bass research biologist and he conducted a study on striped bass to estimate the post-release mortality rate for a rod and reel caught fish. He determined that of all of the fish in his study group, approximately 9% did not survive after being released. To date this recreational release mortality rate is still used in the stock assessment for striped bass when calculating dead discards in the recreational fishery.



Photo courtesy Steve DeNeef

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Jig-caught fish had a higher mortality rate (20%) than that of bait-caught fish (14%). Researchers speculate that the higher mortality rate for jig caught fish may be due to the consistent action used when angling with the typical Norwegian style jig.

More recently, *Marine Fisheries* along with the New England Aquarium (NEAQ), the University of New England, and the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth (SMAST) completed a study on the post-release mortality of Atlantic cod in the Gulf of Maine. This study utilized acoustic telemetry technology where rod and reel caught fish were tagged upon capture with transmitters and released into the water. This allowed the cod to swim freely back into their environment and into an array of acoustic receivers that “listened” for the individually tagged fish. The acoustic receivers had a range of over 500 yards and the array

that was deployed covered approximately 13.5 square miles. Researchers were then able to download the data from the receivers, and based upon the movements of the tagged fish between the receivers, were able to determine whether fish were alive or dead. Using this data an overall discard mortality rate of 15% was estimated. This number, when broken down by gear type, revealed that jig-caught fish had a higher mortality rate (20%) than that of bait-caught fish (14%). Researchers speculate that the higher mortality rate for jig caught fish may be due to the consistent action used when angling with the typical Norwegian style jig, as it was found that fish caught with them were 12 times more likely to be foul-hooked when compared to bait-caught fish.

The discard mortality rate calculated for cod from this study was shared with stock assessment biologists during the process of estimating stock size and creating recreational regulations in the winter of 2014–2015. Analysts used this as the “best available” data and it replaced the prior 30% mortality rate estimate that was used in the most recent stock assessment.

Currently *Marine Fisheries* along with the NEAQ, SMAST, and the recreational fishing charter fleet Eastman’s, are collaborating on a very similar discard mortality study for Gulf of Maine haddock. The same acoustic telemetry technology is being used on Jeffreys Ledge with fish being captured using rod and reel, and tagged with transmitters to



Left: A haddock is handled before being tagged and released.
Right: Haddock tagged with acoustic transmitters.

Photos courtesy Steve DeNeef

Please Immediately Report Sightings of Entangled Marine Animals

Call 1-800-900-3622 (Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies in MA, NH, and RI) or 1-877-775-6622 (NOAA).

Sightings can also be reported to the Coast Guard on Channel 16.



PCCS image. NOAA permit 932-1905



estimate the post-release mortality rate. This same group has also secured a federal grant to assess the discard mortality rate of cusk in the Gulf of Maine. This study is set to begin in the spring of 2016 and the results from both

the haddock and cusk studies will provide biologists and regulators with improved information about rod and reel caught fish that will aid in enhancing management resulting in a healthier stock.

An Atlantic cod tagged with an acoustic transmitter. (inset: transmitter laid out for size)



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Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Regulations listed below are subject to change during the 2016 season.

Species	Note	Min. Size	Open Periods	Possession Limits
American Eel	(1)	9"	All Year	25 fish
American Shad	(2)	None	All Year	Closed with exceptions
Black Sea Bass	See www.mass.gov/marinefisheries for current regulations.			
Blue Marlin	Federal rules apply. Consult NOAA Fisheries.			
Bluefish		None	All Year	10 fish
Cod (North of Cape Cod)	See www.mass.gov/marinefisheries for current regulations.			
Cod (South & East of Cape Cod)		22"	All Year	10 fish
Dab (Plaice)		14"	All Year	None
Fluke	See www.mass.gov/marinefisheries for current regulations.			
Gray Sole (Witch)		14"	All Year	None
Haddock	See www.mass.gov/marinefisheries for current regulations.			
Halibut		41"	All Year	1 fish
Monkfish		None	All Year	None
Pollock		None	All Year	None
Redfish		None	All Year	None
River Herring	Harvest, possession, sale and use are prohibited.			
Sailfish	Federal rules apply. Consult NOAA Fisheries.			
Scup	See www.mass.gov/marinefisheries for current regulations.			
Sharks (excludes spiny dogfish)	See www.mass.gov/marinefisheries for current regulations.			
Smelt		None	June 16 – March 14	50 fish
Spiny Dogfish		None	All year	None
Striped Bass	(3)	28"	All year	1 fish
Tautog		16"	All year	3 fish
Tunas	Federal rules apply. Consult NOAA Fisheries.			
Weakfish		16"	All year	1 fish
White Marlin	Federal rules apply. Consult NOAA Fisheries.			
White Perch		8"	All year	25 fish
Windowpane Flounder	Prohibited			
Winter Flounder (North of Cape Cod)		12"	All year	8 fish
Winter Flounder (South & East of Cape Cod)		12"	March 1 – December 31	2 fish
Wolffish	Prohibited			
Yellowtail Flounder		13"	All year	None

Prohibitions

Snagging, snatching of anadromous fish: including shad, smelt, white perch, striped bass, trout, and salmon, but excluding alewives or blueback herring.

The taking of striped bass by any means other than hook and line.

To "high-grade" striped bass, i.e. the discard of dead, legal size striped bass.

To retain live striped bass in the water by attaching to a stringer or placing in a live well or holding car.

The taking of billfish using gear other than a rod and reel.

The taking of Atlantic salmon, sturgeon, all marine mammals, all sea turtles, and the diamond back terrapin from Massachusetts waters.

For anyone, except the owner, to handle, destroy, or molest any lobster or crab pot or other fishing gear, including any gear swept up on the shore, beaches or flats whether public or private, or to take fish there from.

To sell, barter, or exchange fish or shellfish without a commercial permit.

Notes:

1) Subject to regulation by the Division and local community. Consult local regulations.

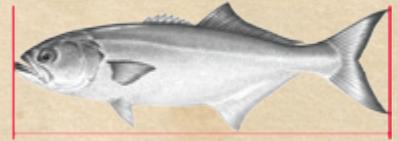
2) American Shad is a catch and release fishery, except for on the Merrimack and Connecticut Rivers where anglers may retain up to 3 fish per day.

3) Striped bass must be kept whole, with head, tail and body intact - no mutilation permitted (other than evisceration). Note: Permitted party/charter vessel operators may fillet striped bass for their customers. See 322 CMR 6.07 (4)(g) for details.

Massachusetts Saltwater Fish Records

Species	Weight	Location	Date	Angler
Albacore	65 lb.	Canyons	8/23/03	Tommy Good
Bigeye Tuna	231 lb.	Oceanographer Canyon	8/28/10	Randy Parda
Black Sea Bass	8 lb. 15 oz.	Buzzard's Bay	5/12/07	Aaron Costa
Bluefish	27 lb. 4 oz.	Graves Light	9/11/82	Louis Gordon
Bluefin Tuna	1228 lb.	Cape Cod Bay	9/23/84	Marlene Goldstein
Blue Marlin*	873 lb.	Canyons	8/21/15	Dr. Ralph DeLaTorre
Blue Shark	458 lb. 2 oz.	Jefferies Ledge	8/9/11	Ethan Lynch
Bonito	13 lb. 8 oz.	New Bedford Dike	9/23/02	Eddie Gomez
Cod	92 lb.	Jeffreys Ledge	7/5/87	Robert Radzik
Coho Salmon	18 lb. 8 oz.	North River	1/21/86	James Lewis
Cusk	34 lb. 4 oz.	Stellwagen Bank	7/15/90	Gabe Silvestrone
Dolphin	61 lb. 3 oz.	Veatch Canyon	8/8/09	Ty Warren
False Albacore	19 lb. 5 oz.	Edgartown	9/27/90	Donald MacGillivray
Fluke	21 lb. 8 oz.	Nomans Island	9/25/80	Joseph Czapiga
Haddock	20 lb.	Stellwagen Bank	1972	Don Rehnstrom
	20 lb.	Boston Lightship	8/3/74	Joseph Gelsomini
Halibut	321 lb.	Massachusetts Bay	7/21/65	Norman Cournoyer
King Mackerel	8 lb. 6 oz.	Lucas Shoals	9/27/08	Tim Broderick
Mackerel	3 lb. 8 oz.	Hampton Shoal	10/9/94	Steve Ostrander
Mako Shark	1324 lb.	Massachusetts Bay	7/27/99	Kevin Scola
Pollock	48 lb. 2 oz.	Cashes Ledge	9/14/92	Sal Mocerino
Porbeagle	495 lb.	Off Vineyard	7/22/11	Jesse Siegel
Scup	5 lb. 14 oz.	Nomans Island	10/17/83	Robert Pimental
Spanish Mackerel	8 lb.	Vineyard Sound	10/8/11	Joe Canha
Striped Bass	73 lb.	Quicks Hole	1913	Charles Church
	73 lb.	Sow and Pigs	1967	Charles Cinto
	73 lb.	Nauset Beach	11/3/81	Anton Stetzko
Swordfish	646 lb.	Nomans Island	1972	Albert Little
Tautog	22 lb. 9 oz.	Gay Head	6/29/78	Michael Horsely
Thresher	630 lb.	Off Vineyard	7/23/11	Timothy Delude
Wahoo	131 lb. 5 oz.		2006	Kenneth Abbott
Weakfish	18 lb. 12 oz.	Buzzards Bay	8/19/84	George Mahoney
White Marlin	131 lb.	Nantucket	7/30/82	Ted Nfatzger
Winter Flounder	8 lb. 2 oz.	Georges Bank	7/12/96	Tom Hillebrand
Wolffish	55 lb.	Cape Cod Bay	6/19/00	Andrew Glovsky
Yellowfin Tuna	187 lb.	Nantucket	8/5/90	Mark Boujoukos

How to Measure Your Catch



For Massachusetts marine waters minimum fish sizes are measured as **total length**. This is the greatest straight line length (not curved over the body) in inches as measured on a fish with its mouth closed from the anterior tip of the jaw or snout to the farthest extremity of the tail. Fish should be firmly grasped with both hands for proper measuring. Care should be taken so that the head of the fish firmly contacts the zero mark on rulers and tapes simultaneously with the tail extremity.

Exceptions:



Tunas are measured using curved fork length. This is in a line, tracing the contour of the body from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork of the tail.



Sharks are measured from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.



Swordfish, sailfish and marlin are measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the tail fork.



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.

* New state record

Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Derby

Sponsored by *Marine Fisheries*

At the end of each derby year, trophies will be awarded to anglers who landed the heaviest fish in each species category. Winners will be chosen in three divisions: men's, women's, and junior's (age fifteen and younger). In addition, a "Skillful Skipper" award is presented to any charter or head boat captains having three derby winning fish caught on their boat per year.

The derby runs from January 1 through November 30 each year and is open to all age groups. Fish entered must be caught in a fair and sporting manner, on hook and line, and must be measured and weighted on a certified scale at an official weight station. Weighmasters can be found at most local marinas and tackle shops (see list beginning on page 38 or go to www.mass.gov/marinefisheries). We would also like to remind participants that every entry must be caught in state waters and/or first landed in a Massachusetts port.

To enter, fill out an official affidavit from our website and have it certified at a weigh station. Please write clearly and provide all information requested. Affidavits that are illegible or incomplete cannot be accepted. Mail affidavits to: Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Derby, Quest Center, 1213 Purchase St. New Bedford, MA 02740. Entries must be received within 30 days of catch and be postmarked no later than December 4th.

Eligible Species	Minimum WT (lb.)
Albacore	30
Bigeye Tuna	100
Black Sea Bass	4
Bluefish	12
Bluefin Tuna	500
Blue Shark	300
Bonito	5
Cod	30
Cusk	20
Dolphin	15
False Albacore	10
Fluke	7
Haddock	8
Halibut	50
King Mackerel	6

Eligible Species	Minimum WT (lb.)
Mackerel	2
Mako	150
Pollock	12
Porbeagle Shark	150
Scup	2
Spanish Mackerel	4
Striped Bass	35
Swordfish	150
Tautog	8
Thresher Shark	200
Wahoo	30
Weakfish	8
Winter Flounder	3
Yellowfin Tuna	50

Special awards are offered for new state records. If your catch exceeds the weight listed on the current list of Massachusetts Saltwater Gamefish Records, you may qualify for a special award. All weigh stations have been

provided with a copy of the current list. When applying for a new state record your affidavit must be accompanied by a clear photograph of your catch with your name, address, and telephone number on the back.



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2015 Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Derby Winners

Species	Division	Angler	Weight
Black Sea Bass	Men	Kevin Cheung	5 lbs 10 oz
	Women	Valerie Turner	4 lbs 15 oz
	Junior	Benjamin Laliberte	5 lbs 0 oz
Bluefish	Men	Greg Pearson	18 lbs
	Women	Katie Bluemer	12 lbs 6 oz
	Junior	Gage Defazio	15 lbs 3 oz
Bonito	Men	Michael Singer	5 lbs 6 oz
	Women	Amy Vickers	8 lbs 7 oz
Fluke	Men	Bill Byrne	15 lbs 4 oz
	Women	Jackie Capute	11 lbs 1 oz
Mako Shark	Men	Kevin Cheung	302 lbs
Porbeagle Shark	Men	Mike Evensen	483 lbs
Scup	Men	Kevin Lavimodiere	3 lbs 15 oz
	Women	Jenna Goldstein	3 lbs
	Junior	Arthur Rossignol	2 lbs 4 oz
Spanish Mackerel	Women	Janna O'Shaughnessy	5 lbs 11 oz

Species	Division	Angler	Weight
Striped Bass	Men	Fred Skaff	53 lbs 2 oz
	Women	Theresa Cicco	41 lbs 4 oz
	Junior	Joshua Pierce	36 lbs 15 oz
Tautog	Men	Alexander Kalife	9 lbs 5 oz
	Junior	Kanbe Mao	9 lbs 6 oz
Winter Flounder	Junior (tie)	Ben O'Connor	3 lbs 8 oz
	Junior (tie)	John Crawford	3 lbs 8 oz

Skillful Skipper Award: Capt. Joe Huckemeyer - Helen H

2015 Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Catch and Release Derby Winners

Species	Angler	Length
False Albacore	Ross Kessler	29"
Fluke	Michael Rossignol	24"
Striped Bass	Ray Jarvis	48.5"

Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Catch and Release Derby

Additional Rules for Catch and Release Awards

Obtain and complete an official derby affidavit from www.mass.gov/marinefisheries. Fish must be released alive—no use of gaffs or harpoons. Fish must be boated and measured for total length (closed jaw to tip of tail, tail may be squeezed together for measurement) except for false albacore which is measured to the fork of the tail. Lengths should be measured to the nearest 1/2 inch.

A photograph of the fish should be included with the affidavit at the time of submission. Exceptions will be made for digital photos which can be e-mailed in a timely manner to john.boardman@state.ma.us. The photo must show the side profile of the fish and include a clearly discernible measuring device.

Anglers may submit multiple entries but may earn only one citation per species per year. Only one trophy will be given for the largest of each species per year. Catch and release of any four eligible species by an angler within the year will qualify for a "Grand Slam" release award. Only one "Grand Slam" award will be given out per year to the greatest cumulative length. In the event of a tie for any catch and release award, the earliest entry will be used as the tiebreaker.

Eligible Species	Minimum Lengths
Bluefish	35"
Cod	42"
False Albacore	26"
Fluke	24"
Striped Bass	45"
Winter Flounder	19"

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Saltwater Fish Availability Calendar

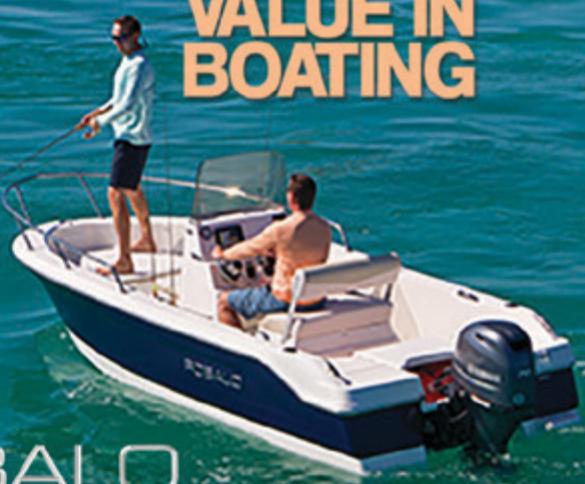
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Atlantic Cod	Good	Good	Good	Good	Best	Best	Good	Good	Good	Good	Best	Best
Black Sea Bass					Best	Best	Good		Best	Good		
Bluefin Tuna						Good	Good	Best	Best	Best	Good	
Bluefish					Good	Best	Best	Best	Best	Good		
Bonito								Good	Best	Good		
Cusk	Good											
False Albacore								Good	Best	Good		
Haddock			Good	Best	Best	Best	Good					
Mackerel					Good	Best	Good			Good	Best	Best
Pollock	Good	Best	Best	Best	Best	Good						
Scup						Good	Best	Good	Best	Good		
Smelt	Good	Good								Good	Good	Good
Striped Bass				Good	Best	Best	Best	Good	Best	Best	Good	
Summer Flounder					Good	Best	Best	Best	Good			
Tautog				Good	Best	Best	Good	Good	Best	Best	Good	
Winter Flounder	Good	Good	Good	Good	Best	Best	Good	Good	Best	Good	Good	Good

Poor
 Good
 Best

Use this saltwater fishing calendar as a general reference to the availability of the commonly targeted recreational finfish of Massachusetts.

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Commonly Caught Species



Striped Bass

Striped bass is our most sought-after species, providing great sport through catch and release fishing and great eating when you catch a "keeper". Striped bass is one of the largest fish available to the nearshore angler. Fish range from 1 pound to over 60 pounds.

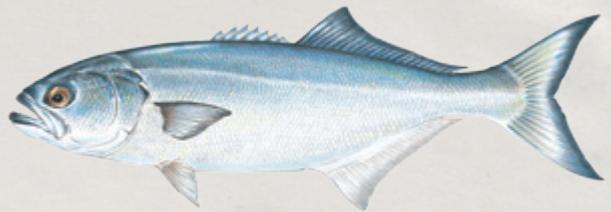
Location: Whole coast surf, inshore bars, reefs, tide-rips, bays, and estuaries.

Season: Mid April-October

Baits and Lures: Seaworms, eels, squid, herring; jigs, plugs, spinners, spoons.

Methods and Tackle: Casting from shore, boat-trolling; light to heavy tackle.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 35 lb.



Bluefish

Bluefish are usually ravenous and will strike at just about anything you give them. Watch out for those teeth! They average around 3-7 pounds along the coast and tend to be larger just offshore in the rips. The juveniles, referred to as "snappers," can be found in the estuaries and are fun to catch with light tackle. In all cases, they put up an excellent fight all the way to your boat or shore.

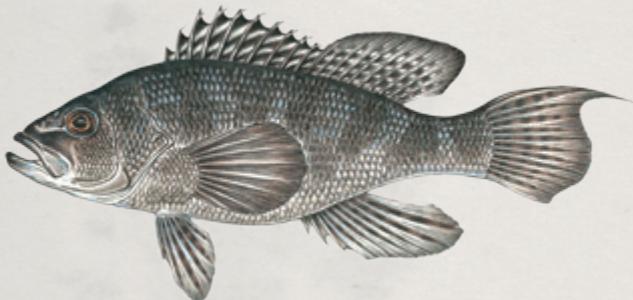
Location: Whole coast surf, inshore bars, tide rips, bays, and estuaries.

Season: June-mid October

Baits and Lures: All small bait fish, jigs, spoons, plugs, spinners, flies.

Methods and Tackle: Casting from shore or boat (you may want to use a wire leader) with spin and fly fishing gear, trolling.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 12 lb.



Black Sea Bass

The migratory black sea bass is a tasty fish arriving in our near shore waters in the late spring. These fish also have a peculiar life cycle - the majority begin life as females and then change to males at around three years of age.

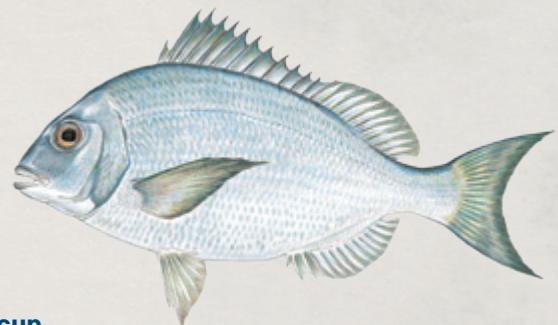
Location: South side of Cape Cod, Buzzards Bay to Rhode Island border and a few are found in Cape Cod Bay. Fish for them around bottom structure such as reefs, rocks, and wrecks.

Season: May-September

Baits and Lures: Cut squid, clams, green crabs.

Methods and Tackle: Bottom fish from a boat.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 4 lb.



Scup

A party boat staple, scup are easy and fun to catch. Scup are very good eating though be careful of the many bones.

Location: South side of Cape Cod and along coast to Rhode Island

Season: May-October

Baits and Lures: Clams, strips of squid, seaworms.

Methods and Tackle: Light- to medium-weight tackle, drift-fishing, jetties, piers, bridges.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weights: 2 lb.



Tautog

"Tog", "white chin" and "black fish" are all common nicknames for this fish. Tautog are very slow growing compared to most fish and do not migrate far from where they originate but move inshore in the spring and offshore in the winter.

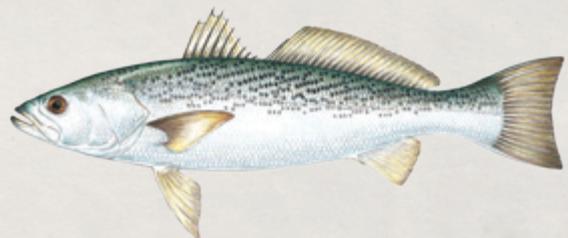
Location: Whole coast, rocky bottoms inshore, bays, harbors, jetties, breakwaters.

Season: April-November

Baits and Lures: Crabs, clams, all shellfish.

Methods and Tackle: Still-fishing from boat or shore, medium action spinning or conventional rod, 20-30 lb test line.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 8 lb.



Weakfish (Squeteague)

The weakfish looks like a large trout and is found in Massachusetts waters during the summer months. Often found feeding alongside striped bass.

Location: Southern Massachusetts sandbars, deep water drop offs, channels, bays and estuaries

Season: Late June-September

Baits and Lures: Shrimp, seaworms, tinker mackerel, eels, strips of squid; artificial lures (bright plastic shrimp, worms, bucktails, tubes, jigs, sand eel imitations)

Methods and Tackle: Still-fishing, drifting, chumming, casting from shore or boat, trolling; light to medium tackle.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 8 lb.

Commonly Caught Species



Winter Flounder

The winter flounder (black back) provides good fishing during the cold weather months. They are very accessible and provide the angler with thick fillets to take home.

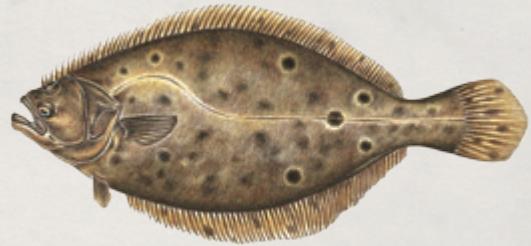
Location: Whole coast, tidal streams, shallow bays, estuaries.

Season: May-February

Baits and Lures: Sandworms, bloodworms, clams, strips of squid.

Methods and Tackle: Chum pot (crushed clams), still-fishing from boats, piers, jetties, bridges, breakwaters; light tackle

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 3 lb.



Summer Flounder (Fluke)

Fighting ability and fine flavor highlight this flatfish. The upper surface of the summer flounder head faces left. They also have prominent teeth to assist with their aggressive predatory behavior. Larger fluke are referred to as "doormats". Target sandy or muddy bottom along with fast moving rips that contain debris and bait fish.

Location: South side of Cape Cod, Islands, Cape Cod Bay, Buzzards Bay.

Season: May-September

Baits and Lures: Minnows, squid strips, clams, shrimp; spinners, jigs.

Methods and Tackle: Drift-fishing, troll, chum, still fish, casting.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 7 lb.



Mackerel

Mackerel are fast swimmers and voracious feeders, which offers the angler many options for catching them. They are also an important food fish for many other species of fish and marine mammals.

Location: Whole coast, deep water to shallow bays, beaches, jetties, canal, bridges.

Season: May-September

Baits and Lures: Small bait fish, crab, clams, seaworms, squid strips, jigs, spoons, flies.

Methods and Tackle: Trolling, jigging, casting from shore or boat; light tackle.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 2 lb.



Tunas: Bluefin (top) and Yellowfin (below)

All the tunas are very swift swimmers, provide a thrilling and sometimes backbreaking fight and are literally hot blooded. The giant bluefin tuna is the biggest and most lucrative of the tunas in our waters and thus creates much competition amongst fishermen. Yellowfin are commonly caught in near offshore waters as are albacore.

Location: Offshore east of North Shore, Cape Cod Bay, East of Cape Cod, South of Islands, offshore in Canyons

Season: Late June-October

Baits and Lures: Bait fish used with chum slick; plastic squids, multi-squid rigs, daisy chains, jigs, artificial lures

Methods and Tackle: Trolling, chunk baits with chum; medium to heavy tackle

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: Yellowfin tuna 50 lb., bluefin tuna 500 lb.



Bonito

Sharpen your reflexes because these small tunas are fast and fun to catch. Watch for feeding schools where there will be jumpers. For a quick identification, look for dark bands running the length of the fish above the lateral line and a silvery belly.

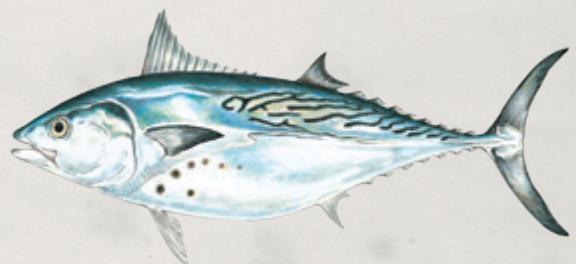
Location: Southern Cape Cod and the Islands, rarely north of Cape Cod.

Season: Late July-October

Baits and Lures: Strip baits, squid, small jigs, spoons, plugs, flies.

Methods and Tackle: Spinning gear, bait casting, light boat rods, trolling, fly fishing.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 5 lb.



False Albacore (Little Tunny)

False albacore are very similar to bonito - fast, fun and sometimes a bit tricky to catch. However, unlike bonito, they make poor table fare.

Location: Mostly warmer waters of the south side of Cape Cod and the Islands.

Season: Late July-October

Baits and Lures: Same as for bonito

Methods and Tackle: Same as for bonito

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 10 lb.



Cod

Cod are the deepwater treasures of Massachusetts. They are the number one fish sought after by party boats north of Cape Cod.

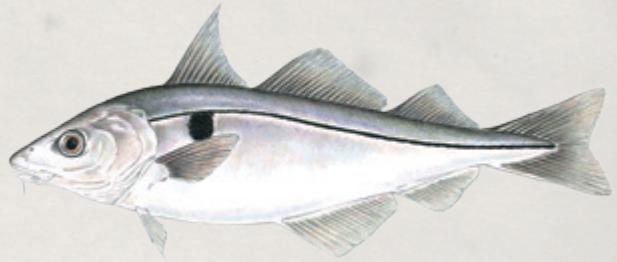
Location: Whole coast, deepwater, inshore while water is cold.

Season: Year round.

Baits and Lures: Sea worms, clams, mackerel, strips of all fish, crabs, jigs.

Methods and Tackle: Bait-fishing from shore and boats, fishing from boats using medium to stiff boat rod, conventional reel and at least 50 lb. test line.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 30 lb.



Haddock

Haddock is a member of the cod family and is a delicious fish for the dinner table. The black lateral line distinguishes it from the cod and pollock.

Location: Whole coast, cool waters, prefer depths of 140-450 ft., also prefers shell/sand, smooth rock, or gravel bottom.

Season: May-November

Baits and Lures: Seaworms, clams

Methods and Tackle: Still-fishing from a boat, medium action rod

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weights: 8 lb.



Pollock

The pollock is more available to the angler than its codfish relative. These aggressive fighters offer the thrills of a bluefish and the flesh of a cod.

Location: Whole coast with more north of Plymouth. Inshore (breakwaters and other structures) and offshore depending on the water temperatures. Inshore, pollock tend to be smaller than those offshore.

Season: May-October with the best runs in May, October

Baits and Lures: Same as cod, plus metal lures with a strip of squid.

Methods and Tackle: Still-fishing, casting, trolling. For deep water use same set up as for cod. Lighter spinning gear can be used for inshore fishing.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weights: 12 lb.



Cusk

Like the cod, the cusk is a cool water fish and is found on hard, rough bottom habitat. Look for the continuous dorsal fin to assist with identification.

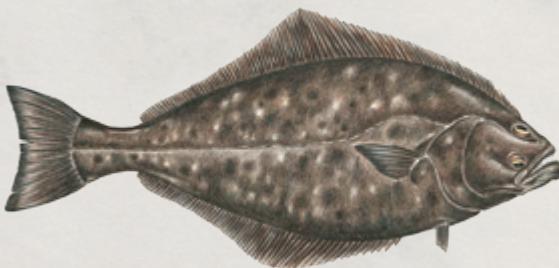
Location: Rocky ledges/hard bottom, moderately deep waters (more than 75 feet).

Season: Year round.

Baits and Lures: Same as cod.

Methods and Tackle: Same as cod.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 20 lb.



Halibut

This is the largest of the Atlantic flatfishes, which if you do happen to hook one, can be very challenging to reel up from deep water.

Location: Whole coast, cool and deep waters, preferred bottom type is sand, gravel or clay not soft mud or rock.

Season: Year round

Baits and Lures: Seaworms, clams, strips of fish, sandlance, jigs.

Methods and Tackle: Fishing from a boat with medium to stiff rod.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 50 lb.



Wolffish (Ocean Catfish)

Wolffish are distinguished by their large size, pronounced molar and canine teeth, and the lack of ventral fins. They do not school and prefer hard bottom, not mud, in deep waters.

Location: Whole coast, deep water, incidental to cod fishing.

Possession Prohibited

Commonly Caught Species



Smelt

This small anadromous fish is a seasonal favorite along the coast. They're accessible prior to the spawning runs up coastal streams during the late winter and early spring.

Location: Whole coast, estuaries, the mouths of coastal rivers, and within coastal rivers.

Season: September-February

Baits and Lures: Blood worms, sand worms, grass shrimp, small local bait fish

Methods and tackle: Ice fishing, shore fishing—keep bait moving slowly up and down within the school; light tackle, hand line.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weights: Not an eligible species.



Sharks: Blue (bottom) and Shortfin Mako (top)

Blue and mako sharks are common to our offshore waters and are sought after by recreational anglers. Makos are the more aggressive of the two fish and will put up an exciting fight. Venture with an experienced shark angler to prevent unexpected surprises and make sure you bleed and ice the shark flesh immediately. Anglers are encouraged to release sharks not intended for consumption.

Location: South of the Islands, East of Cape Cod, off North shore including Cape Cod Bay.

Season: June-October

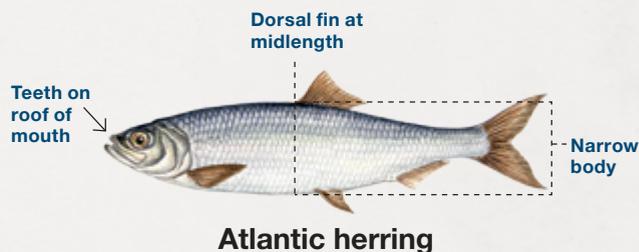
Baits and Lures: Chumming and baited hooks (preferably oily fish)

Methods and Tackle: Trolling, drifting; medium to heavy tackle, wire leader.

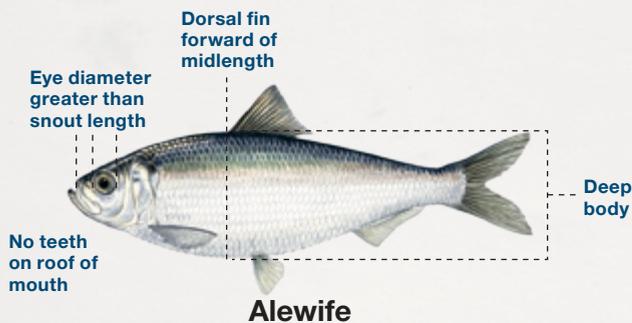
Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weights: Blue shark 300 lb.; Mako shark 150 lb.

Herring of Massachusetts

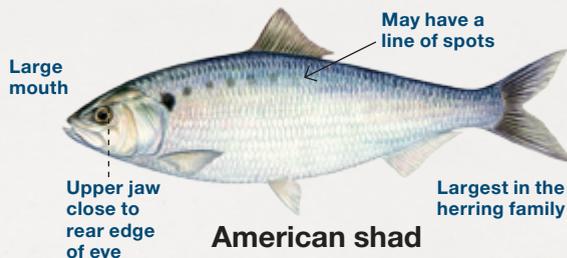
A variety of herring frequent MA coastal and estuarine waters and can be confusing to identify. River herring (alewife and blueback herring) and American shad are generally seen during spring spawning runs. Menhaden and Atlantic herring may appear in our estuaries during coastal migration in the summer or early fall.



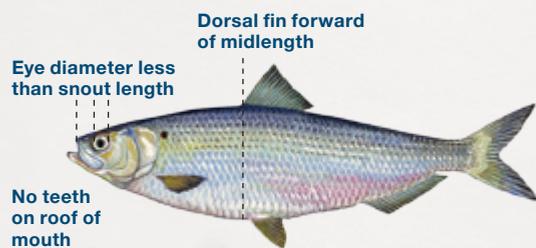
Atlantic herring



Alewife



American shad



Blueback herring



Atlantic menhaden

Note: The harvest and possession of river herring (Alewife and Bluebacks) is prohibited in Massachusetts.

Access Sites

Note:

Use of some ramps requires a fee or a parking sticker that may be purchased in advance. Some town parking facilities are limited to town residents only (RO) and noted where applicable. Fish and Game Office of Fishing and Boating Access (FBA) current or future facilities are italicized. * indicates a shore fishing area. For more information visit the FBA website at: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/fba/>

Location	Jetties	Piers	Ramp	Site Condition	Usable Tide
NORTH SHORE:					
Salisbury					
<i>State Beach</i>	3		•	Paved	All
Amesbury					
Town Landing Merrimac St. (RO)			•	Paved	All
Newbury					
Newbury Town Landing (RO)			•	Paved	All
Newburyport					
<i>Cashman Park</i>			•	Paved	All
Merri-Mar Yacht Basin			•	Paved	All
Ferry Landing			•	Paved	All
<i>Water Street</i>			•	Cartop	½
Rowley					
Perley's Marina			•	Paved	All
Ipswich					
<i>Town Landing, East Street</i>			•	Paved	All
Water Street		1	•	Paved	All
Essex					
Essex Marina, Dodge Street			•	Paved	All
Pike's Marina, Main Street			•	Paved	All
Rockport					
Granite Pier		1	•	Paved	All
Gloucester					
<i>Dunfugin Landing</i>			•	Paved	All
<i>Corliss Landing</i>			•	Paved	½
<i>Lanes Cove</i>			•	Paved	½
<i>Long Wharf</i>			•	Paved	All
Manchester					
Town Hall			•	Paved	All
Beverly					
River Street			•	Paved	All
Water Street			•	Paved	All
Danvers					
<i>Popes Landing</i>			•	Paved	All
Salem					
<i>Kernwood Bridge</i>			•	Paved	All
<i>Winter Island</i>			•	Paved	All
Willows		1			
Marblehead					
Causeway			•	Paved	½
<i>Riverhead Beach</i>			•	Paved	½
Lynn					
DCR Pier/Route 1A		1			
Lynn Municipal Ramp,			•	Paved	All
Blossom St.					
<i>DCR Playground</i>			•	Paved	All
Seaport Landing Marina		1			

Location	Jetties	Piers	Ramp	Site Condition	Usable Tide
Nahant					
Town Wharf			•	Paved	All
Saugus					
Fishermen's Outlet			•	Paved	All
Winthrop					
<i>Shirley Street</i>			•	Paved	All
Boston					
Castle Island	1	1			
Charlestown Navy Yd. at Pier 4		1			
Puopolo Park					
Charles River Res.					
Commercial Street		1			
Dorchester					
Rainbow Park, Commercial St.					
SOUTH SHORE:					
Quincy					
Town River Marine			•	Paved	All
666 Southern Artery					
Bay's Water Marine			•	Paved	½
128 Bayview Avenue					
<i>Sea Avenue</i>			•	Paved	½
<i>Fore River, Doane St.*</i>					
Weymouth					
<i>Back River</i>			•	Paved	All
Hingham					
<i>Iron Horse Station, Route 3A</i>			•	Paved	All
Hull					
"A" St. Marine		1	•	Paved	All
Goulds Boat Shop			•	Paved	All
Pemberton Point		1	•	Paved	All
Priscilla Sails			•	Paved	All
Cohasset					
Parker Avenue			•	Paved	½
Scituate					
Cole Parkway			•	Paved	All
Driftway Recreation Area			•	Gravel	All
North River Marine			•	Paved	All
<i>Scituate Harbor</i>	1	3	•	Paved	All
Marshfield					
Brick Kiln Road (canoe only)			•	Gravel	All
Green Harbor Marina			•	Paved	All
Humarock, Ferry Street (RO)			•	Gravel	All
Humarock Marine			•	Paved	All
Mary's Livery			•	Paved	All
<i>Town Pier, Green Harbor</i>			•	Paved	All
Union Street (canoe only)			•	Gravel	All

Access Sites

Location	Jetties	Piers	Ramp	Site Condition	Usable Tide
Duxbury					
Bay Marine Corp.			•	Paved	All
Mattakeeset Ct.		2	•	Paved	All
Kingston					
Town Landing, River Street			•	Paved	½
Plymouth					
Taylor Avenue (4-WD only)			•	Sand	All
<i>Town Wharf</i>	1	1	•	Paved	All
Wareham					
<i>Fishing Pier, Route 6</i>		2			
East Boulevard, Onset			•	Paved	All
Maco's, Rt. 6-28			•	Paved	All
<i>Oak St., Tempest Knob</i>			•	Paved	All
<i>Route 195 Eastbound rest area</i>			•	Paved	½
Mattapoisett					
<i>Short Wharf, Water Street</i>		2	•	Paved	All
Town Landing,			•	Gravel	½
Matt Neck Road					
Fairhaven					
<i>Pease Park, Middle Street</i>			•	Paved	All
<i>Hoppy's Landing</i>			•	Paved	All
<i>Seaview Avenue,</i>			•	Paved	All
<i>Sconticut Neck</i>					
New Bedford					
<i>East Rodney French</i>					
<i>Boulevard, H Street</i>	2	1	•	Paved	All
<i>West Rodney French</i>					
<i>Boulevard</i>	4		•	Paved	All
Dartmouth					
<i>Padanaram</i>			•	Paved	All
Westport					
Gooseberry Island			•	Paved	½
<i>Rte. 88 Bridge</i>			•	Paved	All
Fall River					
<i>Brownell Street</i>	1		•	Paved	All
Freetown					
<i>Water Street, Assonet</i>			•	Paved	½
Swansea					
<i>Cole River, Ocean Grove Ave.</i>			•	Paved	All
Somerset					
Brayton Point Rd.			•	Paved	½
<i>Broad Cove, Pleasant Street*</i>			•	Car top	½
Somerset Village					
<i>Waterfront Park, Main St.</i>			•	Paved	All

Location	Jetties	Piers	Ramp	Site Condition	Usable Tide
CAPE COD:					
Bourne					
Barlow's Landing			•	Paved	All
Bourne Marina			•	Paved	All
Canal at Electric Avenue (RO)			•	Paved	All
Hen Cove			•	Paved	All
Monument Beach			•	Paved	All
Red Brook Harbor			•	Paved	All
Falmouth					
<i>Childs River, Off Rte. 28</i>			•	Paved	All
<i>Falmouth Inner Harbor</i>	1		•	Paved	All
<i>Great Pond, Harrington St.</i>	1		•	Paved	All
<i>Green Pond,</i>			•	Paved	All
<i>Menauhant Road</i>					
<i>Megansett Harbor,</i>			•	Paved	All
County Road					
<i>Waquoit Bay, Seapit Road</i>			•	Paved	All
West Falmouth Harbor,			•	Paved	All
Old Dock Road					
Wild Harbor, Old Silver Beach			•	Paved	All
Great Harbor, Woods Hole	1	1	•	Paved	All
Sandwich					
Canal Basin			•	Paved	All
Canal-East End	2				
<i>Craven's Landing</i>				Sand	½
Scusset Beach State Park		1			
Mashpee					
Daniels Island Rd.			•	Paved	All
Great Neck Road, Ockway Bay			•	Paved	All
Mashpee Neck Road			•	Paved	All
<i>Poponneset Beach, Wading Place Rd.*</i>					
South Cape Beach	1				
Barnstable					
<i>Barnstable Harbor, Blish Point</i>			•	Paved	All
Barnstable Harbor (RO)			•	Paved	All
Bay Street Osterville (RO)			•	Paved	¾
Bridge Street, Osterville(RO)			•	Sand	½
East Bay Road Osterville (RO)			•	Paved	½
Haywood Rd.(RO)			•	Paved	All
Lewis Bay Road Hyannis			•	Paved	All
Ocean View Ave Cotuit (RO)			•	Sand	All
Old Shore Road,			•	Sand	½
Ropes Beach (RO)					
Prince Cove (RO)			•	Paved	All
Scudder Lane (RO)			•	Sand	½
Iyanough Rd., Hyannisport (RO)	1		•	Sand	½

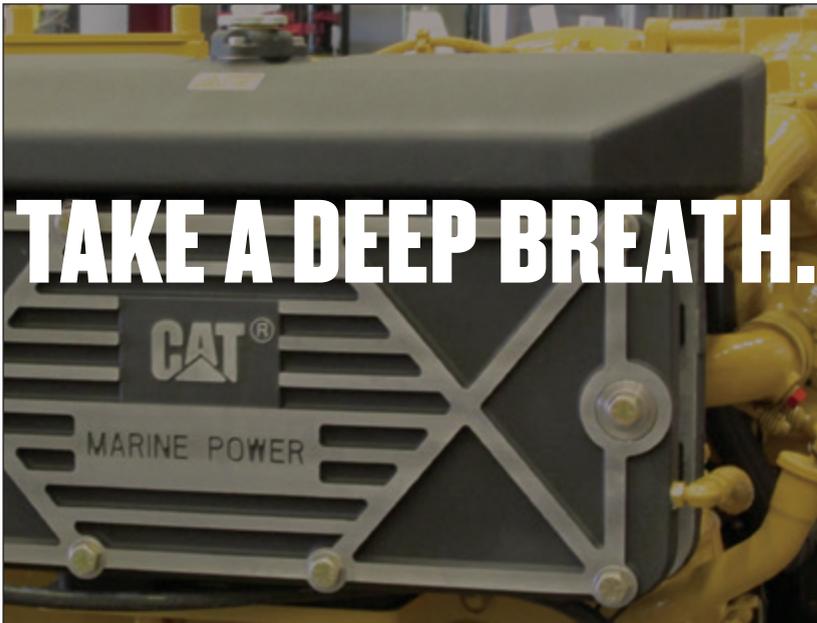
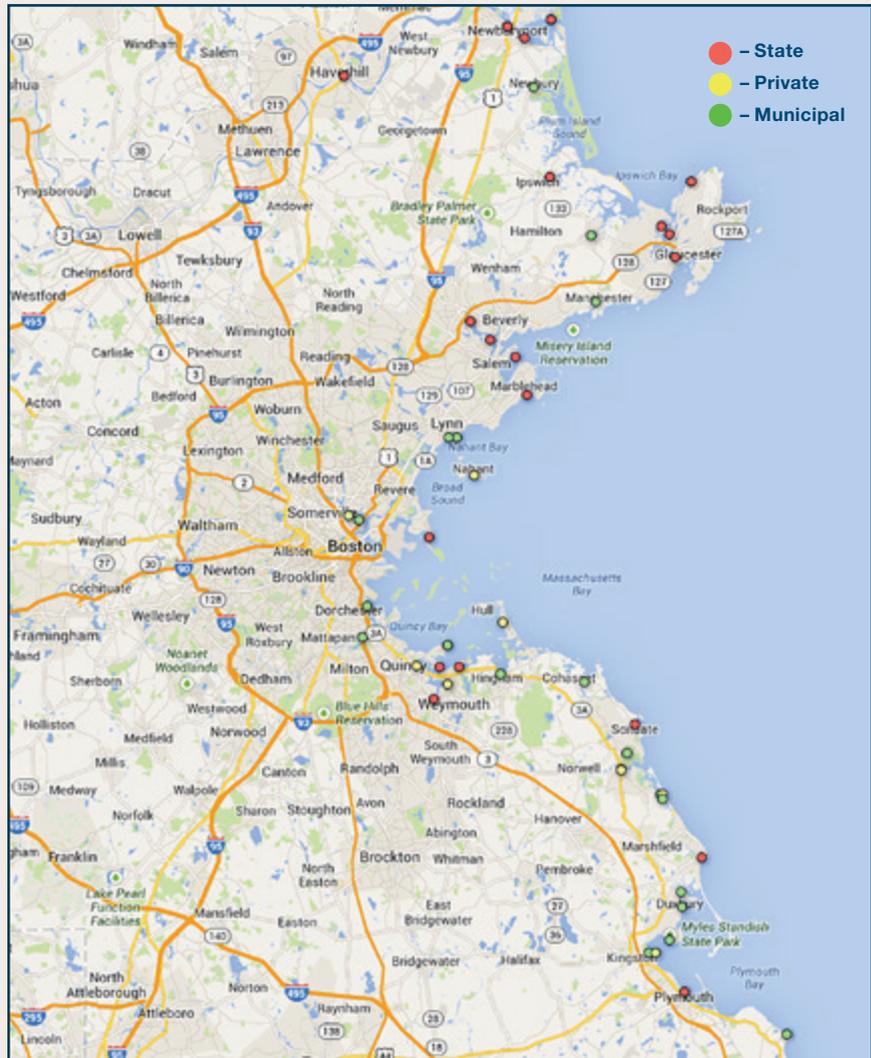
Massachusetts Coastal Waters

Salisbury to Marshfield



Scan this with your mobile device to find access ramps nearest you.

Access Map
Courtesy of Google Maps



The C18 Acert Marine Engine has ratings for commercial marine applications that meet U.S. EPA Tier 3, IMO II, and EU Stage IIIA Regulations. And its reliability and efficiency will get you back to the dock—every time. Feels good, doesn't it?

ME, NH, VT

**Stewart Tuttle, 207-885-8082,
Stewart_Tuttle@miltoncat.com**

MA, RI

**Kevin Hampson, 508-634-5503,
Kevin_Hampson@miltoncat.com**

Milton 
www.miltoncat.com

Access Sites

Location	Jetties	Piers	Ramp	Site Condition	Usable Tide
Yarmouth					
Bay View Street			•	Paved	½
Centre Street, Bass Hole			•	Paved	½
Follins Pond Road			•	Sand	½
<i>High Bank Road*</i>		1	•	Paved	All
<i>New Hampshire Ave.</i>			•	Paved	¾
Pleasant St. Beach			•	Paved	½
Sea Gull Beach			•	Paved	All
<i>Parkers River, Rt. 28</i>		1			
<i>Smugglers Beach, South Street</i>	1	1	•	Paved	All
Dennis					
<i>Cold Storage Rd.</i>	1		•	Paved	All
Follins Pond			•	Paved	All
<i>Horsefoot Cove</i>			•	Paved	All
Sesuit Neck Road			•	Paved	All
<i>Uncle Freeman's Way</i>			•	Paved	All
Harwich					
<i>Allens Harbor</i>	1		•	Paved	All
Herring River			•	Paved	All
Round Cove			•	Paved	All
<i>Saquatumet Harbor</i>			•	Paved	All
Chatham					
Barn Hill Rd.			•	Paved	All
Bridge Street			•	Paved	¾
Crows Pond			•	Paved	¾
Mitchell River Bridge					
Oyster River			•	Sand	All
Ryder's Cove			•	Paved	All
Orleans					
Arey's Pond			•	Paved	All
Cove Road			•	Paved	All
Goose Hummock Shop			•	Paved	All
Herring Brook Way			•	Paved	All
Meeting House Pond,			•	Paved	All
River Road (RO)					
Mill Pond			•	Paved	All
Paw Wah Pond			•	Paved	All
Quanset Road			•	Paved	All
Rock Harbor	1		•	Paved	All
Eastham					
<i>Rock Harbor</i>	1		•	Paved	½
Hemenway Road			•	Paved	½
Rt. 6 Town Cove			•	Paved	½
Wellfleet					
<i>Town Pier</i>	1		•	Paved	All

Location	Jetties	Piers	Ramp	Site Condition	Usable Tide
Truro					
<i>Pamet Harbor</i>			•	Paved	All
Provincetown					
West End Parking Lot,			•	Paved	½
Commercial Street					
MARTHA'S VINEYARD:					
Chilmark					
<i>Great Rock Bight, North Road*</i>					
Nashaquitsa Pond, South Road			•	Paved	All
Menemsha	1	1			
Edgartown					
<i>East Beach, Cape Poge*</i>	1		•	Cartop	All
State Road	1				
Memorial Wharf		1			
Edgartown Great Pond,			•	Sand	All
Wilson Landing					
<i>Katama Bay,</i>			•	Paved	¾
<i>Edgartown Bay Road</i>					
Eel Pond,			•	Paved	All
Pease's Point Way					
Aquinnah					
Menemsha Creek,	1		•	Paved	All
Lobsterville Beach					
<i>Dogfish Bar*</i>					
Oak Bluffs					
<i>State Road</i>	3		•	Paved	All
Seaview Ave.		1			
Beach Road	1				
Harbor, East Chop Drive			•	Paved	All
<i>Pecoy Point, Pulpit Rock Road</i>			•	Cartop	All
Tisbury					
<i>Lagoon Pond, Beach Road</i>			•	Paved	All
<i>Tashmoo Pond, Lake Avenue</i>	1		•	Paved	All
NANTUCKET:					
<i>Jackson Point</i>			•	Paved	All
<i>Madaket Harbor, H Street</i>			•	Paved	All
Nantucket Harbor			•	Paved	All

Do you want to know where to go fishing or boating?

Public Access to the Waters of Massachusetts is now available. This 146 page map booklet will show and tell you information about current public sites. Send \$8.00, payable by check to:

Office of Fishing & Boating Access
 Department of Fish and Game
 1 Rabbit Hill Road
 Westborough, MA 01581

For more information call: (508) 389-7810



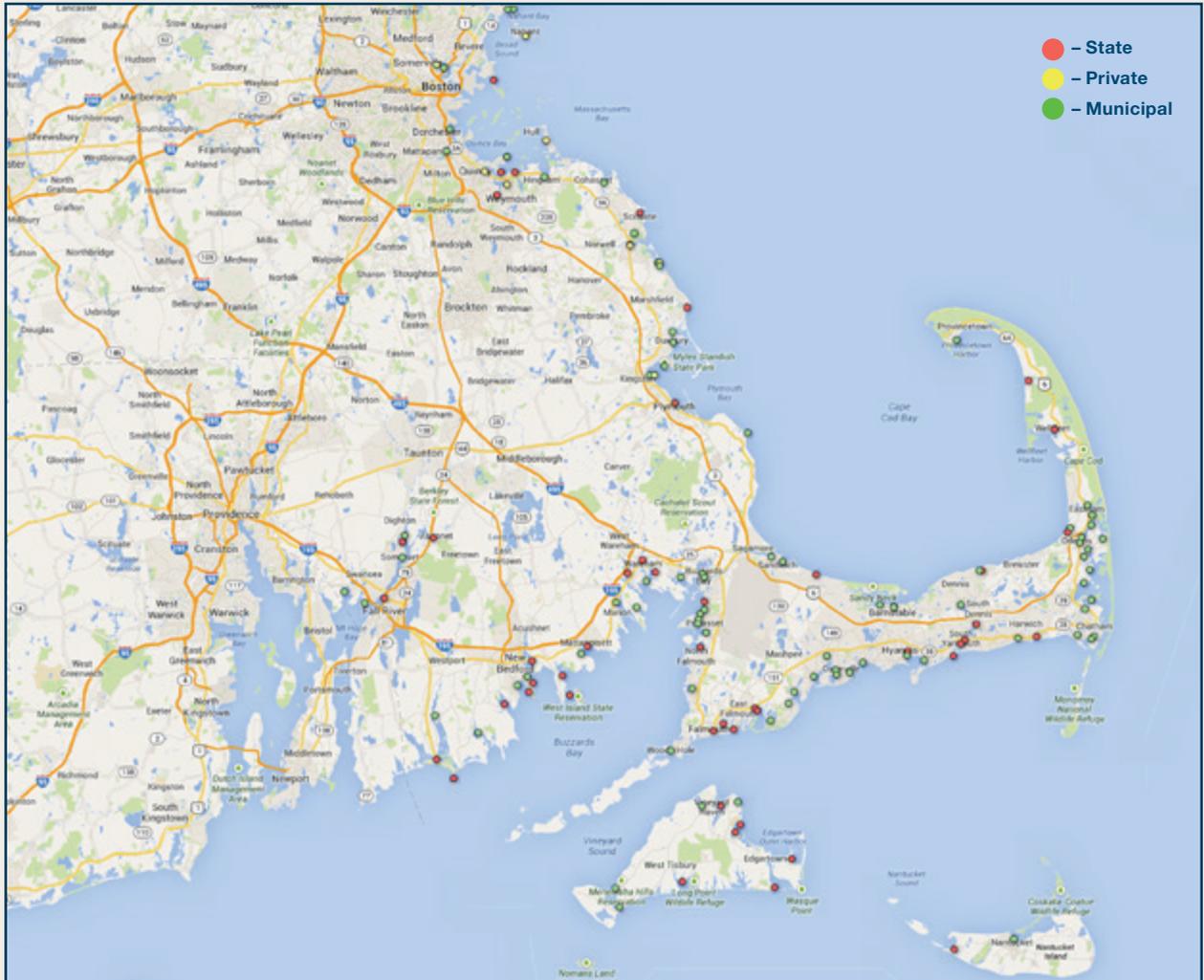
Massachusetts Coastal Waters

Marshfield to Seekonk

Access Map Courtesy of Google Maps



Scan this with your mobile device to find access ramps nearest you.



Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Permit

Who can get one?

U.S. Citizens and residents of Massachusetts

Parental consent is needed if the child is under 17 years old.

U.S. Citizens and non-residents of Massachusetts who:

1. Temporarily reside in any coastal city or town of Massachusetts and
2. Own more than \$5,000 in real estate within Massachusetts as determined by tax records.

Non-U.S. Citizens who are not residents of Massachusetts shall:

1. Provide a copy of the alien registration receipt card issued by the U.S. Dept. of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service to the applicant and
2. Temporarily reside in any coastal city or town of Massachusetts and
3. Own more than \$5,000 in real estate within Massachusetts as determined by tax records.

Non-U.S. Citizens who are residents of Massachusetts shall:

Provide a copy of applicant's alien registration receipt card issued by the U.S. Dept. of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

What does it cost?

\$55 for residents of Massachusetts.
\$75 for all non-residents.

Can I sell my lobsters?

No. A Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Permit **DOES NOT** allow you to sell your catch. You must obtain a Commercial Lobster/Crabbing Permit if you wish to sell your catch.

Where can I get a permit?

You can purchase a Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Permit at any MA Division of Marine Fisheries business office.

If you are a Massachusetts resident you may purchase/renew your Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Permit online (certain restrictions apply)

Please visit: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries and follow the step by step instructions for purchasing a Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Permit.

How many lobsters and crabs can I take?

There is a limit of **15 lobsters** per day per permit, and all lobsters must meet the legal requirements. There is a limit of **25 blue crabs** per day and a limit of **50 crabs** per day total for all edible crab species combined.

Who can use the permit?

A Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Permit authorizes the holder and members of the holder's **immediate family**, residing in the same residence, to fish for and take lobsters and edible crabs using up to 10 pots. The immediate family is defined as the **spouse, parents, children, grandparents, brothers, and sisters** of the holder.

This permit may be endorsed for diving for the permit holder only. Other family members may purchase additional permits for diving.

Only **ONE** Recreational Lobster/Crabbing permit endorsed for 10 pots is allowed per family/household.

Can I dive and use pots with this permit?

When you purchase your Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Permit you must specify if you want it endorsed for the use of 10 pots or for diving. Your permit can be endorsed for both practices if you prefer.

Where can traps be set?

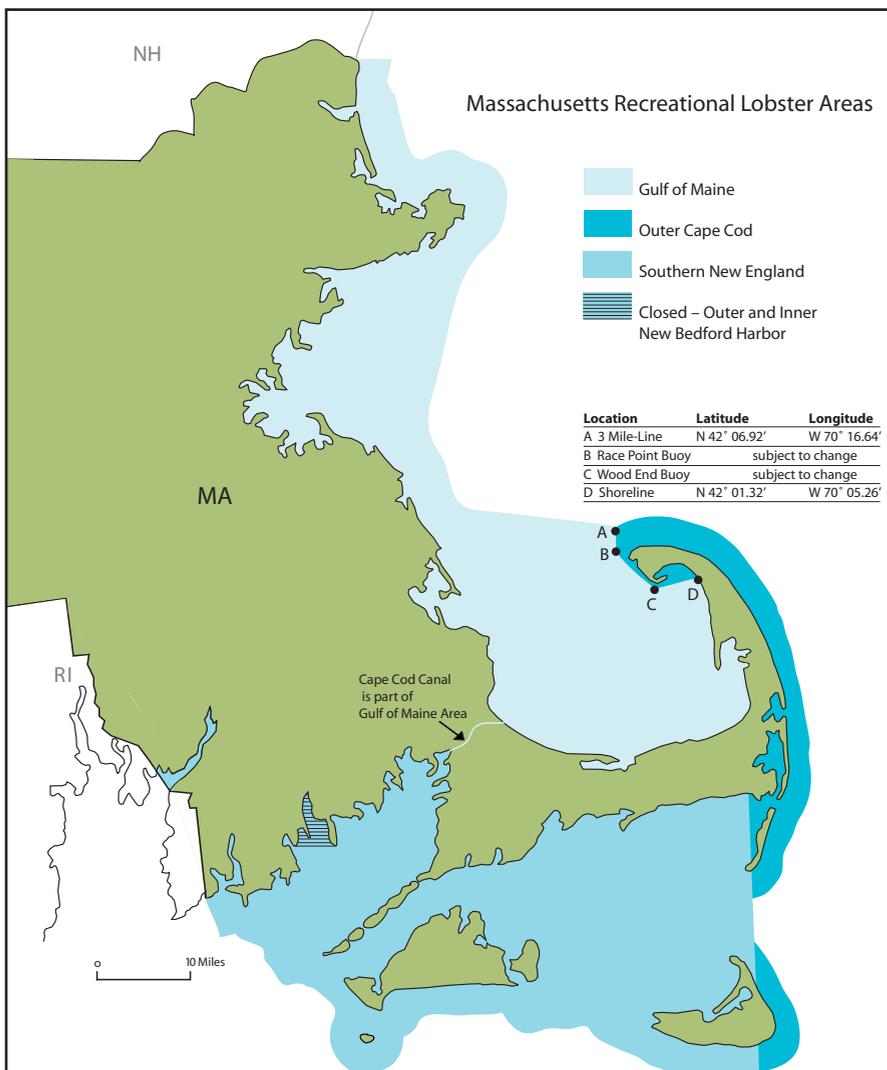
No buoyed traps may be set in the Cape Cod Canal. New Bedford Harbor is closed to lobster harvest north of a line from Ricketson's Point (Dartmouth) to Wilbur Point (Fairhaven).

Is reporting required?

Annual catch reports are required of all Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Permit holders. These forms are provided by Division of Marine Fisheries (*MarineFisheries*) at the time of renewal. Renewal licenses will not be issued until a catch report has been filed.

Do I need the permit if I intend to take only crabs by hand or dipnet?

No, you are exempt.



Recreational Regulations

Recreational Lobster Regulations	
Gulf of Maine Recreational Lobster Area	
Minimum Size	3¼"
Maximum Size	5"
V-Notched Females	Illegal to possess any female lobster that bears a notch or indentation in the base of the flipper that is at least as deep as ¼" with or without setal hairs
Trap Limit	10 Traps
Escape Vent	One rectangular vent 1 ¹⁵ / ₁₆ " x 5 ³ / ₄ " or two circular vents of 2 ⁷ / ₁₆ " in diameter
Bag Limit	15 per day
Outer Cape Cod Recreational Lobster Area	
Minimum Size	3 ³ / ₈ "
Maximum Size	—
V-Notched Females	Illegal to possess any female lobster that bears a notch or indentation in the base of the flipper that is at least as deep as ¼" with or without setal hairs
Trap Limit	10 Traps
Escape Vent	One rectangular vent 2" x 5 ³ / ₄ " or two circular vents of 2 ⁵ / ₈ " in diameter
Bag Limit	15 per day
Southern New England Recreational Lobster Area	
Minimum Size	3 ³ / ₈ "
Maximum Size	5¼"
V-Notched Females	Illegal to possess any female lobster that bears a notch or indentation in the base of the flipper that is at least as deep as ¼" with or without setal hairs
Trap Limit	10 Traps
Escape Vent	One rectangular vent 2" x 5 ³ / ₄ " or two circular vents of 2 ⁵ / ₈ " in diameter
Bag Limit	15 per day

Taking Lobster at Night is Prohibited

Lobster may only be harvested from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

Egg-Bearing Females

It is unlawful to possess or land any lobster:

1. that is egg-bearing,
2. from which eggs have been removed, or
3. that has come in contact with any substance capable of removing lobster eggs.

Recreational Crab Regulations		
Species	Blue Crab	Other Edible Crabs (excludes Green Crabs)
Minimum Size	5" shell width (spine to spine)	None
Other Regulations	Egg-bearers cannot be taken; 25 crabs/day; no permit required unless using traps or SCUBA; closed season is Jan. 1 – Apr. 30, inclusive	50 crabs total per day (including up to 25 blue) – other regulations are the same as for blue crab



Working to maintain a sustainable resource in the marine ecosystem.

**8 Otis Place • Scituate, MA
781.545.6984**



For more information on becoming a member or to BUY lobsters DIRECT from a lobsterman...

Visit lobstermen.com

Thank you for your continued support!



Crab Identification



Blue Crab



Rock Crab



Jonah Crab



Green Crab

How to Measure a Lobster

The Rules

Lobsters must be measured with a special gauge to make sure that they are “keepers.” The carapace length is measured from the rear of the eye socket to the rear of the carapace on a line parallel to the center line of the bodyshell.

All lobsters measuring less than the minimum legal carapace length, or larger than the maximum legal carapace length, must be immediately returned to the waters from which taken.

All lobsters must be measured immediately.

Mutilation

It shall be unlawful to possess any lobster, or part thereof, which is mutilated in a manner which makes accurate measurement impossible.

Note: A common error made by novices is to measure over the rostrum or horn located above the eye socket. Make certain that your gauge is in the extreme rear of the eye socket and below the horn.



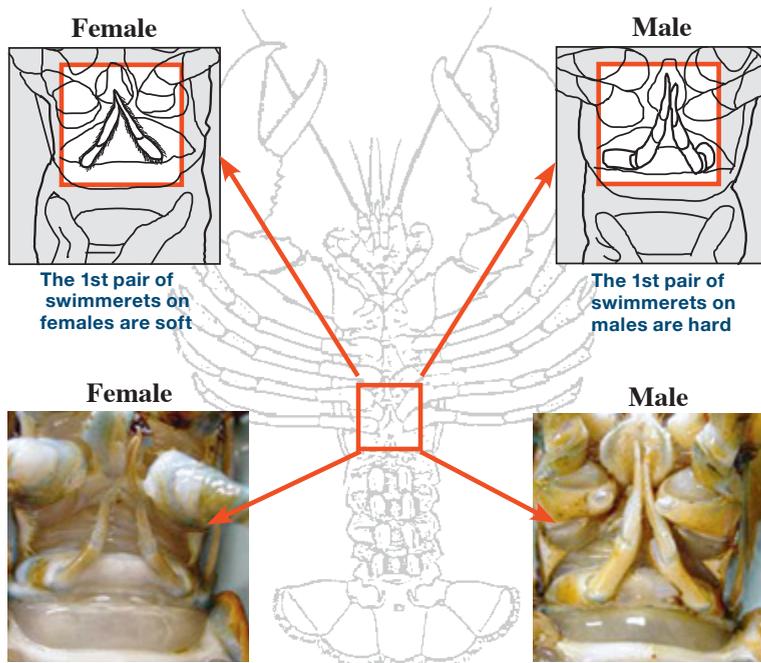
Correct Lobster Measurement



The gauge is placed in the rear of the eye socket.

Is it Male or Female?

In order to determine the sex of a lobster, you must look at the first pair of appendages under the tail, called swimmerets. They are positioned near the base of the last pair of walking legs. The first pair of swimmerets are hard in the male, and soft and feathery in the female.



All About Lobster

What are they?

Lobsters are ten-legged (decapod) crustaceans.

The American lobster is the only species of clawed lobster in the Northwestern Atlantic region.

Where are they?

The American lobster is distributed throughout the Northwest Atlantic from the Straights of Bell Isle, Newfoundland to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

They are most abundant in coastal zones at depths of less than 150 ft. (~50 m). The greatest abundance of lobster occurs within the Gulf of Maine — from mid-coast Maine to southwest Nova Scotia.

Growth

American lobster is a long-lived species known to reach more than 40 lb. (18 kg).

Age is unknown because all hard parts are shed and replaced at molting (shedding), leaving no accreting material for age determination. In Massachusetts, shedding typically occurs between June and October.

Lobsters at minimum legal size are generally considered to be between 5 and 7 years of age based on hatchery observations. Maximum age is generally considered to be between 30 and 40 years.

Biology

Fertilized eggs are carried on the female abdomen for a 9 to 12 month period of development prior to hatching.

Female lobsters carry between 1,000 and >100,000 eggs depending on the size of the female.

Hatching typically occurs over a 4 month period from May through September. In Massachusetts we typically see peak hatching from late-June through early-July.

Egg-bearing Females

It is unlawful for any fisherman to take or possess any egg-bearing female lobster or female lobster with the egg mass removed, at any time.



When eggs are extruded they are dark green and the female is called a “green egger.”



As eggs develop and approach hatching time they turn brown and the female is called a “brown egger.”

V-Notching Regulations

What is a V-Notch?

A “v-notch” is a mark on the tail flipper of a female lobster that was put there by a commercial lobsterman as a means to identify and protect a known breeder in the population from harvest.

Commercial lobstermen make a v-notch in the tail flippers of egg-bearing female lobsters they encounter while fishing. The v-notch remains in the female’s flipper after she has hatched her eggs which protects her from harvest through additional molts.

V-Notching History

The practice of v-notching, as a means of protecting local broodstock, originated in Maine and dates back to the early 1900s.

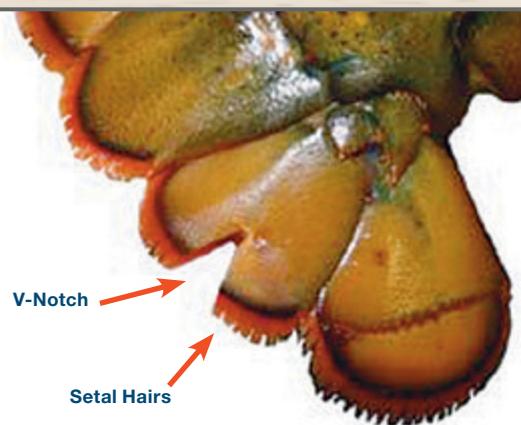
Which Flipper is Notched?

The tail flipper immediately to the right of the middle flipper, when the lobster is examined with the underside of the lobster down and its tail is toward the person making the determination.

Recreational Lobster/Crab Permit holders are not required to v-notch egg-bearing female lobsters.

Mutilation

It is illegal to possess any female lobster in which the v-notch flipper is mutilated in a manner which could hide, obscure, or obliterate such a mark.



Below: Newly v-notched lobster and additional pictures of the v-notched lobster before and after it underwent two successive molts. Note that changes occurred even before the lobster molted.



SCUBA Regulations for Recreational Lobster/Crabbing



Permits and Conditions

A Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Permit endorsed for diving is required of all individuals who recreationally dive for lobsters in coastal waters.

No permit is required for the taking of edible crabs (including blue crabs) for use by immediate family if diving, dip-netting, or using “star” traps, provided that the number of blue crabs does not exceed twenty-five (25) in one day, and fifty (50) total in one day for all edible crabs, and that no 6-sided pots or traps are used.

Gear Marking

Divers must display their assigned permit number upon their tank and dive flag or a floating marker (upright single panel at least 12" x 12", white background, black numerals at least 3" high, 1/2" in thickness or width of line on both sides of the marker). A group of divers may use only one floating marker listing the permit number of EACH diver in the group.

Catch Limits

There is a limit of **15 lobsters** per day per permit, and all lobsters must meet the legal requirements. Divers are required to measure all lobsters in possession prior to surfacing.

Taking of blue crabs and other edible crabs is prohibited from January 1 through April 30.

There is a limit of **25 blue crabs** per day.

There is a combined limit of **50 edible crabs (blue, Jonah, and rock)** per day.

Gear Requirements

Every diver or group of divers, while swimming on or below the surface of the waters of the Commonwealth, is required by Massachusetts General Law to display a dive flag.

Flag must be at least 12" X 15" in area of red background with a white diagonal stripe.

The dive flag must be displayed on a boat or surface float.

It must extend at least 3 feet from the surface of the water.

Divers shall remain in an area within 100 feet of such displayed diver's flag while at or near the surface of the water.

Methods of Taking Lobsters and Crabs

Not Allowed: Massachusetts General Laws prohibits the taking of lobsters by spearing, dipping, or dragging.

Spearing – the use of a spear gun, pole spear, or any other object that may be used to pierce the shell of the lobster as a means of harvest.

Dipping - the use of a dip net.

Dragging - the use of mobile or hauled nets or dredges.

Snaring - the use of poles with loops.

Allowed: Harvesting of lobster by hand, or the use of an angled “tickle stick,” which is a straight or slightly bent stick used to agitate a lobster into coming out of its hole.

Common Questions

I have a 10-pot recreational permit, is it automatically endorsed for diving?

No. You must specify that you would like your permit to be endorsed for diving. There is no extra charge for this.

Does everyone in my dive group need a permit for taking lobster?

Yes. Each individual diver who intends to take lobster or crabs needs an individual permit. If diving in a group, each individual's permit number must be displayed on their tanks and on the surface floatation.

Does my diving permit cover the immediate members of my family as well?

No, diver permits are for the individual diver only.

All About Gear

Definitions

Single pots: individual lobster pots

Pot trawls: a series of single pots tied together and buoyed at both ends.

East end: the part of the pot trawl extending from 01° through 180° magnetic.

West end: the part of a pot trawl extending from 181° through 00° magnetic.

Groundline: the line connecting pots on a pot trawl.

Buoy line: lines connecting pots to surface buoys.

Sinking line: the line that has a specific gravity equal to or greater than that of seawater, 1.03, and does not float up in the water column.

Weak link: a breakable section or device that will part when subjected to specified poundage of pull pressure and, after parting, will result in a knotless end, no thicker than the diameter of the line, the so-called "bitter end" to prevent lodging in whale baleen.

How many traps can I set?

The Massachusetts Recreational Lobster Permit allows for **10 traps ONLY**.

Can I use "star" traps?

Open, collapsible wire traps, hauled by hand, such as the "star" trap, cannot be used to catch lobsters, but are legal for edible crabs.

Can someone else pull my traps?

Any immediate family member that resides in your household may pull your traps for you.

Trawls vs. Single Pots

A Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Permit allows for the use of pot trawls or single pots. Traditionally, Recreational Lobster Permit holders prefer to use single pots.

Permit Number/Gear Markings

Recreational Lobster Permit Holders must use the last 5 digits of their Customer ID number, located in the upper right hand corner of the permit, to mark gear.

- All buoys, pots, traps, cars, dive markers and air tanks must be marked with the licensee's 5-digit permit number.
- The permit number must be burned or cut into the surface at least ½" deep x ⅛" thick.
- In the case of non-wooden traps, said numbers shall be burned or cut into a wooden lath or plate made of durable synthetic material, which shall be permanently secured to the inside of the trap.
- Recreational permit holders must also add the letter "N" preceding their 5-digit permit number, followed by a (-) with a single digit from 0 to 9, indicating the sequential pot number in the series that the permit holder is fishing. (This gear-marking requirement negates the need for trap tags for recreational lobster permit holders.)
- Existing gear can be marked with the new permit number and the former permit number crossed out.

Gear Construction Requirements

Restrictions

It is unlawful for any person to take or attempt to take lobsters or crabs by use of pots or traps without said pots or traps having the following features:

• Ghost Panel and an Escape Vent

It is also unlawful for any lobster/crab trap to exceed a volume of 22,950 cubic inches.

Ghost Panel

Ghost panels are designed to create an opening to allow the escapement of lobsters within 12 months after a trap has been abandoned or lost.

Ghost panel specifications:

- The opening covered by the panel must be rectangular and measure at least 3 ¾" by 3 ¾"
- It must be located in the outer parlor section of the trap and in a position which allows an unobstructed exit of lobsters from the trap.
- The panel must be constructed of, or fastened to the trap with, one of the following materials: wood lath; cotton, hemp, sisal or jute twine not greater than ⅜" in diameter; or non-stainless, uncoated ferrous metal not greater than ⅜" in diameter.

Escape Vent

Escapes vents are required in order to allow sub-legal lobsters and other non-targeted species to escape lobster/crab traps.

It is required that one or more rectangular escape vents or openings, or two or more unobstructed round openings, be placed in the parlor section of the trap.

If your traps have two parlors, **BOTH** must be vented.

Recreational fishermen fishing in the Gulf of Maine Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Area: Rectangular escape vents must be at least 1 15/16" by 5 ¾" or two circular vents must measure at least 2 7/16" in diameter.



Anatomy of a Lobster Trap

Minimum Requirements

Single pots - Single pots shall each be marked with a single 7" x 7" or 5" x 11" buoy. Sticks are optional, but if used, shall not have a flag attached.

Pot trawls - The east end of a pot trawl shall be marked with a double buoy, consisting of any combination of two 7" x 7" or 5" x 11" buoys and one or more three foot sticks (so the two buoys can be side-by-side or stacked). The west end of a pot trawl shall be marked with a single 7" x 7" or 5" x 11" buoy with a three foot stick and a flag.

Buoy Colors

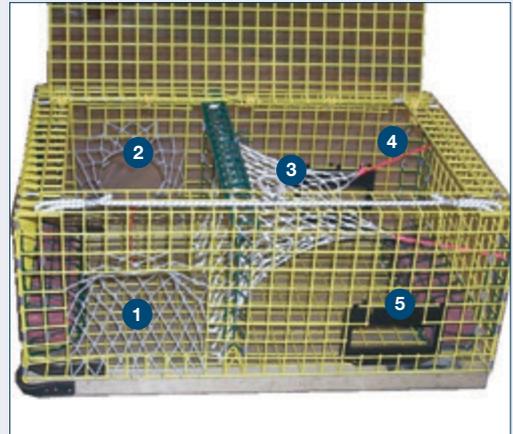
Each applicant for a Recreational Lobster Permit can choose up to three colors for the desired color scheme of their buoys. All buoys used by the permit holder must be marked with that specific color scheme.

1. Entrance Head: Mesh opening where lobsters enter the trap.

2. Kitchen: This is where the bait bag is placed to attract lobsters into the trap.

3. Parlor Head or Funnel: Lobsters use this mesh netting as a means out of the kitchen, assuming it's a way out of the trap.

4. Parlor: Area where the lobsters end up after leaving the kitchen and traveling up the funnel. Most of the catch will be found in this part of the trap.



5. Escape Vent/Ghost Panel: Opening of designated size that allows sub-legal lobsters to escape the trap. The biodegradable materials used to attach the escape vent panel will allow the "ghost panel" to open if the trap has been lost or abandoned. This prevents the trap from continuing to fish after it has been lost or abandoned.

Recreational fishermen fishing in the Outer Cape Cod or Southern New England Recreational Lobster Areas: Rectangular escape vents must measure at least 2" by 5 3/4" or two circular vents must measure at least 2 5/8" in diameter.

Gear Questions

Can the escape vent be used as the ghost panel?

Yes. The escape vent may serve as a ghost panel if incorporated into a panel constructed of, or attached to the trap with: wood lath, cotton, hemp, sisal or jute twine not greater than 3/16" in diameter; or non-stainless, uncoated ferrous metal not greater than 3/32" in diameter.

and upon breakdown of the degradable materials, will create an opening for egress of lobsters at least 3 3/4" by 3 3/4".

Can the door of the trap be considered a ghost panel?

Yes. The door of the trap may serve as the ghost panel if fastened to the trap with: wood lath, cotton, hemp, sisal or jute twine not greater than 3/16" in diameter; or non-stainless, uncoated ferrous metal not greater than 3/32" diameter.

Do escape vents and ghost panels need to be attached in a specific orientation?

No. Escape vents and ghost panels need to provide an unobstructed means for escape for lobsters and

must be located in the parlor section of the trap. It has been observed, however, that certain orientations work better than others (see below).

If I use wood traps do I need a ghost panel?

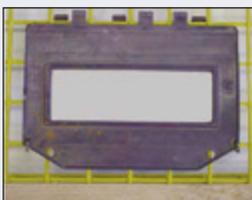
Traps constructed entirely or partially of wood shall be considered to be in compliance if constructed of wood lath to the extent that deterioration of wooden component(s) will result in an unobstructed opening at least 3 3/32" by 3 3/32".

Why are there rectangular and circular vent options?

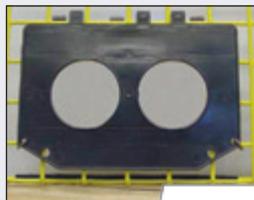
Circular vents retain crabs better than rectangular vents.

Escape Vent and Ghost Panel Placement

• **Note:** These examples are meant to be used as suggestions for escape vent and ghost panel placement in lobster traps. It is NOT required that escape vents and ghost panels be positioned in any way, except to provide an "unobstructed" means for escape by sub-legal lobsters.

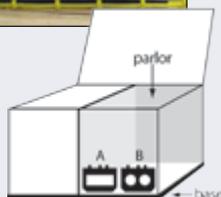


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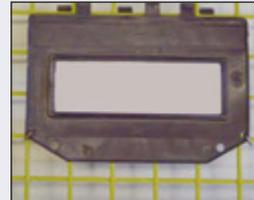


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More Effective Placement In Allowing Escapement of Sublegal Lobsters



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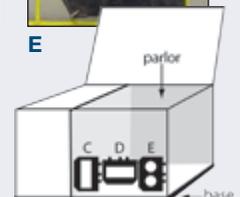
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Less Effective Placement In Allowing Escapement of Sublegal Lobsters



E

• Less effective locations for escape vent panels include the inside of a trap and the upper panel and door.



Whale-Related Gear Rules

Year Round:

Massachusetts state waters are important habitat for endangered large whale species, including the humpback whale and North Atlantic right whale. Entanglement in fishing gear is a major cause of injury and mortality for large whales. *Marine Fisheries* requires the use of modified fishing gear in order to reduce the risk of whale entanglement and identify entangling gear.

The following restrictions apply to all recreational lobster and crab traps.

1. **Groundlines.** If fishing pot trawls, sinking groundline must be used between all traps.
2. **Buoys and Buoy Lines.** All buoys must be outfitted with a 600-pound weak link. See photo.

Buoy Line Marking

By marking the rope, that gear can be identified to a certain area and fishery, if it is taken off an entangled whale.



3. **Buoy Lines.** Vertical buoy lines must be made of sinking line, except the bottom 1/3 portion, which may be floating line if desired.
4. **Buoy Lines.** All gear must have a 4 inch red marker midway on the buoy line. See photo.
5. **Buoy Lines.** All buoy lines must have a diameter that is 3/8" or less.
6. **Buoy Lines.** Pot trawls of four or more traps may be set with two buoy lines. Trawls of two or three traps may only have one buoy line.
7. **Single Traps.** Single traps may be set in all state-waters except those waters that are north of Cape Cod seaward of 3 miles from shore, with an exception for an area off Billingsgate Shoal. This area includes those waters that are shoreward of Loran C Line 9960-X-25360, as it runs from Barnstable to Wellfleet. See map for coordinates.
8. **Trap/Pot Gear Haul Out Period.** All traps must be removed from and may not be set in the Large Whale Seasonal Trap/Pot Gear Closure Area from February 1 – April 30. See map for coordinates of the closure area.

Definitions

Single: one pot with a single buoy line attached.

Double: two pot string of traps with a single buoy line attached.

Twin orange markers: a pair of identical orange flag-like strips of material that are clearly visible and attached to the buoy stick or high flyer.

Triple: three pot string of traps with a single buoy line attached.

Sinking line: a line that has a specific gravity greater than that of seawater, 1.03, and does not float up in the water column.

Weak Link: breakable section or device that will part when subjected to specified poundage of pull pressure and after parting, will result in a knot-less end, no thicker than the diameter of the line, the so-called "bitter end," to prevent lodging in whale baleen.

Abandon or dispose of at sea: to leave fixed gear in the water without hauling it at least every 30 days or in prohibited areas during prohibited periods.



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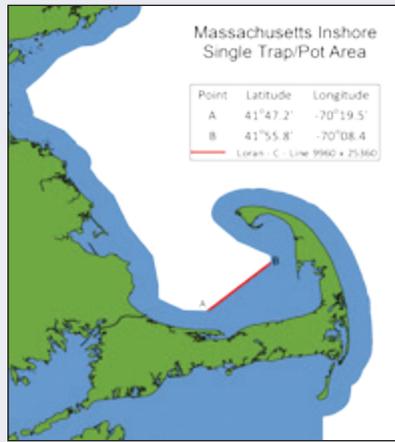
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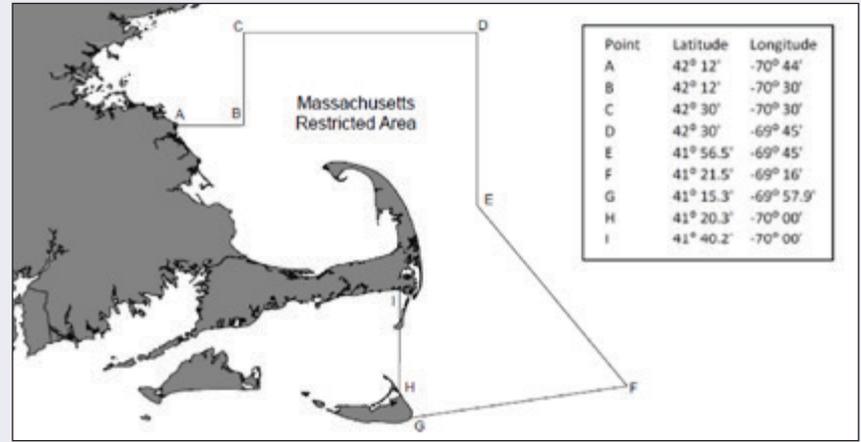
Single Trap Area

Single traps may be set in the shaded areas depicted in the map below.



Large Whale Seasonal Trap/Pot Gear Closure Area

From February 1 – April 30, traps must be removed from and not be set in the area defined in the map below.



Weak Links

Weak links allow the buoy to part away from the buoy line in the event that a whale encounters your gear.

Swivel Weak Links



Hog Ring Weak Link



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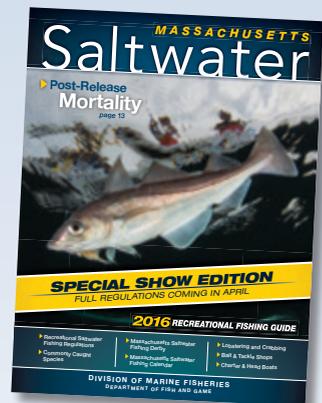
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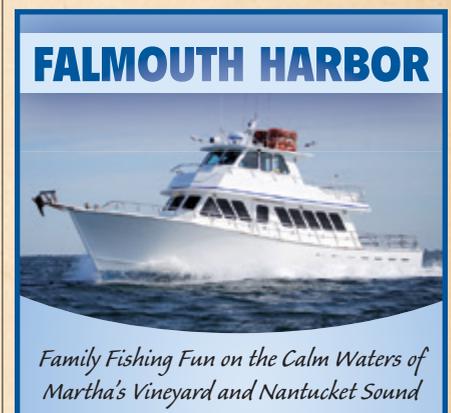
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TODD HNIS	(508) 344-2522
FIRST LIGHT (37')	
JEFFREY PERRY	(508) 360-3475

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MERRILL C TRUE JR (508) 951-9991

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GHILLIE (24')
CHARLES (508) 763-0559

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NATHAN CAPUTO (508) 472-0388

MAUREEN ANN (25')
KEVIN SLATTERY (508) 241-3474

MISS ELIZABETH (32')
MARK OWENS (508) 747-3013

NAUSET (28')
JOE FRANCIS (508) 246-1811

NEPTUNE (16')
BOB PACCIA (508) 697-6253

NO NAME (21')
VICTOR LEPAGE (508) 237-2483

NO NAME (BROOKS) (23')
JEREMIAH BROOKS (401) 824-6440

NO NAME (VAN HEERDEN) (29')
QUENTIN VAN HEERDEN (978) 992-1228

NOELLE NICOLE (20')
NICHOLAS WARBURTON (774) 563-0181

OCEAN RUNNER (36')
RICHARD FLANNERY (774) 229-6580

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JOSEPH LEBLANC (508) 326-3175

PERSEVERANCE (31')
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THOMAS LANGMAN (508) 645-9721

PREDATUNA II (31')
DENNIS CHAPRALES (508) 648-8411

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JON PERETTE (781) 254-2821

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DAMON BURDEN (305) 896-0674

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RUSSELL BENN (401) 789-9250

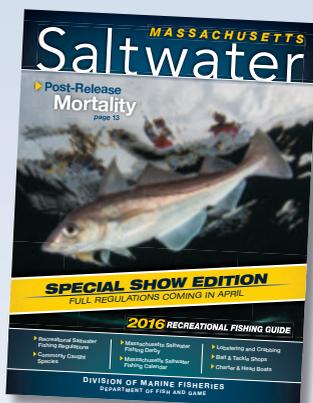
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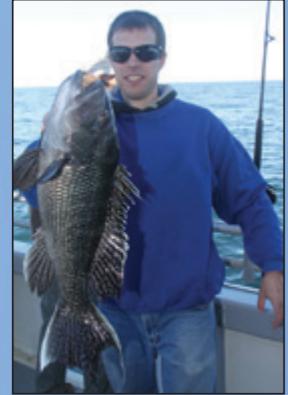


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