Recreational Fishing Limits
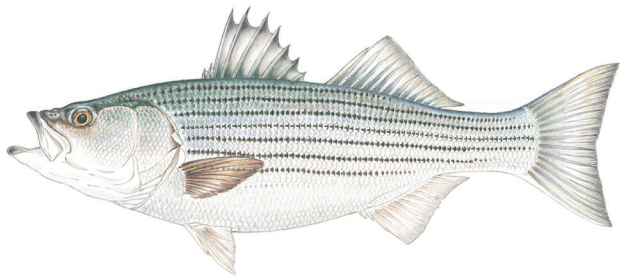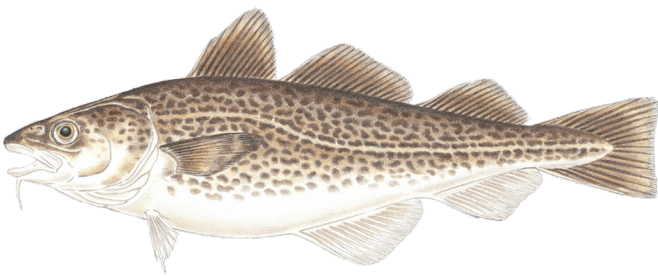## *for saltwater fish in Massachusetts waters*

Recreational regulations for popular saltwater species by:
Open season / Minimum size / Possession limit
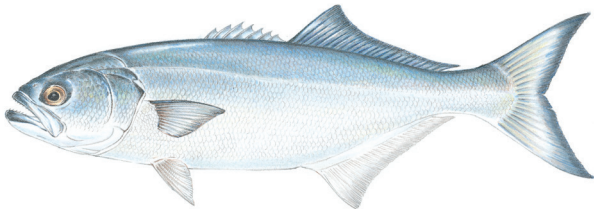
Striped Bass
Year round / 28" to less than 31" / 1 fish

Gaffing prohibited. Use of in-line circle hooks is mandatory when fishing with whole or cut natural baits, except with artificial lures. Except if being prepared for immediate consumption, fish must be kept whole while at sea or on anyadjacent parcel of land; evisceration, scaling, and gutting are allowed.
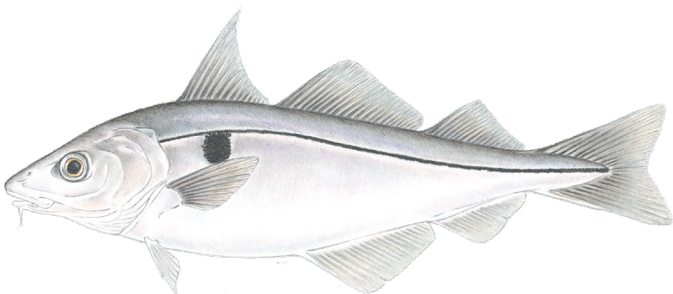
Bluefish
Year round / No minimum size limit / 3 fish

Fluke (Summer Flounder)
May 24 - Sep 23 / 16.5" (shore); 17.5" (vessel) / 5 fish

Black Sea Bass
May 18 - Sep 3 / 16.5" / 4 fish

Tautog
April 1 - May 31 / 16" - 21" / 3 fish
Jun 1 - Jul 31 / 16" - 21" / 1 fish
Aug 1 - Oct 14 / 16" - 21" / 3 fish
Oct 15 - Dec 31 / 16" - 21" / 5 fish

During the open season, 1 fish per person per day may exceed 21" and the aggregate vessel limit may not exceed 10 fish.

Atlantic Cod
Gulf of Maine: Sep 1 - Oct 31 / 23" / 1 fish
Southern New England: Sep 1 - May 31 / 23" / 5 fish

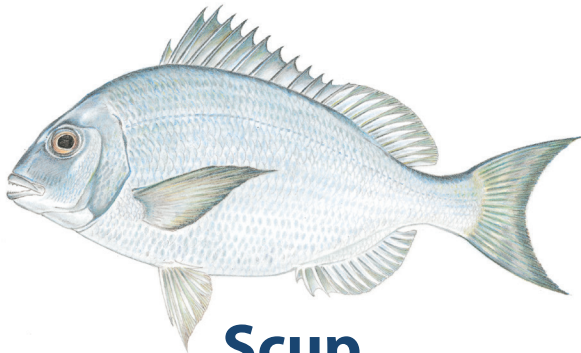## Haddock
Gulf of Maine: May 1 - Feb 28 and April 1 - 30 / 18" / 15 fish
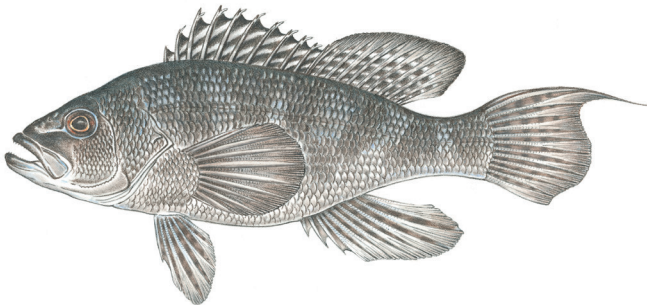**Southern New England:** Year round / 18" / No limit

Scup
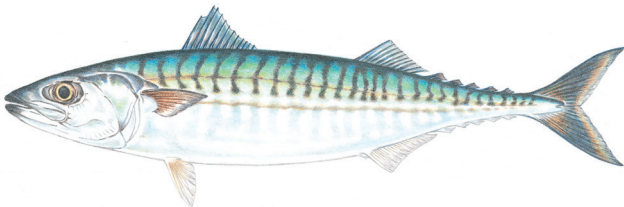**May 1 - Dec 31 / 9.5" (shore); 11" (vessel) / 30 fish**

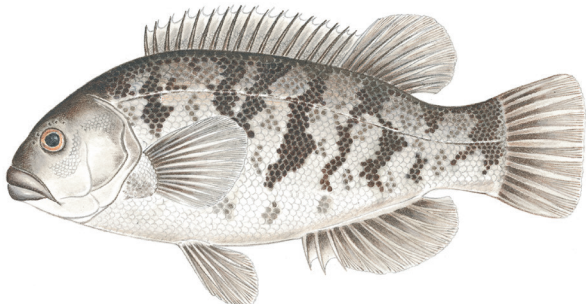*During the open season, aggregate vessel limit may not exceed 150 fish.*

Atlantic Mackerel
Year round / No minimum size limit / 20 fish

Possession limit applies as daily angler harvest limit or per angler possession limit while fishing.

Winter Flounder
North of Cape Cod: Year round / 12" / 8 fish
South of Cape Cod: Mar 1 - Dec 31 / 12" / 2 fish

Posters are valid as of May 1, 2024, and do not include all species or rules. For more information, please visit our website:
mass.gov/saltwater-regulations