for saltwater fish in Massachusetts waters

Recreational regulations for popular saltwater species by:

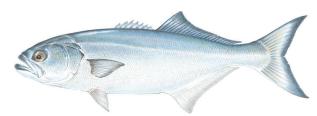
Open season / Minimum size / Possession limit



Striped Bass

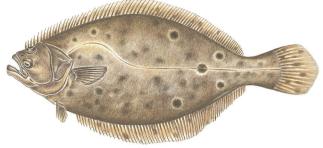
Year round / 28" to less than 31" / 1 fish

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.



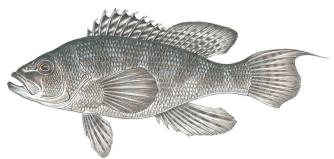
Bluefish

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 *

North of Cape Cod: Sep 1 - Oct 31 / 22" / 1 fish South of Cape Cod: Sep 1 - May 31 / 22" / 5 fish



Haddock*

North of Cape Cod: Jan 1 - Feb 28; Apr 1 - Dec 31 / 17" / 10 fish South of Cape Cod: Year round / 18" / No possession limit



Scup

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

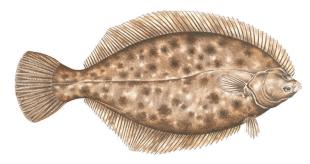
During the open season, aggregate vessel limit may not exceed 150 fish.



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



* Indicates rules are subject to change in 2024.

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/info-details/recreational-saltwater-fishing-regulations

