

2025

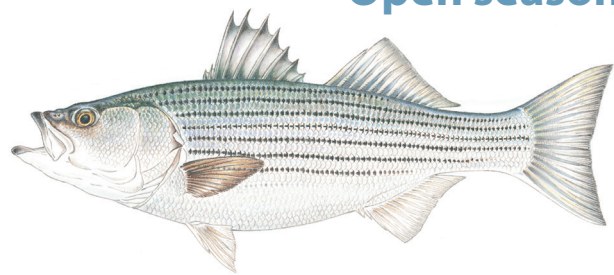
Recreational Fishing Limits

for saltwater fish in Massachusetts waters

2025

Recreational regulations for popular saltwater species by:

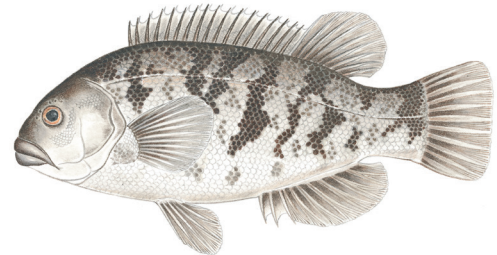
Open season / Minimum size / Possession limit



Striped Bass

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

Striped bass total length is measured by squeezing tail. Gaffing prohibited. Use of in-line circle hooks is mandatory when fishing with whole or cut natural baits, except with artificial lures. Fish must be kept whole except for gutting, bleeding, and scaling until on shore and all gear is stowed. Only two fillets may be in possession, each with 2 square inches of skin intact.

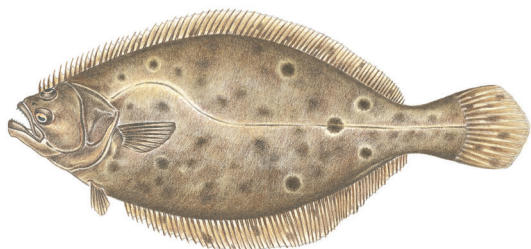


Tautog

Apr 1 - Dec 31 / 16" - 21" / limit varies by season

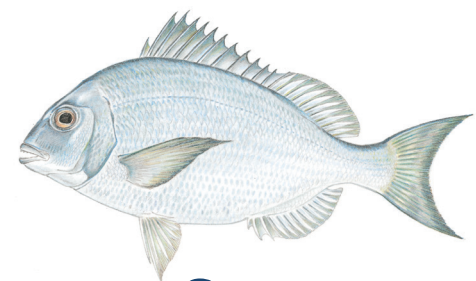
Apr 1 - May 31 / 3 fish • Jun 1 - Jul 31 / 1 fish
Aug 1 - Oct 14 / 3 fish • Oct 15 - Dec 31 / 5 fish

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



Fluke (Summer Flounder)

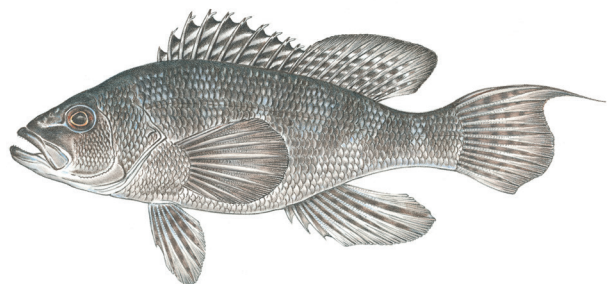
May 24 - Sep 23 / 16.5" (shore); 17.5" (vessel) / 5 fish



Scup

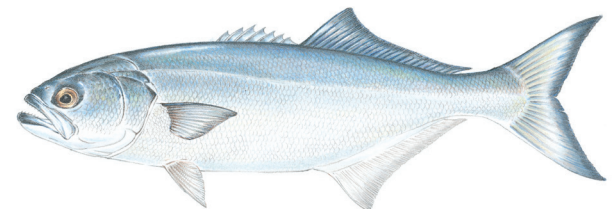
May 1 - Dec 31 / 9.5" (shore); 11" (vessel) / 30 fish

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



Black Sea Bass

May 17 - Sep 1 / 16.5" / 4 fish



Bluefish

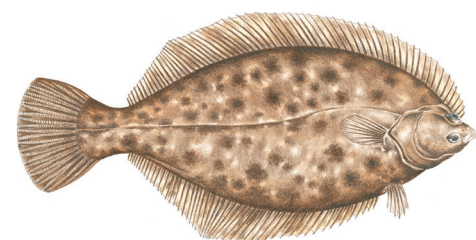
Year round / No minimum size limit / 3 fish



Atlantic Mackerel

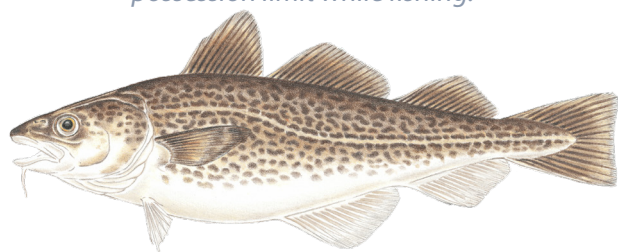
Year round / No minimum size limit / 20 fish

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



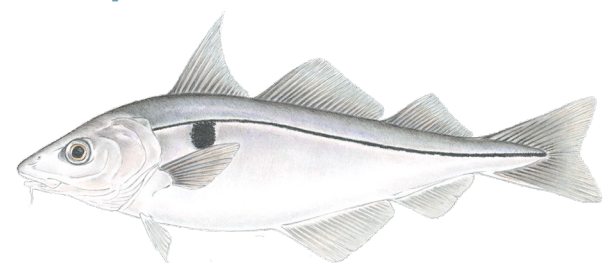
Winter Flounder

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



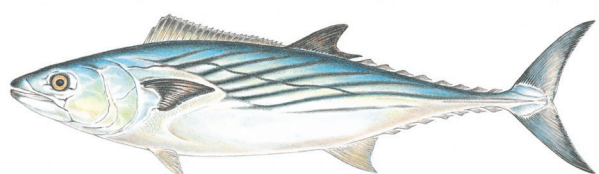
Atlantic Cod

See mass.gov/saltwater-regulations for current recreational regulations



Haddock

See mass.gov/saltwater-regulations for current recreational regulations



Atlantic Bonito

Year round / 16" curved fork length (both species) / 5 fish (Atlantic bonito and false albacore combined)



False Albacore



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
mass.gov/MarineFisheries

Posters are valid as of May 1, 2025, and do not include all species or rules. For more information, please visit our website:
mass.gov/saltwater-regulations

