Recreational Fishing Limits

for FOR-HIRE VESSELS in Massachusetts waters

Recreational regulations for popular saltwater species by:

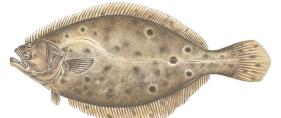
Open season / Minimum size / Possession limit



Striped Bass

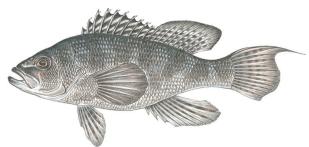
Year round / 28" to less than 31" / 1 fish

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 may be filleted at sea with racks retained until docked. Only two fillets may be in possession, each with 2 square inches of skin intact.



Fluke (Summer Flounder)

May 24 - Sep 23 / 17.5" / 5 fish



Black Sea Bass

May 17 - Sep 1 / 16.5" / 4 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.



Atlantic Cod

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)

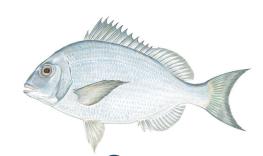


Tautog

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

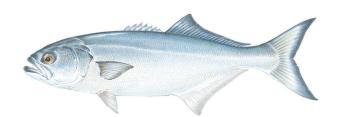
April 1 - May 31 / 3 fish • Jun 1 - Jul 31 / 1 fish Aug 1 - Oct 14 / 3 fish • Oct 15 - Dec 31 / 5 fish

During the open season, 1 fish per person per day may exceed 21".



Scup

May 1 - Jun 30 / 11" / 40 fish Jul 1 - Dec 31 / 11" / 30 fish



Bluefish

Year round / No minimum size limit / 5 fish



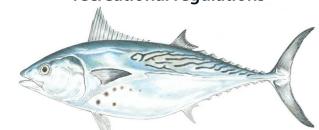
Winter Flounder

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



Haddock

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



False Albacore



