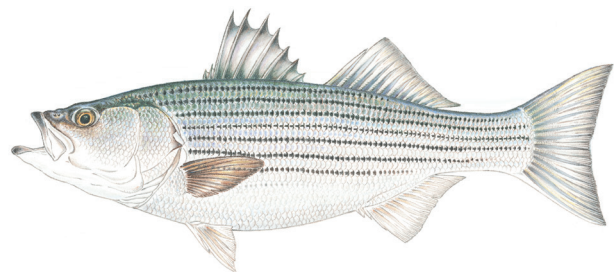


# 2026 Recreational Saltwater Fishing Limits

## for FOR-HIRE VESSELS

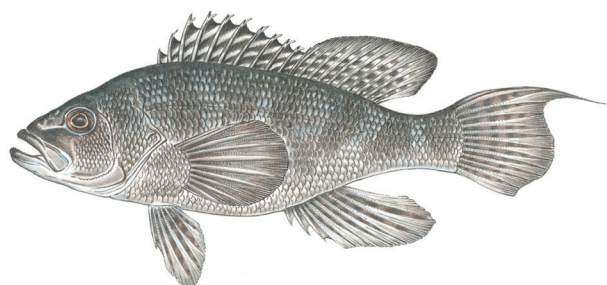
Massachusetts recreational regulations for popular saltwater species by:  
Open season / Minimum size / Possession limit



### Striped Bass

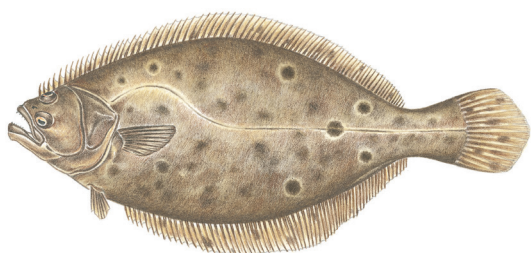
Year round / 28" to less than 31" / 1 fish

Visit [mass.gov/saltwater-regulations](https://mass.gov/saltwater-regulations) for more information about striped bass gear restrictions, filleting requirements, and how to properly measure total length.



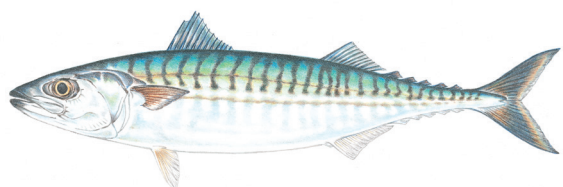
### Black Sea Bass

May 16 - Aug 31 / 16" / 4 fish  
Sep 1 - Oct 14 / 16" / 2 fish



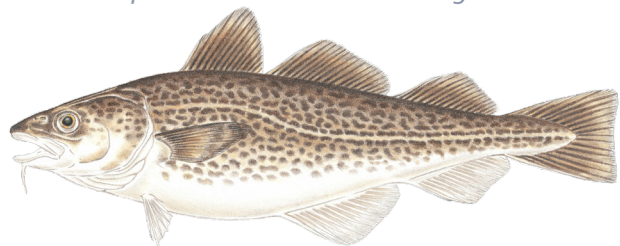
### Fluke (Summer Flounder)

May 24 - Sep 23 / 17.5" / 5 fish



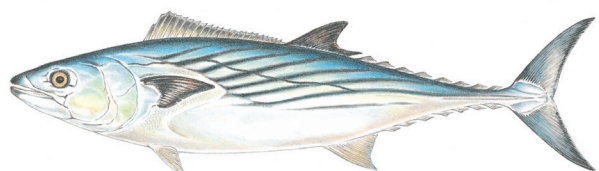
### Atlantic Mackerel

Year round / No minimum size limit / 50 fish  
Possession limit applies as daily angler harvest limit or per angler possession limit while fishing.



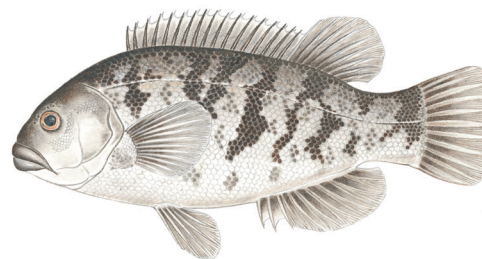
### Atlantic Cod

Western Gulf of Maine: Sept 1 - Oct 31 / 23" / 1 fish  
Southern New England: CLOSED



### Atlantic Bonito

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

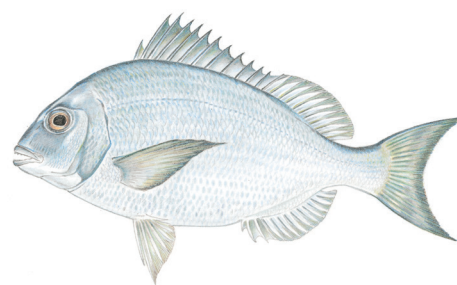


### Tautog

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

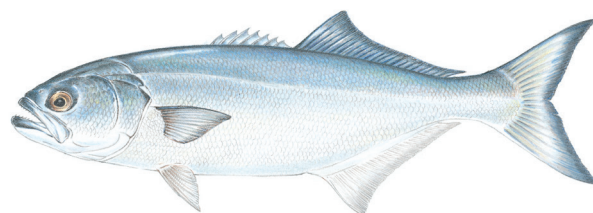
April 1 - May 31 / 3 fish • Jun 1 - Jul 31 / 1 fish  
Aug 1 - Oct 14 / 3 fish • Oct 15 - Dec 31 / 5 fish

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



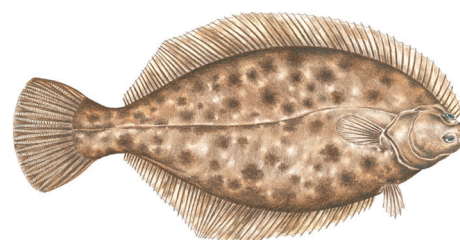
### Scup

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



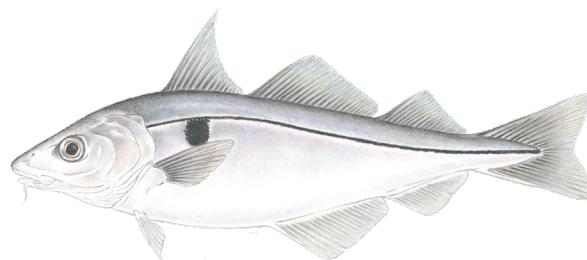
### Bluefish

Year round / No minimum size limit / 7 fish



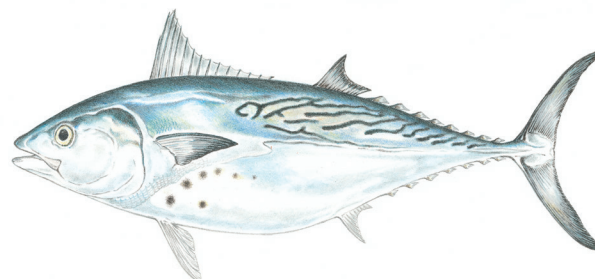
### Winter Flounder

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



### Haddock

Gulf of Maine: Apr 1 - Feb 28 / 17" / 15 fish  
Southern New England: Year round / 18" / No limit



### False Albacore



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Division of Marine Fisheries  
[mass.gov/MarineFisheries](https://mass.gov/MarineFisheries)



Posters are valid as of May 1, 2026, and do not include all species or rules. For more information, please visit our website:  
[mass.gov/saltwater-regulations](https://mass.gov/saltwater-regulations)

Enter your catch in the Commissioner's Cup Saltwater Fishing Derby!  
[mass.gov/swderby](https://mass.gov/swderby)

