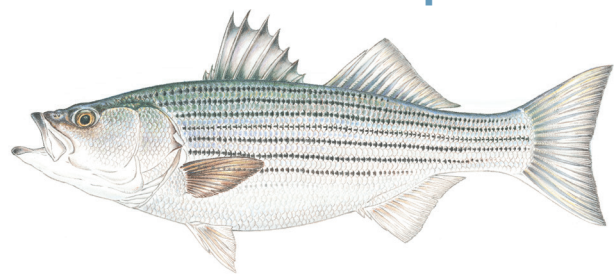


2026 Recreational Saltwater Fishing Limits

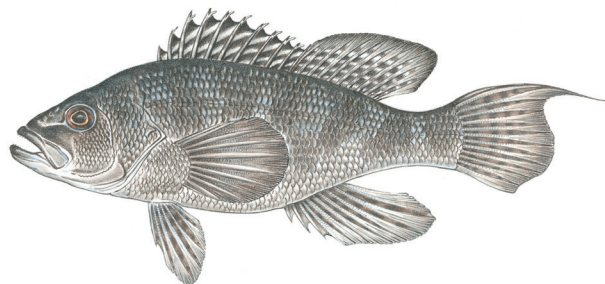
Massachusetts recreational regulations for popular saltwater species by:
Open season / Minimum size / Possession limit



Striped Bass

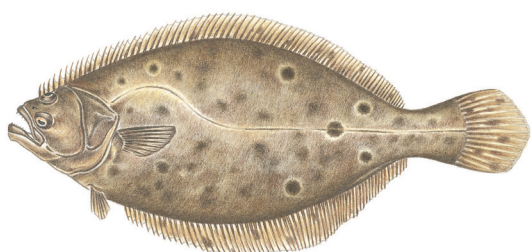
Year round / 28" to less than 31" / 1 fish

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



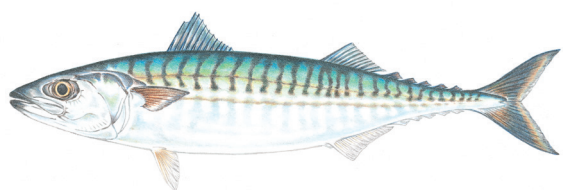
Black Sea Bass

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



Fluke (Summer Flounder)

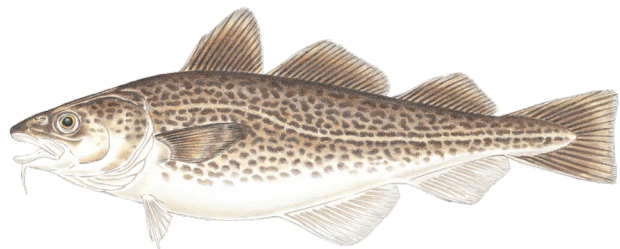
May 24 - Sep 23 / 16.5" (shore); 17.5" (vessel) / 5 fish



Atlantic Mackerel

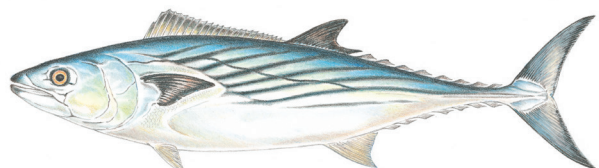
Year round / No minimum size limit / 25 fish

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



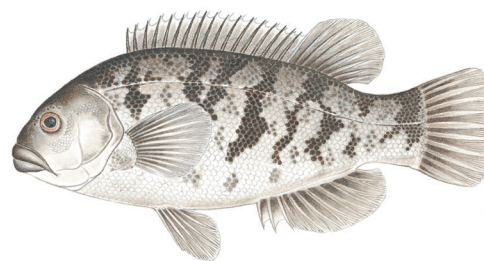
Atlantic Cod

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)

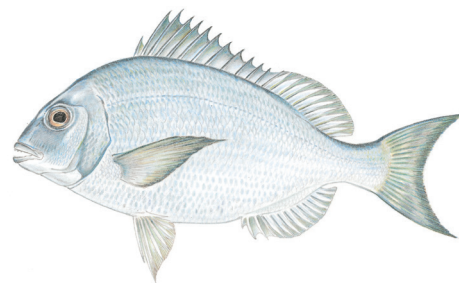


Tautog

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

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

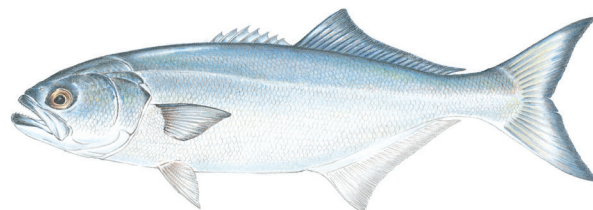
During the open season, 1 fish per person per day may exceed 21" and the aggregate vessel limit may not exceed 10 fish.



Scup

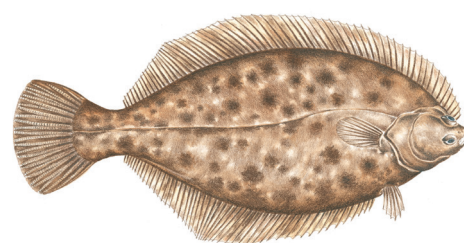
May 1 - Dec 31 / 9.5" (shore); 11" (vessel) / 30 fish

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



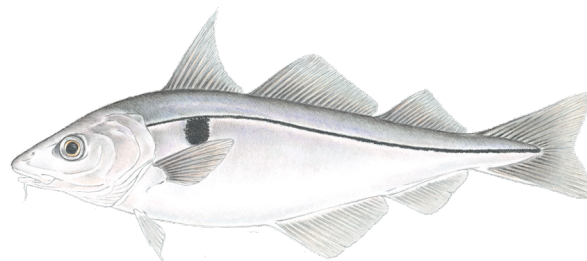
Bluefish

Year round / No minimum size limit / 5 fish



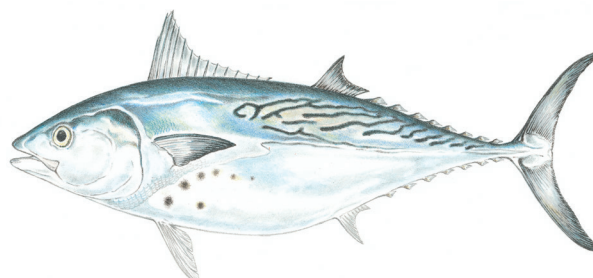
Winter Flounder

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



Haddock

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



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

Enter your catch in the Commissioner's Cup Saltwater Fishing Derby!
mass.gov/swderby

