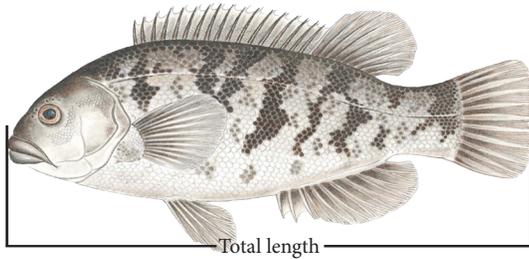
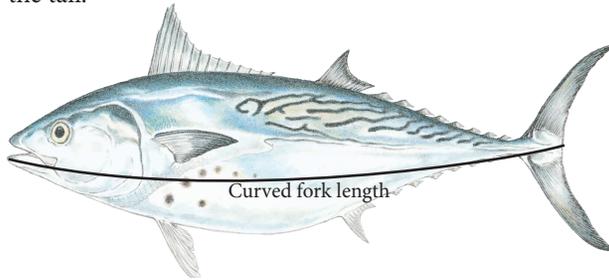


How to measure fish

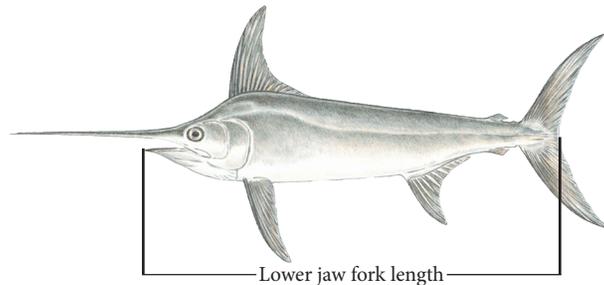
Most fish must have the total length measured. This is from the tip of a closed jaw straight to the farthest point of the tail. The tail may be squeezed for easier measuring.



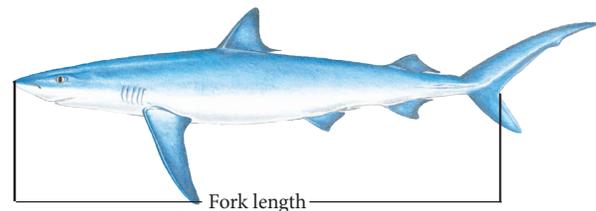
Tunas must have a curved fork length measured. These are measured from the tip of a closed jaw to the fork in the tail.



Billfish (marlins and sailfish) and swordfish must have a lower jaw fork length measured. These are measured from the tip of a closed jaw to the fork in the tail.



Sharks are measured from the tip of the snout to the fork in the tail.



IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Derby Coordinator: John Boardman
john.boardman@state.ma.us
(508) 990-2860 ext. 120

Division of Marine Fisheries Offices

Headquarters

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02144
(617) 626-1520

Field Stations

Annisquam River Marine Station

30 Emerson Avenue
Gloucester, MA 01930
(978) 282-0308

South Shore Marine Station

1213 Purchase Street
New Bedford, MA 02740
(508) 990-2860

Matt Ayer: North Shore
and Metropolitan Boston
Regional Biologist

John Boardman: South
Shore Regional Biologist

Dave Martins: Cape Cod
and Islands Regional
Biologist

Environmental Law Enforcement

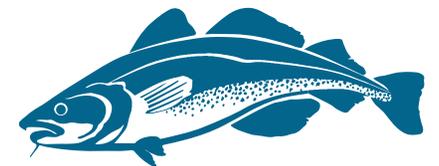
Toll-free number: 1-800-632-8072

For more information, visit
<http://www.mass.gov/dmf/saltwaterderby>

MASSACHUSETTS SALTWATER FISHING DERBY



Marine Fisheries
Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Eligible species and minimum qualifying weights for Weigh-In awards

Species	Weigh In (Pounds)		Catch and Release (Inches)
	Adult	Junior	
Albacore	30	30	30
Atlantic Blue Marlin	N/A	N/A	105
Atlantic Bluefin Tuna	500	50	30
Atlantic Bonito	5	4	24
Atlantic Cod	30	5	30
Atlantic Halibut	50	50	50
Atlantic Mackerel	2	1	16
Atlantic Sailfish	N/A	N/A	65
Atlantic White Marlin	N/A	N/A	68
Bigeye Tuna	100	100	30
Black Sea Bass	4	2	20
Bluefish	12	6	32
Blue Shark	300	300	60
Common Thresher Shark	200	200	65
Cusk	20	5	25
Dolphin (Mahi Mahi)	15	5	30
False Albacore	10	7	25
Fluke (Summer Flounder)	7	3	22
Haddock	8	4	20
King Mackerel	6	4	30
Pollock	12	6	30
Porbeagle Shark	150	150	60
Scup	2	1	15
Shortfin Mako Shark	150	150	60
Spanish Mackerel	4	3	24
Striped Bass	35	15	40
Swordfish	150	150	55
Tautog	8	4	20
Wahoo	30	20	40
Weakfish	8	4	22
Winter Flounder	3	2	17
Yellowfin Tuna	50	45	30

DERBY RULES

The Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Derby consists of two parts: the Weigh-In Derby and the Catch and Release Derby.

Both portions of the Derby run annually, from January 1 through November 30.

All saltwater anglers are eligible except:

Captains or mates of for-hire vessels or shore guides while under charter;

Those actively engaging in commercial fishing during a trip; or

Persons convicted of violating fishery laws or regulations or who have had administrative permit sanctions for violations of fishery laws or regulations within five (5) years of the Derby year.

Only fish meeting eligible weights or lengths are eligible for awards.

All entries must be submitted on an official entry form*.

Entry forms must be filled in and submitted at an official weigh station. Catch and Release forms should be submitted directly by the angler.

Mailed entries must be received within 30 days of catch and be postmarked no later than December 10.

All fish must be caught on rod and reel or hand line and in a sporting manner. Powered reels may not be used.

Fish must be caught in Massachusetts waters or first landed in a Massachusetts port.

Mutilated, cut, scaled, harpooned, speared, shot, or frozen fish are not eligible.

Fish may only be weighed in at one station.

Protests of catch must be notarized and submitted in writing within two weeks of any alleged violation of Derby rules.

The Derby coordinator may request additional information at any time and for any reason.

Violations of any Derby rules may result in exclusion from the Derby.

Decisions made by the Derby coordinator are final.

All state record-qualifying entries must be photographed with a side-view of the fish on a clearly discernable measuring device.

Anglers may submit multiple entries, but may earn only one pin per species for both the Weigh-In and Catch and Release Derbies.

Additional rules for Catch and Release

Fish must be released alive—the use of a gaff or harpoon is prohibited.

Fish must be boated and measured for total length (closed jaw to tip of the tail; the tail may be squeezed for measurement) except for tuna, sharks, billfish, and swordfish, which are measured to the fork of the tail (see *How to measure fish*).

Lengths should be measured to the nearest half inch.

A photo of the fish must be submitted with the entry form. The photo must be a side-view of the fish on a clearly discernable measuring device.

Prizes

One trophy will be awarded for the largest of each species per year for both the Weigh-In and Catch and Release portions of the Derby.

One Top Shop award (as free advertising in the Recreational Saltwater Fishing Guide) will be presented to the tackle shop that sends in the most entries.

A Skillful Skipper award (as a trophy and free advertising in the Recreational Saltwater Fishing Guide) will be presented to the captain with three winning fish caught from her or his boat.

One Angler of the Year award in both the Adult and Junior categories will be presented to the angler winning the most categories for Weigh-In, Catch and Release, or a combination of the two.

In the event of a tie for any award, the earliest entry will be used as a tiebreaker.

***Need an entry form? Print one out here:**
<http://www.mass.gov/dmf/derbyentryform>.