This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities.

**Red text** in regulations indicates a change for this year.

**Green text** denotes proposed regulation changes anticipated to be in effect later in 2012.

**Purple text** indicates an important note.

The Department of Environmental Protection’s Division of Fish and Wildlife informs anglers that rules for the recreational harvest of summer flounder (fluke), black sea bass, tautog, and river herring have changed.

- The **summer flounder** recreational season is now May 5–Sept. 28. The recreational possession limit has decreased to five fish while the minimum size was reduced to 17.5 inches.
- Also, the **black sea bass** recreational season has changed and is now May 19–Oct. 14, Nov. 1–Dec. 31. Note: The black sea bass season will likely change again during 2012. Visit our Web site at NJFishandWildlife.com or call the 24-hour marine fish “listen-only” line at (609) 292-2083 for the latest regulation updates.
- In an effort to encourage stock rebuilding of the coastwise tautog resource, new **tautog** regulations were put into place for 2012. The new minimum size for tautog is now 15 inches with the following possession limits and open seasons: four fish possession from Jan. 1–Feb. 28; four fish possession from Apr. 1–Apr. 30; one fish possession from July 27–Aug. 31; one fish possession from Oct. 18–Nov. 15; four fish possession from Nov. 16–Dec. 31. Note: The tautog season will likely change again during 2012.
- Due to concern regarding the decline of river herring (alewife and blueback herring) stocks, the taking or possession of any **river herring** in New Jersey’s marine, tidal and freshwaters is prohibited. (See Last Call for River Herring in the 2011 Marine Digest for more information)
- At the time of publication, new recreational measures for **black drum** had not been adopted but could become effective during 2012. For the latest information on black drum visit our Web site at NJFishandWildlife.com or call the 24-hour marine fish “listen-only” line at (609) 292-2083.

These changes were implemented for New Jersey to remain in compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s management plans for summer flounder and black sea bass. The new rules are aimed at providing adequate protection to these fish stocks while allowing New Jersey’s saltwater recreational anglers to participate to the fullest extent possible in these various fisheries.

New Jersey recreational marine regulations apply to all fish species when they are possessed in state waters or landed in New Jersey regardless of where they are caught.

**Resource Information**

Anyone who takes fisheries resources may be required to provide information on the species, number, weight or other information pertinent to management of resources.

**Methods of Recreational Fishing**

No person shall take, catch, kill or attempt to take, catch or kill any fish within the marine waters of the state by any means except in the manner commonly known as angling with hand line or rod and line unless specifically provided for by statute or regulation.

**Wanton Waste Prohibited**

Fish of any species which are purposely killed shall become part of the angler’s daily possession limit and shall not be returned to the water from which they were taken. This does not apply to fish which are released alive and subsequently die, but does apply even to species without size/possession limits.

**Spear Fishing**

Spear fishing may be conducted by means of a spear, harpoon or other missile while completely submerged in the marine waters of the state for any species, except lobster. Persons who fish with a spear for species with size limits are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure the fish meets the minimum size limits before being killed or injured.

**Fish Measurement**

1. Lay fish flat on top of, or alongside a measuring rule, not measured over the body.
2. Fish are measured from the tip of the snout (mouth closed) to the longest part of the tail.

**Prohibited Species**

It is illegal to take, possess, land, purchase, or sell any of the following species:
- Atlantic sturgeon
- Basking shark
- Big eye sand tiger shark
- Sand tiger shark
- Shortnose sturgeon
- Whale shark
- White shark
- River herring (alewife and blueback herring) (See herring illustrations, page 16)
- See Sharks (page 14) for the full list of prohibited shark species

**Sea Turtles & Marine Mammals**

It is illegal to intentionally molest, kill or possess sea turtles or marine mammals, or to possess any part thereof.

**How to Release Hooked Fish**

Proper handling and releasing techniques reduce fish mortality.
- Land fish as quickly as possible, except when retrieving from depths of 40-feet or more. Fighting a fish to exhaustion increases mortality as does rapidly bringing up a fish through the changing water pressure and temperature gradients.
- Keep fish to be released in the water as much as possible. Plan ahead with tools and camera.
- Minimize physical injury. Do not touch gills or allow fish to flop around on deck.
- Carefully remove hooks using a dehooker or needle-nose pliers.
- Use plain hooks, not stainless, to rust away quickly if one must be left in a gut-hooked fish. Be prepared with long-handled dykes. Cut this line close to the hook’s eyelet.
- To bring a fish out of the water momentarily, use a neoprene net or one of knotless nylon. Handle the fish carefully using wet hands, wet cotton gloves or similar material to minimize loss of the fish’s protective slime layer.
- To revive lethargic fish hold in a normal, upright position. Move the fish forward in an “S” or figure-8 pattern so that water flows over the gills only from front to back.
- Use circle hooks (not offset) for species that bite and flee, such as striped bass, weakfish or sea bass. Consider pinching hook barbs.

**Filleting**

The filleting of sea of all fish with a size limit is prohibited. No parts of any fish caught on a previous fishing trip shall be in possession. Party boats may fillet fish at sea if they obtain a Special Fillet Permit. Applications may be obtained from Fish and Wildlife’s Bureau of Marine Fisheries. See Summer Flounder, page 14.
**Black Sea Bass**

The minimum size limit for black sea bass is 12.5 inches measured along the midline from the snout to the end of the central portion of the tail, not to include the tail filaments. (See fish measuring example above.) The possession limit is 25 fish with an open season of May 19–Oct. 14 and Nov. 1–Dec. 31. The black sea bass season will likely change during 2012. Visit our Web site at NJFishandWildlife.com or call the 24-hour marine fish “listen-only” line at (609) 292-2083 for the latest regulation updates.

**Bluefish**

The possession limit for bluefish is 15 fish.

**Black Drum**

The minimum size limit for black drum is 16 inches in total length and the daily possession limit is three fish. There is no closed season for black drum. Proposed changes for black drum include a minimum size limit of 32 inches (total length) with a daily possession limit of two fish. The “no closed season” for black drum would continue. Visit our Web site at NJFishandWildlife.com or call the 24-hour marine fish “listen-only” line at (609) 292-2083 for the latest regulation updates.

**Red Drum**

The possession limit for red drum is one fish no less than 18 inches and not greater than 27 inches.

**Striped Bass (includes Hybrid Striped Bass)**

The possession limit for striped bass/hybrid striped bass is two fish with a minimum size limit of 28 inches for each fish. Anglers participating in the Striped Bass Bonus Program may possess an additional striped bass at least 28 inches in length.

It is illegal to take, catch or kill any striped bass from or in any marine waters of this state, by means of a net of any description, or by any methods other than angling with a hook and line or by spear fishing.

It is illegal to possess any striped bass which is less than the legal minimum size of 28 inches. A person shall not fillet, or remove the head or tail, or parts thereof, of any striped bass at sea.

Harvest and possession of striped bass from federal waters (outside three miles) is prohibited.

Sale of striped bass in New Jersey is prohibited.

**Striped Bass Closed Seasons**

No person may take, attempt to take, or have in possession any striped bass from the following closed waters:

- **Jan. 1–Feb. 28:** All waters closed except the Atlantic Ocean from zero to three miles offshore. All inlets and bays are delineated from ocean waters by a Colregs Demarcation line.
- **April 1–May 31:** Delaware River and Bay and their tributaries closed from the upstream side of the Calhoun St. bridge downstream to and including the Salem River and its tributaries.

Note: Non-offset circle hooks are required to reduce striped bass bycatch mortality while fishing with natural bait during the striped bass springtime spawning area closure within the Delaware River and its tributaries. This restriction does not apply to hook sizes smaller than size 2.
Striped Bass Bonus Program

The Striped Bass Bonus Program will continue this year, where anglers possessing a bonus permit may keep a third striped at 28 inches or greater.

The current allocation from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is 321,750 pounds. Should New Jersey exceed this quota, any overage would be subtracted from the following year’s quota.

Application Process: Striped Bass Bonus Program permits are only available online. Go to www.NJWildlifeLicense.com complete the application and immediately print one Bonus Permit (application fee, $2). The permit is non-transferable and valid for the current calendar year. Only one permit can be used per day. Harvest reporting also must be online.

Striped Bass Bonus Permit Harvest Reporting: All information on the Bonus Permit must be completed immediately after harvest and prior to transportation. After reporting, harvest information at www.NJWildlifeLicense.com anglers are then eligible to receive another bonus permit for the $2 application fee.

Note: Harvest information must be reported online.

Striped bass anglers are encouraged to report all fishing activity after each trip. Visit Fish and Wildlife’s Volunteer Angler Survey at NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm.

Sharks

The minimum size limit for any species of shark, except small coastal group and dogfish is 54 inches fork length. See dogfish Note and measuring illustration for fork length below.

These are the shark species that are prohibited from possession: Atlantic angel, basking, bigeye sixgill, bigeye thresher, bigeye tiger, bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, dusky, Galapagos, longfin mako, narrowtooth, night, sandbar, sandtiger, sevengill, silky, sixgill, smalltail, whale and white sharks.

Summer Flounder (Fluke)

The possession and minimum size limit for summer flounder is five fish at 17.5 inches with an open season from May 5 – Sept. 28.

Anglers may fillet one legal-sized summer flounder from their daily possession limit catch for use as bait. This carcass, commonly known as the rack, shall be kept intact so it can be measured for compliance with the minimum size limit. No parts of any summer flounder caught on a previous fishing trip shall be in possession; only fish just caught on this outing.

Tautog (Blackfish)

The minimum size limit for tautog is 15 inches. There is a four fish possession limit from Jan. 1–Feb. 28, a zero fish possession limit from March 1–March 31, a four fish possession limit from April 1–April 30, a zero fish possession limit from May 1–July 26 (season closed), a one fish possession limit from July 27–Aug. 31, a zero fish possession limit from Sept. 1–Oct. 17 (season closed), a one fish possession limit from Oct. 18–Nov. 15 and a four fish possession limit from Nov. 16–Dec. 31.

Note: The tautog season will likely change again during 2012.

Weakfish (Gray & Spotted Seatrout)

The current possession and minimum size limit for weakfish is one fish at least 13 inches in length.

Winter Flounder

The minimum possession and size limit for winter flounder is two fish at 12 inches. For winter flounder the open season is March 23–May 21.

Additional Marine Fishing Regulations

See pages 16–17 for the fish ID pages and pages 19–20 for the regulation charts.

Delaware Fishing License Requirement

A Delaware fishing license is now required for all non-resident anglers aged 16 and over fishing from either fresh or tidal waters. Delaware fishing license information can be found at http://www.wfw.delaware.gov/Fisheries/Pages/NewFishingLicense.aspx.

New York License Requirement

New York’s marine fishing license requirement has been suspended. New York is offering a free registry to all marine anglers. Visit http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/54950.html.

Bait Fish

No license is required for the taking of baitfish for personal use with the following gear:

1. Dip nets 24 inches diameter or less for the taking of herring (excluding river herring) for live bait.
2. Bait seine 50 feet long or less.
3. Cast nets 20 feet in diameter or less.
4. Lift or umbrella nets four feet square or less.
5. Not more than five killipots.
6. Not more than two miniature fykes or pots for the taking of eels for bait.

The taking or possession of river herring is prohibited.

Fish taken in this manner may not be sold or used for barter unless a commercial bait net license is in possession.

No person shall take or attempt to take fish by any means from the Deal Lake flume, Lake Takanasse spillway or Wreck Pond spillway on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday during the months of April and May.

1. Dip nets 24 inches diameter or less for the taking of river herring (excluding river herring) for live bait.
2. Bait seine 50 feet long or less.
3. Cast nets 20 feet in diameter or less.
4. Lift or umbrella nets four feet square or less.
5. Not more than five killipots.
6. Not more than two miniature fykes or pots for the taking of eels for bait.

The taking or possession of river herring is prohibited.

Fish taken in this manner may not be sold or used for barter unless a commercial bait net license is in possession.

No person shall take or attempt to take fish by any means from the Deal Lake flume, Lake Takanasse spillway or Wreck Pond spillway on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday during the months of April and May.

The 2012 shark regulations complement existing federal shark regulations (see 2012 Federal Recreational Regulations table, page 20). However, the following additional measures are required for state waters:

- In state waters, there is no minimum size limit for small coastal sharks* in the recreational fishery, but federal regulations include a 54-inch minimum size limit for blacknose and finetooth small coastal sharks.
- All sharks within the large coastal group* will have a closed season within state waters from May 15 through July 15 to protect spawning female sharks during the pupping season.
- See page 20 footnote for species list defining small coastal, large coastal and pelagic sharks.

All sharks harvested by recreational fishermen must have heads, tails and fins attached naturally to the carcass until landed. Anglers may still gut and bleed the carcass as long as the tail is not removed. Filleting sharks at sea is prohibited.

NEW JERSEY SALTWATER RECREATIONAL REGISTRY PROGRAM

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) established the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP), effective May 4, 2011, to exempt saltwater recreational anglers fishing in New Jersey’s marine and tidal waters from the federal registry and the $15 federal registration fee imposed in 2011.

The goal of the registry is to provide the National Marine Fisheries Service with the most accurate information possible that can be used to determine the health of fish stocks. Reliable, universally trusted data will aid anglers, fisheries managers and other stakeholders in their combined efforts so that rules are set to effectively and fairly ensure the long-term sustainability of recreational fishing.

Registering with the NJSRRP is quick, easy and FREE.

Who needs to register? NOTE: Anglers with either a valid registration from the National Saltwater Angler Registry, a valid fishing license from another exempted state or a New Jersey freshwater fishing license are required to register (for free) with the NJSRRP. Registration with New Jersey will exempt you from having to register with the National Saltwater Angler Registry. New Jersey registered anglers must still comply with saltwater license requirements in other states.

Individual saltwater anglers age 16 and older MUST register if ANY of the following criteria are met:
• Recreational fishing with a hand line or rod and line, spearfish or fish by hand
• Recreational fishing in the marine and fresh tidal waters of the State of New Jersey
• Recreational fishing in marine waters outside the State of New Jersey but landing the catch in New Jersey

The only means to register is online at SaltwaterRegistry.nj.gov

Individual saltwater anglers are EXEMPT from registering if either of the following apply:
• Under the age of 16
• Solely fish on for-hire (party and charter) vessels that are registered with the NJSRRP

For-hire vessel owners/operators MUST register if they:
• Carry individuals who engage in recreational fishing in the marine and fresh tidal waters of the State of New Jersey OR
• Carry individuals who engage in recreational fishing in the marine waters outside the State of New Jersey but land their catch in New Jersey

Anglers who registered in 2011 are reminded that registrations expire at the end of each calendar year and must be renewed annually.

For more information on New Jersey’s registry program, visit the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program website at SaltwaterRegistry.nj.gov.

For more information about the national overhaul of the recreational data collection survey, and how registry database information will be used, visit the website CountMyFish.noaa.gov.
Mollusks & Crustaceans

**MARINE REGULATIONS**

Red text in regulations indicates a change for this year.

Green text denotes proposed regulation changes anticipated to be in effect later in 2012.

Purple text indicates an important note.

### Crustaceans

#### American Lobster
The legal possession size of whole lobsters, measured from the rear of the eye socket along a line parallel to the center line of the body shell to the rear of the body shell, shall be not less than 3 3/4 inches nor greater than 5 1/4 inches. Lobster parts may not be possessed at sea or landed.

The possession limit is six lobsters per person. No person shall possess any lobster with eggs attached or from which eggs have been removed or any female lobster with a v-notched tail, as illustrated above.

Note: The lobster season will likely change again during 2012.

The use of spears, gigs, gaffs or other penetrating devices as a method of capture for lobsters is prohibited. A recreational lobster pot permit and fish pot license is required to use pots or traps to capture lobsters. For details call (609) 748-2020. Lobsters taken recreationally may not be sold or offered for sale.

### Crabs
1. Crabs may be taken recreationally with hand lines, manually operated collapsible traps or scoop nets without a license. A non-commercial crab pot license is required for the use of not more than two non-collapsible Chesapeake-style crab pots (see illustration on page 21) or two trot lines to harvest crabs. See page 21 for the non-commercial crab pot license information.
2. It is illegal to harvest or possess more than one bushel of crabs per day per person or offer for sale any crabs without having in your possession a valid commercial crabbing license.
3. Minimum size for crabs that may be harvested (measured from point to point of shell) are as follows:
   a) Peeler or shedder crab: 3 inches
   b) Soft crab: 3 1/2 inches
   c) Hard crab: 4 1/2 inches (possession)
4. All female crabs with eggs attached and all undersized crabs shall be returned to the water immediately.
5. Recreational trot lines shall not exceed 150 feet in length with a maximum of 25 baits.
6. All pots and trot lines shall be marked with the identification number of the owner.
7. All crab pots must be tended at least once every 72 hours.
8. No floating line may be used on any crab pot or crab pot buoy.
9. No crab pot shall be placed in any area that would obstruct or impede navigation or in any creek less than 50 feet wide.
10. Only the owner, his agent or a law enforcement officer may raise or remove contents of a legally set fishing device.
11. Crabs taken with a bait seine may be retained for personal use only if the fisherman possesses a bait net license, and may not be bartered or sold unless the fisherman possesses a commercial crab license.
12. No crabs may be harvested from the Newark Bay Complex. For more information, see Health Advisory on page 28.

### Horseshoe Crabs
The harvest of horseshoe crabs is prohibited. Possession of horseshoe crabs is also prohibited except for those individuals holding a scientific collecting permit for research and education and those fishermen that can provide suitable documentation that the horseshoe crabs in their possession were harvested outside of New Jersey.

### Mollusks
1. All persons must be licensed to harvest any shellfish. See license information, page 21. Shellfish means any species of benthic mollusks (except conch) including hard and soft clams, oysters, surf clams, bay scallops and mussels.
2. It is illegal to harvest shellfish from condemned waters, even for bait purposes. It is also illegal to harvest shellfish including surf clams from beaches adjacent to water classified as condemned. Shellfish water classification charts are available from license agents or any state shellfish office. See page 21 for shellfish license information. Charts are updated annually.
3. Shellfish harvesting is prohibited before sunrise, after sunset and on Sunday, except in the seasonally approved areas of the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers.
4. Harvesting shellfish on public grounds is restricted to the use of hand implements.
5. It is illegal to harvest shellfish from leased grounds. These grounds are delineated by stakes or buoys set by the lease holder. Charts of the leases may be examined at Fish and Wildlife's Nacote Creek or Delaware Bay shellfish offices during regular business hours. Invasion onto leased grounds is punishable by penalties up to $3,000 and loss of all equipment.

### Recreational Shellfishing
1. No holder of any recreational shellfish license may take more than a total of 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. See Shellfish License Information, page 21.
2. It is illegal to dredge shellfish on public grounds. Here, hand implements are the only legal harvest methods.
3. The minimum size of hard clams that may be harvested is 1 1/2 inches in length. Clams less than 1 1/2 inches in length must immediately be returned to the bottom from which they were taken.
Specific seasons, regulations and size limits exist for oyster beds in Great Bay, Delaware Bay, plus the Mullica, Great Egg Harbor and Tuckahoe rivers. Check with the nearest shellfish office (Nacote Creek or Delaware Bay) for these detailed regulations.

4. It is illegal to harvest shellfish on Sunday except in the seasonal waters of the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers between Nov. 1 and April 30.

5. Shells taken in the process of harvesting oysters must be culled from the live oysters and returned immediately to the area from where they were taken.

Commercial Shellfishing

1. Shellfish may be sold only to certified dealers. All persons selling shellfish commercially must tag each container listing date of harvest, name and address of the harvester and the waters from which the shellfish were harvested.

2. It is illegal to dredge shellfish on public grounds. All harvesting on public grounds is restricted to the use of hand implements.

3. Shells taken in the process of harvesting oysters must be culled from the live oysters and immediately returned to the area from where they were taken.

4. The minimum size of hard clams that may be harvested is ½ inches in length. Clams less than ½ inches must immediately be returned to the bottom from which they were taken. Specific seasons, regulations and size limits exist for oyster beds in Great Bay, Delaware Bay, plus the Mullica, Great Egg Harbor, and Tuckahoe rivers. Check with the nearest shellfish office (Nacote Creek or Delaware Bay) for these detailed regulations.

5. It is illegal to harvest shellfish on Sunday except in the seasonal waters of the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers between Nov. 1 and April 30 when it is legal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Open Season</th>
<th>Minimum Length</th>
<th>Harvest &amp; Possession Limit (per person unless noted)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Eel</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>6”</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Drum</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>16”</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Sea Bass</td>
<td>May 19–Oct. 14, Nov. 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td>12.5”</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefish</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobia</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>37”</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cod</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>21”</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haddock</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>21”</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Mackeral</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>23”</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollock</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>19”</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Drum</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>18”</td>
<td>1 not greater than 27”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Herring</td>
<td>No Open Season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scup (Porgy)</td>
<td>Jan. 1–Feb. 28, July 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td>9”</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shad</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smooth Dogfish</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Mackeral</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>14”</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware River &amp; tributaries** (Calhoun St. bridge to Salem River &amp; tributaries)</td>
<td>March 1–March 31 and June 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td>28”</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware River &amp; tributaries** (upstream of Calhoun St. bridge)</td>
<td>March 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Ocean</td>
<td>(0–3 nautical miles from shore)</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rivers, bay and estuaries</td>
<td>March 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–200 nautical miles (federal waters)</td>
<td>Prohibited</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Flounder</td>
<td>May 5–Sept. 28</td>
<td>17.5”</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weakfish</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>13”</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Flounder</td>
<td>March 23–May 21</td>
<td>12”</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: No species of fish with a minimum size limit listed above may be filleted or cleaned at sea. Party boats licensed to carry 15 or more passengers may apply for a permit to fillet the above species. See Summer Flounder, page 14.

Blue Crab

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Open Season</th>
<th>Minimum Length</th>
<th>Per 15 or more passengers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>peeler or shedder</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>3”</td>
<td>1 bushel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soft</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>3½”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hard</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>4½”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobster</td>
<td>(carapace length)</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>3½”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard Clam</td>
<td>(license required)</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>1½”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a Regulation changes possible during 2012.
b Not including dogfish; see description on page 14 under Sharks.
c See page 12 for a list of Prohibited Species.
d Atlantic Ocean greater than three miles from shore; harvest and possession prohibited.
e Unless using non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots. See sections on crab pots, pages 18 and 21.
* Excluding tail filaments. (See illustration, page 12.)
** See Closed Seasons (page 13) for specifics of springtime non-offset circle hook requirements.
† See page 20 for Federal Recreational Regulations.
### Federal Limits

**MARINE REGULATIONS**

2012 Federal Recreational Regulations for Minimum Size, Possession Limits and Seasons

See page 12 for how to measure fish. See *Recreational Minimum Size, Possession Limits and Seasons* (page 19) for state waters listings of species not included in these federal waters regulations (3–200nm). For federal regulation questions, please contact the National Marine Fisheries Service at (978) 281-9260, or go to www.nmfs.noaa.gov.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Minimum Size</th>
<th>Possession Limit</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cod</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>22&quot;</td>
<td>10 per person per day</td>
<td>for more information go to <a href="http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/">www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Bass</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>28&quot; total length</td>
<td>2, plus bonus fish with card, no possession allowed in Eez</td>
<td>possession prohibited in federal waters (3–200 nm). See pages 13 and 19 for NJ waters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolphin (Mahi mahi)</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>10 per day, not to exceed 60 per vessel, which ever is less — except on a charter or headboat, then 10 per paying passenger.</td>
<td>For current federal waters regulations (3–200 nm), refer to <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/">www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/</a> or call (727) 824-5399.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlin, White</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>66&quot; lower jaw–fork length</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>billfish require Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits, refer to <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or call (888) 872-8862. During any sanctioned billfish tournaments offering prize money, non-offset circle hooks are required for lures with natural bait or natural/artifical bait combos. All non-tournament billfish landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours, either online at <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or by calling (800) 894-5528.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlin, Blue</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>99&quot; lower jaw–fork length</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>For current federal waters regulations (3–200 mm), refer to <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/">www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/</a> or call (727) 824-5399.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roundscale Spearfish</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>66&quot; lower jaw–fork length</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>swordfish, tuna and sharks require an HMS permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits, refer to <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or call (888) 872-8862. All non-tournament swordfish landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or by calling (800) 894-5528.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailfish</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>63&quot; lower jaw–fork length</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Prohibited For current regulations refer to <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/">www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/</a> or call (727) 824-5399.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spearfish, Longbill</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>For current federal waters regulations (3–200 nm), refer to <a href="http://www.safrnc.net">www.safrnc.net</a> or call toll free (860) SAFMC-10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Tilefish</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>swordfish, tuna and sharks require an HMS permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits, refer to <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or call (888) 872-8862. All non-tournament swordfish landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or by calling (800) 894-5528.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swordfish</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>47” lower jaw–fork length if the head is naturally attached or 29” cleithrum to caudal keel if the head has been removed.</td>
<td>For anglers: 1 per person, no more than 4 per vessel per trip.</td>
<td>swordfish, tuna and sharks require an HMS permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits, refer to <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or call (888) 872-8862. All non-tournament swordfish landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or by calling (800) 894-5528.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Albacore (Longfin)</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>† Bluefin tuna are managed in two regions: Northern, extending north from the Great Egg Inlet and Southern extending south from Great Egg Inlet. Fishing for bluefin tuna in the Gulf of Mexico is prohibited. Bluefin tuna retention limits may change throughout the season. Visit <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or call (888) 872-8862 or (978) 281-9260 for current information. All recreational bluefin tuna landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or by calling (888) 872-8862. For current federal waters regulations (3–200 nm), refer to <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/">www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/</a> or call (730) 713-2347 for up-to-date limits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Bigeye</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>27” curved fork length</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Prohibited For current federal waters regulations (3–200 nm), refer to <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/">www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/</a> or call (730) 713-2347 for up-to-date limits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Bluefin†</td>
<td>January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012 or until season is closed.</td>
<td>&lt;27” curved fork length</td>
<td>Prohibited</td>
<td>swordfish, tuna and sharks require an HMS permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits, refer to <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or call (888) 872-8862. All non-tournament swordfish landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or by calling (800) 894-5528. For current federal waters regulations (3–200 nm), refer to <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/">www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/</a> or call (730) 713-2347 for up-to-date limits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Skipjack</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>swordfish, tuna and sharks require an HMS permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits, refer to <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or call (888) 872-8862. All non-tournament swordfish landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or by calling (800) 894-5528. For current federal waters regulations (3–200 nm), refer to <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/">www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/</a> or call (730) 713-2347 for up-to-date limits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Yellowfin</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>27” curved fork length</td>
<td>3 per person per trip</td>
<td>swordfish, tuna and sharks require an HMS permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits, refer to <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or call (888) 872-8862. All non-tournament swordfish landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or by calling (800) 894-5528. For current federal waters regulations (3–200 nm), refer to <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/">www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/</a> or call (730) 713-2347 for up-to-date limits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharks*, other than spiny or smooth dogfish</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>54” fork length for authorized species* except no minimum size for Atlantic sharpnose or bonnethead sharks</td>
<td>1 authorized shark/vessel/trip plus 1 Atlantic sharpnose and 1 bonnethead shark/person/trip</td>
<td>See below for list of shark groups which MAY be kept or MUST be released. Swordfish, tuna and sharks require an HMS permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits, refer to <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">www.hmspermits.gov</a> or call (888) 872-8862. Recreational fishermen (those that do not have a limited access commercial shark permit) can not sell, barter or trade any Atlantic shark or shark pieces. For more information, contact the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council at (727) 824-5326.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahoo</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>2 per person per day</td>
<td>For more information, contact the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council at (727) 824-5326.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wreckfish</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Prohibited For more information, contact the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council at (727) 824-5326.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Shark Species That May Be Kept (Authorized Species): Large Coastal Shark—blacktip, bull, lemon, nurse, tiger, spinner, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, great hammerhead. Small Coastal Shark—Atlantic sharpnose, bonnethead, blacknose, finetooth. Pelagic Shark—Shortfin mako, blue, porbeagle, oceanic whitetip and common thresher. Shark Species That MUST Be Released (Prohibited Species): Atlantic angel, baskie, bigeye sand tiger, bigeye sixgill, bigeye thresher, bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, dusky, Galapagos, longfin mako, narrowtooth, night, sandbar, sand tiger, sevengill, silky, sixgill, smalltail, whale and white.

Regulations concerning highly migratory species (HMS) such as tuna, swordfish, shark and billfish, are subject to change. Refer to www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ for a list of complete federal regulations for highly migratory species. For questions/clarification of the federal highly migratory species regulations, contact the National Marine Fisheries Service at (301) 713-2347 or go to www.nmfs.noaa.gov.

**Notes**

Red text in regulations indicates a change for this year. Green text denotes proposed regulation changes anticipated to be in effect later in 2012. Purple text indicates an important note.
**SHELLFISH LICENSE INFORMATION**

A clamming license is now called a shellfish license and is required for harvesting of all species of benthic mollusks (with the exception of conchs, addressed in the commercial marine fisheries regulations), including, but not limited to, hard and soft clams, surf clams, oysters, bay scallops and mussels. Other specific commercial shellfish licenses exist such as surf clam dredge, Delaware Bay oyster dredge boat, and Delaware Bay licenses to harvest in Areas 1, 2 and 3.

Anyone engaged in any shellfish harvesting activity with someone holding a commercial shellfish license must also possess their own commercial shellfish license. The senior shellfish license is a lifetime license. For shellfishing regulations, see pages 18–19. Prior to harvesting any shellfish, be certain to consult the Shellfishing Growing Water Classification Charts published by DEP's Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring, available at any shellfish license agent, state shellfish offices, online at http://www.nj.gov/dep/bmw/waterclass.htm or call the Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring at (609) 748-2000. Shellfish licenses are available for purchase online at www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com.

**Shellfish License Fees**

- **Resident recreational shellfish**: $10
- **Non-resident recreational shellfish**: $20
- **Senior citizen recreational shellfish**: FREE ($2 application fee)
- **Resident commercial shellfish**: $50
- **Non-resident Commercial Shellfish**: $250
- **Disabled veterans**: Fish and Wildlife-certified disabled veterans are eligible for free shellfish license at any shellfish license agent location. For more information on how to become certified, call (908) 637-4125.

**Crab Pot License Information**

Crab Pot licenses are available at all agent locations:

- **Recreational Crab Pot/Trot Line Licenses and Non-Commercial Crab Dredge Licenses** are available for purchase online at: www.NJWildlifeLicense.com or at any Fish and Wildlife-certified license agent including those license agents listed at right. For the most current list of Fish and Wildlife-certified license agents, go to NJfishandWildlife.com/agentlst.htm.

- **Recreational crab pot/trot line license**: $2
  - Harvest limit of one bushel per day. Refer to the shellfish regulations on page 18 for all recreational crabbing regulations.

- **Non-commercial crab dredge license**: $15
  - Harvest limit of one bushel per day during the crab dredge season. Refer to the crab regulations on page 18 for all recreational crabbing regulations.

**TERRAPIN EXCLUDERS AND BIODEGRADABLE PANELS ARE REQUIRED ON CHESAPEAKE-STYLE CRAB POTS**

Users of non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots should be aware that all pots set in any body of water less than 150-feet wide at mean low tide as the biodegradable panel ONLY if it is fastened to the pot with any of the material specified above. Crabbers should be aware that ALL non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots MUST be licensed and marked with the gear identification number of the owner. For crab pot license information and regulations, see the regulations on page 18 and license agents below.

**SHELLFISH AND NON-COMMERCIAL CRAB POT LICENSE AGENTS**

(For over-the-counter sales only)

**ATLANTIC COUNTY**
- Egg Harbor True Value, 208 N. Philadelphia Ave., Egg Harbor City... (609) 965-0815
- Fish Finder Marina, 3645 Atlantic-Abrigation Blvd., Brigantine... (609) 457-5394
- Main Street Hardware, 6016 Main St., Mays Landing................. (609) 625-4941
- NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife, 360 Rt. 9 N (milepost 51), Port Republic... (609) 748-2021
- Zezis Sporting Goods, 6679 Black Horse Pike, Egg Harbor Twp... (609) 646-1688

**CAMDEN COUNTY**
- Towne News, 81 So. Whitehorse Pike, Berlin ....................... (856) 768-9132

**CAPE MAY COUNTY**
- Avalon Hodge Podge, 2389 Ocean Dr., Avalon ......................... (609) 967-3274
- Belleplain Supply, 346 Handsmill Rd., Belleplain .................. (609) 861-2345
- Budd’s Bait & Tackle, 109 Fullingmill Rd., Villas .................. (609) 887-6935
- Capt. Tate’s Bait Box, 450 No. Route 47, Cape May CH ............ (609) 861-4001
- City of Ocean City, 861 Ashbury Ave., Ocean City................ (609) 525-9328
- Just Sports, 21 Mechanic St., Cape May Court House ............. (609) 465-6171
- Smuggler’s Cove, 370 83rd St., Stone Harbor ......................... (609) 368-1700
- Upper Township, 2100 Tuckahoe Rd., Tuckahoe ..................... (609) 628-2805
- Wal*Mart, 3159 Rt. 9S, Rio Grande ........................................ (609) 465-7760

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY**
- Alf Bait & Tackle, 222 Bridgeton Fairton Rd., Bridgeton.......... (856) 451-1800
- Beaver Dam Boat Rentals, 514 Old Beaver Dam Rd., Newport ... (856) 447-3633
- Big Daddy’s Sport Haven, 595 Sherman Ave., Millville ........... (609) 543-9009
- Delaware Bay Office, 1672 E. Buckshutem Rd., Millville ...... (609) 785-0730
- Shire Products, 389 S. Lincoln Ave., Vineland .................. (609) 692-3646
- Sportsman’s Outpost, 2517 Fries Mill Rd., Williamstown ...... (856) 881-3244

**Hudson County**
- Casa’s Gun-A-Rama, 176 Danforth Ave., Jersey City ............. (201) 435-5099

**Middlesex County**
- Sportsman Shop, 52 Washington Ave., Sayreville .................. (732) 238-2060

**Monmouth County**
- Brielle Tackle, 800 Ashley Ave., Brielle ......................... (732) 528-5720
- L & H Woods and Water, 2045 Rt. 35, Wall ......................... (732) 282-1812

**Ocean County**
- American Sportsman, 857 Mill Creek Rd., Manahawkin .......... (609) 597-4104
- The Bait Shop, 57 Main St., Bradley Beach ......................... (732) 361-8500
- Bob Kilsin’s, 1214 Rt. 3 East, Toms River ......................... (732) 929-9300
- Chumbucket, 381 Rt. 9, West Creek ........................................... (609) 294-2500
- Downeast Bait & Tackle, 287 Brennan Complex, Bayville. . (732) 269-0137
- Fish B’n’ Bait & Tackle, 103 Lacey Rd., Forked River ....... (609) 971-2928
- Grizz’s Forked River B & T, 232 N. Main St., Forked River ... (609) 693-9298
- Lacey Marine, 308 Rt. 9, So., Forked River ......................... (609) 693-0151
- L & H Woods and Water, 403 Rt. 9, Waretown ................. (609) 242-1812
- Pell’s Fish & Sport Shop, 335 Mantoloking Rd., Bricktown ... (732) 477-2121
- Surf City Bait & Tackle, 317 Long Beach Blvd., Surf City ...... (609) 494-2333
- Tip’s Hardware, 218 Main St., West Creek ....................... (609) 296-3192

**SOMERSET COUNTY**
- Efinger Sporting Goods, 513 W. Union Ave., Bound Brook ...... (732) 356-0604

**21**