2017 NJ Recreational Minimum Size, Possession Limits & Seasons

- Fish are measured from the tip of the snout to tip of the tail (except Black Sea Bass and Sharks).
- Cleaning or filleting of fish with a minimum size limit while at sea is prohibited. See the Marine edition of the Fish & Wildlife Digest or the Fish & Wildlife website for exceptions.

**Hard Clam**
- 1.5 inches
- Recreational Limit – 150 clams
- No harvest on Sunday
- Shellfish license required

**Summer Flounder (Fluke)**
- Del. Bay and Tributaries: 3 fish at 17 inches
- All Other Marine Waters: 3 fish at 18 inches
- See Digest for IBSP and DE Bay Regulations
- Open Season: May 25 – Sept. 5

**Weakfish**
- 1 fish at 13 inches
- Open Season: Jan. 1 – Dec. 31

**Black Sea Bass**
- 10 fish at 12.5 inches May 26 – June 18
- 2 fish at 12.5 inches July 1 – August 31
- 15 fish at 12.5 inches Oct. 22—Dec. 31

**Bluefish**
- 15 fish; No Minimum Size
- Open Season: Jan. 1 – Dec. 31

**Tautog**
- 15 inches
- 4 fish Jan. 1 – Feb. 28
- 4 fish Apr. 1 – Apr. 30
- 1 fish July 17 – Nov. 15
- 6 fish Nov. 16 – Dec. 31

**Winter Flounder**
- 2 fish at 12 inches
- Open Season: Mar. 1 – Dec. 31

**Shark**
- 1 fish per vessel at 54 inches

**Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass**
- 1 fish at 28 inches to less than 43 inches
- 1 fish at 43 inches or greater
- See Digest for Striped Bass Bonus Program

- Del. River and tributaries Calhoun St. Bridge, Trenton to Salem River and tributaries
- Open Mar. 1 – Mar. 31 & June 1 – Dec. 31

- Atlantic Ocean
- 0-3 miles from shore, no closed season
- Greater than 3 miles from shore, closed
- All other marine waters, open Mar. 1 – Dec. 31

**PROHIBITED SPECIES**
See the Marine edition of the NJ Fish & Wildlife Digest or Fish & Wildlife’s website for a complete list.

- Other Species
- Possession Limit
- Total Length

  - American Eel
  - 25
  - 9”

  - Black Drum
  - 3
  - 16”

  - Cod
  - NO LIMIT
  - 21”

  - Haddock
  - NO LIMIT
  - 21”

  - Pollock
  - NO LIMIT
  - 19”

  - King Mackerel
  - 3
  - 23”

  - Red Drum
  - 1
  - 18-27”

  - River Herring
  - CLOSED
  - N/A

  - Scup (Porgy)
  - 50
  - 9”

- **Other Species**
- **Possession Limit**
- **Total Length**

  - **American Lobster**
  - 6
  - 3 3/8” to 5 1/4” Carapace Length

  - **LMA 4 Open Season:** Jan. 1 - Apr. 29 & June 1 - Dec. 31
  - **LMA 5 Open Season:** Jan. 1 - Jan. 31 & Apr. 1 - Dec. 31

  - **Jonah Crab**
  - 50
  - 4 3/4” Carapace Width

- **LMA 4 Open Season:** Jan. 1 - Apr. 29 & June 1 - Dec. 31
- **LMA 5 Open Season:** Jan. 1 - Jan. 31 & Apr. 1 - Dec. 31

- **American Eel**
- **25**
- **9”**

- **Black Drum**
- **3**
- **16”**

- **Cod**
- **NO LIMIT**
- **21”**

- **Haddock**
- **NO LIMIT**
- **21”**

- **Pollock**
- **NO LIMIT**
- **19”**

- **King Mackerel**
- **3**
- **23”**

- **Red Drum**
- **1**
- **18-27”**

- **River Herring**
- **CLOSED**
- **N/A**

- **Scup (Porgy)**
- **50**
- **9”**

- **Open Season:** Jan. 1 - Feb. 28 & Jul. 1 - Dec. 31
- **NO LIMIT**

- **Shad**
- **3**
- **16”**

- **No more than 3 American shad in Del. Bay, River & tributaries**
- **No American shad in all other waters**

- **American Lobster**
- **6**
- **3 3/8” to 5 1/4” Carapace Length**

- **LMA 4 Open Season:** Jan. 1 - Apr. 29 & June 1 - Dec. 31
- **LMA 5 Open Season:** Jan. 1 - Jan. 31 & Apr. 1 - Dec. 31

- **Jonah Crab**
- **50**
- **4 3/4” Carapace Width**

**Register before fishing! It’s free, easy, and required.**
[SalwaterRegistry.nj.gov](http://SalwaterRegistry.nj.gov)

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife
[www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com)