MARINE REGULATIONS

Regulations in red are new this year.

Regulations remain in effect until changed. For the most current regulations, go to NJFishandWildlife.com/njregs.htm#marine or call the marine fish “listen-only” information line at (609) 292-2083. Visit our website at NJFishandWildlife.com.

- The recreational summer flounder open season has been modified to include May 25 to Sept. 22. For Delaware Bay and tributaries, west of the COURREGS line which delineates Delaware Bay from the Atlantic Ocean, the size limit remains 17 inches and the possession limit is still three fish. The 17-inch minimum size limit applicable to Delaware Bay does not include the waters of the Cape May Canal east of the Cape May Ferry Terminal. Transport of summer flounder caught in Delaware Bay, greater than or equal to 17 inches but less than the 18 inches, may occur in waters east of the Cape May Ferry Terminal to the George Redding Bridge (Rt. 47) located at the entrance of Wildwood provided all fishing gear aboard the vessel is stowed with rigs removed and the vessel may not stop to fish for any species. In all other waters, the size limit remains 18 inches, the possession limit is still three fish and transportation of summer flounder less than 18 inches is prohibited.
- The recreational black sea bass regulations have yet to be finalized. For the most current regulations, see our website at NJFishandWildlife.com/njregs.htm#marine.
- The recreational tautog regulations have been modified to include an open season of Aug. 1–Sept. 30 with a 5 fish possession limit and a 15-inch minimum size limit. Fourth season regulations have been modified to include an open season of Nov. 16–Dec. 31 with a 5 fish possession limit and a 15-inch minimum size limit.
- The recreational scup (porgy) regulations have been modified to include an open season of Jan. 1–Dec. 31 with a 50 fish possession limit and a 9-inch minimum size limit.
- The recreational cobia regulations have been modified to include an open season of June 1–Sept. 30 with a 1 cobia per day, no more than 3 cobia per vessel, possession limit and a 40-inch minimum size limit. These changes were implemented for New Jersey to remain in compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s management plans for summer flounder, black sea bass, tautog and scup (porgy). 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. Saltwater anglers must comply with the requirements of the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program. See page 16.

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

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.

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

New York Fishing Registry Requirement

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 Atlantic herring only (does not include river herring — alewife and blueback herring) for live bait. The taking or possession of river herring is prohibited.
2. Bait seines 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 killpots.
6. Not more than two miniature fykes or pots for the taking of eels for bait.

Fish taken in this manner may not be sold or used for barter unless the angler is in possession of a commercial bait net license.
- No person shall take or attempt to take fish by any means from the Deal Lake Flume, Lake Takakasie spillway or Wreck Pond spillway on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday during the months of April and May.

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.

Spearfishing
Spearfishing 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, purchase, sell any of the following species:
- Atlantic sturgeon
- basking shark
- big eye sand tiger shark
- diamondback terrapin
- sand tiger shark

Accessible Fishing Sites
For people with disabilities, visit: www.NJFishandWildlife.com/sites.htm
An Accessible Fishing Sites list is available to assist anglers whose mobility is impaired. All sites are wheelchair-accessible except for the Musconetcong River in Morris County, where vehicle access is to the shoreline.
sandbar shark
shortnose sturgeon
whale shark
white shark
river herring (alewife and blueback herring; see herring illustrations, page 18)

See Sharks (page 16) for the full list of prohibited shark species.

Sea Turtles & Marine Mammals

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

Finfish

Regulations for most finfish are listed in the table on page 21.

Filletting

The filleting at sea of all fish with a size limit, or any species of flatfish, is prohibited except for summer flounder; see Summer Flounder, page 17. Anglers shall possess no parts of any fish caught on a previous fishing trip. 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.

Black Sea Bass

Black sea bass are 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 on page 14.) The 2018 regulations for black sea bass have yet to be finalized. For the most current regulations, go to NJFishandWildlife.com/njregs.htm#marine or call the marine fish “listen-only” information line at (609) 292-2083.

Top 8 Tips for Releasing Fish Unharmed

Proper handling and releasing techniques reduce fish mortality.

- Land fish as quickly as possible, except not 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, which will rust away quickly if one must be left in a guthooked fish. Be prepared with a long-reach tool to cut the leader at the hook. 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 with pliers.
Finfish

MARINE REGULATIONS

Regulations in red are new this year.

River Herring
The taking or possession of any river herring (alewife and blueback herring) in New Jersey is prohibited. See the fish ID illustrations on page 18 for herring species identification.

Sharks
The hammerhead shark recreational size limit is 78 inches fork length (FL). The minimum size limit for authorized shark species of the Aggregate Large Coastal and Pelagic groups remains at 54 inches fork length except Shortfin mako at 83 inches fork length, while all others do not have a size limit. See dogfish Note and measuring illustration for fork length.

The 2018 shark regulations complement existing federal shark regulations (see 2018 Federal Recreational Regulations table, page 22). However, the following additional measures are required for state waters:

- In state waters, there is no minimum size limit for non-blacknose small coastal sharks and blacknose 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 Aggregate Large Coastal and Hammerhead groups* 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 22 footnote for species list defining shark groupings.

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.

Recreational anglers should access the following National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website, https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/outreach-and-education/shark-identification-placard to download the NOAA Fisheries Shark Identification Placard, an excellent pictorial guide to identifying sharks that are legal to harvest.

These shark species 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.

Note: To differentiate sharks from dogfish—the smooth dogfish has flat, tiny teeth; the spiny dogfish has strong, dorsal spines, shorter than, and in front of, the dorsal fins along the topline of the shark’s back. Neither are present in sharks.

New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP)

ATTENTION: New Jersey Saltwater Anglers
REGISTER. You make a difference! It’s free, easy and required.

Each state’s saltwater registry serves as the contact list for mail and telephone surveys. Complete participation in the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program is crucial for achieving accurate recreational fishing estimates which help to ensure healthy fisheries for the future.

Before you head out to catch your favorite saltwater fish this year, be sure to join the hundreds of thousands of anglers who have already registered with the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP).

Register at the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program site: www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov

Striped Bass (includes Hybrid Striped Bass)
The possession limit for striped bass/hybrid striped bass is two fish. The size limits are one fish at 28 inches to less than 43 inches and one fish equal to or greater than 43 inches. Anglers participating in the Striped Bass Bonus Program may possess a striped bass at 24 inches to less than 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 unless in possession of a Striped Bass Bonus Permit.

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:

Jan1–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 Sr. 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 striper at 24 inches to less than 28 inches. The open season for this program will be September 1 through December 31.

The current allocation from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is 215,912 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 issued via mail only. Go to NJFishandWildlife.com/bonusbas.htm to download the application and for regulation or program updates. The permit is non-transferable and valid for the current calendar year. Only one permit can be used per day and harvest reporting is mandatory.

Striped Bass Bonus Permit (SBBP) Harvest Reporting: The SBBP Permit must be securely attached to the fish through the mouth and gill immediately upon capture and prior to transportation. Harvest reporting is mandatory and must be reported online or by leaving a message at (609) 748-2074.
**Motor Boat Registration & Title Requirements**

**NJ Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC)**

### Registration

Most boats must be registered to operate on New Jersey waterways.

- All titled boats must be registered also.
- Any boat (including jet skis and non-titled watercraft), mechanically propelled (incl. electric motors), regardless of length, must be registered.
- Boats greater than 12 feet in length, regardless of propulsion means, must be titled and registered at an MVC office.

Boats and marine equipment which need not be registered:

- Those not based in New Jersey or operating here less than 180 consecutive days that are operating under a federally approved numbering system from another state
- Ship’s lifeboats
- Non-motorized vessels used exclusively on small lakes and ponds on private property
- Racing vessels with New Jersey State Marine Police permit
- Non-motorized inflatable device, surfboard, racing shell, dinghy, canoe or kayak.
- Non-motorized vessel less than 12 feet in length

### Title

For use on New Jersey waterways, all boats more than 12 feet in length must be titled, with the exception of ship’s lifeboat, canoe, kayak, inflatable, surfboard, rowing scull, racing shell, tender/dinghy used for direct transportation between a vessel and shore for no other purposes.

### Boat Operator License (MVC)

An operator license is required to operate power vessels on fresh, non-tidal waters such as lakes, creeks and rivers. (Minimum age 16 years; with certain exceptions.)

### For More Information:

**New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission**
(888) 486-3339 toll free in NJ or (609) 292-6500 from out-of-state

**Boat Safety Certificate (NJSP)**

A boat safety certificate (from an approved boat safety course; see NJSP website, below) is required to operate a personal watercraft or power vessel, including electric motors, in NJ waters (tidal and non-tidal).

**New Jersey State Police (NJSP)**
(609) 882-2000
http://www.njsp.org/marine-services
**Crustaceans**

**American Lobster**

The legal possession size limit 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 3½ inches nor greater than 5¾ inches. Lobster parts may not be possessed at sea or landed. There is no harvest possession of lobster in Lobster Management Area 4 from April 30 – May 31 and Lobster Management Area 5 from February 1 – March 31.

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 below.

Special Lobster Restrictions: No person shall use, leave, deploy, or tend any lobster, fish or conch pot within an artificial reef located in state waters except in areas designated as a full access zone. Within these designated full access zones lobster, fish and conch pots shall be used, left, deployed or tended only between sunrise and sunset.

For information about lobster pot deployment and New Jersey Reef Full Access Zone Locations, scan this QR code or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/2016/marlet-reefgear02-11-16.pdf.

**Crabs**

1. Crabs may be harvested only by hand or by use of approved crab pots. Hand harvesting is allowed only in the designated full access zones. Use of crab pots is allowed in all other areas except for the Newark Bay Complex, Delaware Bay and tributaries: April 6 – Dec. 4. All other waters: March 15 – Nov. 30. The following waters, and their tributaries, are closed to the use of crab pots and trest lines: Cumberland Co.: Cohasney River and creeks named Back, Cedar, Nantuxent, Fortescue, Oranoken and Dividing; Cape May Co.: West and Bidwell Creeks and the Cape May Canal; Atlantic Co.: Hammock Cove (Dry Bay); Ocean Co.: on east shore of Barnegat Bay, that area of Sedge Islands Wildlife Management Area enclosed by a line drawn from the northern bank of Fishing Creek on Island Beach State Park to the northern tip of the Sedge Islands (Hensler Island), then south from point to point along the western side of the Sedge Islands WMA and terminating on the most southwestern point of Island Beach State Park.

2. It is illegal to harvest or possess more than one bushel of crabs per day during the crab dredge season. Crabs so taken may not be sold or offered for barter. There is a fee of $15 for non-commercial crab dredge license. See page 23 for details on purchasing a non-commercial crab dredge license.

**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.

**Regulations in red are new this year.**
### 2018 New Jersey Recreational Fishing Seasons, Minimum Size and Possession Limits

Regulations remain in effect until changed. For the most current regulations, go to NJFishandWildlife.com or call the marine fish "listen-only" information line at (609) 292-2083. Regulations in red are new this year. See page 14 for how to measure fish.

<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>9”</td>
<td>25</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>Season closed until 2018 regulations are finalized, anticipated May–June. See page 15.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefish (Snapper)</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobia</td>
<td>June 1–Sept. 30</td>
<td>40”</td>
<td>1 fish per person; no more than 3 fish per vessel</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>18”</td>
<td>No Limit</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>No Closed Season</td>
<td>9”</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware River &amp; tributaries</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>6 (maximum of 3 American shad)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Marine Waters</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>6 (no American shad may be harvested or possessed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark b, c, †</td>
<td>Aggregate large coastal group†</td>
<td>54” fork length</td>
<td>One Shark (of any species, except prohibited species) per vessel per trip; plus one Atlantic sharpnose shark per person per trip (no minimum size); plus one bonnethead shark per person per trip (no minimum size).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hammerhead group†</td>
<td>Jan. 1–May 14 and July 16–Dec. 31</td>
<td>78” fork length</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-blacknose small coastal group†</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacknose group†</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>54” fork length</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelagic group†</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>83” fork length</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortfin Mako†</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smooth Dogfish</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Mackerel</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass</td>
<td>No Closed Season</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>one @ 28” to &lt; 43” and one ≥ 43”</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 (0–3 nautical miles from shore)</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td></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></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Flounder (Fluke)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware Bay and tributaries†</td>
<td>May 25–Sept. 22</td>
<td>17”</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Island Beach State Park, shore fishing</td>
<td>May 25–Sept. 22</td>
<td>16”</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All water except as above</td>
<td>May 25–Sept. 22</td>
<td>18”</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tautog (Blackfish)</td>
<td>Jan. 1–Feb. 28</td>
<td>15”</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 1–April 30</td>
<td>15”</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aug. 1–Nov. 15</td>
<td>15”</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov. 16–Dec. 31</td>
<td>15”</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 1–Dec. 31</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 17.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blue Crab</th>
<th>Soft</th>
<th>Hard</th>
<th>1 bushel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No Closed Season§</td>
<td>No Closed Season§</td>
<td>3½”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No Closed Season§</td>
<td>4½”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobster (carapace length)</td>
<td>See closed seasons on page 20</td>
<td>3½”</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard Clam (license required)</td>
<td>No Closed Season‡</td>
<td>1½”</td>
<td>150 clams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a Except 50 fish harvest/possession limit for party/charter boat employees.
b Not including dogfish; see description on page 16 under Sharks.
c See page 14 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, trot lines or crab dredges. See pages 20 and 23.
f Applies to Delaware Bay and tributaries, west of COLREGS line delineating Delaware Bay from Atlantic Ocean but does not include waters of Cape May Canal east of Cape May Ferry Terminal. Transport of summer flounder caught in Delaware Bay, greater than or equal to 17 in. but less than 18 in., may occur in waters east of Cape May Ferry Terminal to George Redding Br. (Rt. 47) located at entrance of Wildwood provided all fishing gear aboard the vessel is stowed with rigs removed; vessel may not stop to fish for any species.

* Excluding tail filaments. (See illustration, page 14.)

** See Closed Seasons (page 16) for specifics of springtime non-offset circle hook requirements.
† See page 22 for Federal Recreational Regulations.
‡ Non-resident license valid only June – Sept. See water classification chart information on page 23.
Regulations in red are new this year.

### 2018 Federal Recreational Fishing Regulations for Minimum Size, Possession Limits and Seasons

See page 14 for how to measure fish. See *Recreational Minimum Size, Possession Limits and Seasons* (page 21) for state waters listings of species not included in these federal waters regulations (from 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 (number per angler per day unless otherwise specified)</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>Possession prohibited in federal waters (3–200 nm). See pages 16 and 21 for NJ waters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Bass</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>No possession allowed in EEZ</td>
<td>For current federal waters regulations (3–200nm), refer to <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/">www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/</a> or call (978) 872-8862.</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>During any sanctioned billfish tournaments offering prize money, non-offset circle hooks are required for lures with natural bait or natural/artificial bait combos.</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="https://hmspermits.noaa.gov">https://hmspermits.noaa.gov</a> or call (888) 872-8862.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlin, Blue</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>99&quot; lower jaw–fork length</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>All non-tournament billfish landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours, either online at <a href="https://hmspermits.noaa.gov">https://hmspermits.noaa.gov</a> or by calling (800) 894-5528.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roundscale Spearfish</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>66&quot; lower jaw–fork length</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>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>Sailfish</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>63&quot; lower jaw–fork length</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>In effect from the Virginia/North Carolina border north.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spearfish, Longbill</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Prohibited</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilefish, Blueline</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>7 per angler per trip</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilefish, Golden</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>8 per angler per trip</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swordfish</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>47&quot; lower jaw–fork length if the head is naturally attached or 25&quot; 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="https://hmspermits.noaa.gov">https://hmspermits.noaa.gov</a> or call (888) 872-8862.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>For charter vessels: 1 per paying passenger, no more than 6 per vessel per trip.</td>
<td>All non-tournament swordfish landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at <a href="https://hmspermits.noaa.gov">https://hmspermits.noaa.gov</a> or by calling (800) 894-5528.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>For headboat vessels: 1 per paying passenger, no more than 15 per vessel per trip.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Albacore (Longfin)</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Bigeye</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>27&quot; curved fork length</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Bluefin†</td>
<td>Jan. 1–Dec. 31 or until season is closed.</td>
<td>27&quot; to &lt;73&quot; curved fork length and one trophy fish ≥ 73&quot; curved fork length per vessel per year</td>
<td>Limits can change during the season. Prior to departure, check <a href="https://hmspermits.noaa.gov">https://hmspermits.noaa.gov</a> or 888-USA-TUNA for up-to-date limits.</td>
<td>All recreational bluefin tuna landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at <a href="https://hmspermits.noaa.gov">https://hmspermits.noaa.gov</a> or by calling (888) 872-8862 or (978) 281-9260 for current information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Skipjack</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Yellowfin</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>27&quot; curved fork length</td>
<td>3 per person per trip</td>
<td>For current federal waters regulations (3–200nm), refer to <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/">www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/</a> or call (301) 713-2347 for swordfish/sharks or (978) 281-9260 for tunas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharks*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggregate Large Coastal Group</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>Aggregate Large Coastal and Pelagic: Shortfin Mako 83&quot; fork length (may change later in 2018)</td>
<td>For non prohibited species: 1 authorized* shark/vessel/trip plus 1 Atlantic sharpsnpe 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="https://hmspermits.noaa.gov">https://hmspermits.noaa.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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hammerhead Group</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-blacknose Small Coastal Group</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacknose Group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelagic Group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></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 (843) 571-4366.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wreckfish</td>
<td>July 1 – Aug. 31</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>1 per vessel per day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Shark Species That May Be Kept (Authorized Species): Aggregate Large Coastal Shark—blacktip, bull, lemon, nurse, tiger, spinner; Hammerhead Shark—scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, great hammerhead; Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Shark—Atlantic sharpsnpe, bonnethead, finetooth; Blacknose Shark—blacknose; Pelagic Shark—Shortfin mako, blue, porbeagle, oceanic whitetip and common thresher. Shark Species That MUST Be Released (Prohibited Species): Atlantic angel, basking, bigeye sand tiger, bigeye sixgill, bigeye thresher, bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpsnpe, 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.
Shellfish License Information

A shellfish license (formerly called clamming license) is required for harvesting all species of benthic mollusks (except 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.


**Sheelfish License Information**

**Shellfish License Fees**
- **Resident recreational shellfish**: $10
  - Harvest limit: 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. Sale of catch prohibited.
- **Non-resident recreational shellfish**: $20
  - Harvest limit: 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. Sale of catch prohibited. License valid only during June, July, August and September.
- **Juvenile recreational shellfish**: $2
  - For persons under 14 years of age. Subject to same restrictions as resident or nonresident adult recreational license holders.
- **Resident commercial shellfish**: $50
  - Unlimited harvest. Shellfish may be sold only to certified dealers.
- **Non-resident Commercial Shellfish**: $250
  - Unlimited harvest. Shellfish may be sold only to certified dealers.
- **Resident senior citizen recreational shellfish license**: FREE lifetime license ($2 application fee). NJ residents age 62 years or older. Harvest limit: 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. Sale of shellfish prohibited.
- **Disabled veterans**: Fish and Wildlife-certified disabled veterans are eligible for free shellfish license at any shellfish license agent location. To become certified, call (609) 984-6213.

**Crab Pot License Information**

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

**Terrapin Excluders and Biodegradable Panels Are Required on Chesapeake-Style Crab Pots**

- **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 page 20.