2022 NJ Recreational Size Limits, Possession Limits & Seasons

- Fish are measured from the tip of the snout to tip of the tail (except Black Sea Bass and Sharks).
- Filleting of fish with a minimum size limit at sea is prohibited. See the Marine 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)
Delaware Bay and Tributaries: 3 fish at 17 inches
Island Beach State Park: 2 fish at 16 inches
All Other Marine Waters: 2 fish at 17 inches to less than 18 inches, and 1 fish at 18 inches or greater
Open Season: May 2 – Sept. 27

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

Black Sea Bass
10 fish at 13 inches May 17 – June 19
2 fish at 13 inches July 1 – August 31
10 fish at 13 inches Oct. 7—Oct. 26
15 fish at 13 inches Nov. 1—Dec. 31

Bluefish
Private/Shore Angler - 3 fish
For-Hire Vessel - 5 fish
Open Season: Jan. 1 – Dec. 31

Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass
1 fish at 28 inches to less than 38 inches
See Digest for Striped Bass Bonus Program and Circle Hook Requirements

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”
Cobia 1 per vessel 37”
Cod NO LIMIT 21”
Haddock NO LIMIT 18”
King Mackerel 3 23”
Pollock NO LIMIT 19”
Red Drum 1 18 to less than 27”
River Herring CLOSED N/A
Scup (Porgy) 50 10”
Shad NO LIMIT
Spanish Mackerel 10 14”
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. SaltwaterRegistry.nj.gov

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Fish and Wildlife
www.njfishandwildlife.com

Tautog 15 inches
4 fish Jan. 1 – Feb. 28
4 fish Apr. 1 – Apr. 30
1 fish Aug. 1 – Nov. 15
5 fish Nov. 16 – Dec. 31

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

Shark
1 fish per vessel
See NMFS for size, season, and gear restrictions

Blue Crab
(measured point to point)
Peeler or Shedder — 3 inches
Soft — 3½ inches
Hard — 4½ inches

Recreation Limit — One Bushel
Crab pot/Trot line Seasons:
Delaware Bay & tributaries
Apr. 6 — Dec. 4
All other waters
Mar. 15 — Nov. 30

Updated 5/13/2022