ATTENTION ANGLERS

2021 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).
- 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

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

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

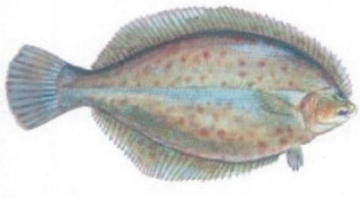
Atlantic Ocean

0-3 miles from shore, no closed season

Greater than 3 miles from shore, closed

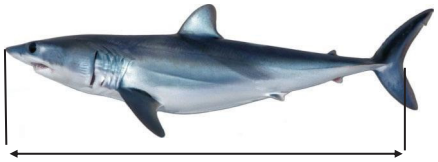
All other marine waters, open Mar. 1 – Dec. 31

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 22 – Sept. 19



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

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



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

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

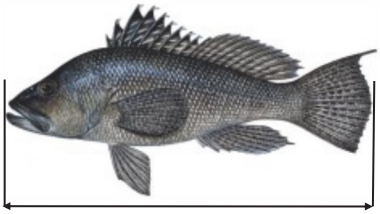
Other Species	Possession Limit	Total Length
American Eel	25	9"
Black Drum	3	16"
Cobia	1 per vessel	37"
Cod	NO LIMIT	21"
Haddock	NO LIMIT	18"
King Mackerel	3	23"
Pollock	NO LIMIT	19"
Red Drum	1	18-27"
River Herring	CLOSED	N/A
Scup (Porgy)	50	9"
Shad	6	NO LIMIT

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

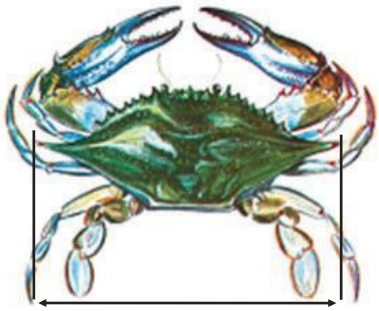
Spanish Mackerel	10	14"
American Lobster	6	3 3/8" to 5 1/4" Carapace Length

- 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



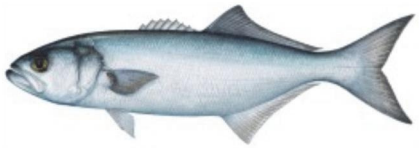
Black Sea Bass
10 fish at 12.5 inches May 15 – June 22
2 fish at 12.5 inches July 1 – August 31
10 fish at 12.5 inches Oct. 8—Oct. 31
15 fish at 13 inches Nov. 1—Dec. 31



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



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

Register before fishing! It's free, easy, and required.
SaltwaterRegistry.nj.gov

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

5/20/2021