2022 MAINE SALTWATER RECREATIONAL FISHING REGULATIONS

If you are a recreational saltwater fisherman, a Maine law may require you to register with the Maine Saltwater Recreational Fishing Registry. To learn more or to register visit: www.maine.gov/dmr/recreational-fishing/licenses/registry or call 207-624-9550.

The following Maine saltwater recreational fishing regulations are current as of March 1, 2022. However, they are subject to change. Please contact our office or your local Marine Patrol Officer with questions. All minimum lengths are total length, NOT fork length. The sale of fish by recreational anglers is prohibited.

ATLANTIC COD
*(Gadus morhua)*

Size: Minimum size 21 inches.
Bag limit: 1 fish per angler per day.
Recreational Season: April 1 -14 and Sept 15-30, inclusively.
Charter Season: April 1 -14 and Sept 8-Oct 7, inclusively.

HADDOCK
*(Melanogrammus aeglefinus)*

Size: Minimum size 17 inches.
Bag limit: 15 fish per angler per day.
Season: Cannot possess haddock from March 1 through March 31 inclusive.

POLLOCK
*(Pollachius virens)*

Maine Territorial waters: No size or bag limits.
Federal waters: Minimum size 19 inches & no bag limit.

ACADIAN REDFISH
*(Sebastes fasciatus)*

Size: Minimum size 9 inches.
No bag limit.

CUSK
*(Brosme brosme)*

No size or bag limits.

ATLANTIC HALIBUT
*(Hippoglossus hippoglossus)*

Size: Minimum size 41 inches.
Bag limit: Vessels may land no more than 5 fish (recreational) / 25 fish (charter) per year. All retained fish shall immediately be tagged with an approved landings tag.
FMI: 207-624-6550
Season: Maine territorial waters, halibut can be retained from sunrise on May 18 through sunset on June 13th.
Method of take: Anglers must use 14/0, 15/0, or 16/0 circle hooks.
Federal waters: No season, no more than 1 fish per day.
For complete regulations see Chapter 34.07: www.maine.gov/dmr/laws.

WINTER FLounder
*(Pleuronectes americanus)*

Size: Minimum size 12 inches.
Bag limit: 8 fish per angler per day.

BLACK SEA BASS
*(Centropristes striatus)*

Size: Minimum size 13 inches.
Bag limit: 10 fish per angler per day.
Season: May 19 – September 21 and October 18 – December 31, inclusive.

ATLANTIC WOLFFISH
*(Anarhichas lupus)*

Anglers are prohibited from possessing Atlantic wolffish.

BLUEFISH
*(Pomatomus saltatrix)*

Size: No minimum size.
Bag limit: 3 fish per angler per day.
Method of take: No bait with treble hook.
It is unlawful to use any hook other than a circle hook when using bait.

ATLANTIC MACKEREL
*(Scomber scombrus)*

No size or bag limits.

BLUEFIN TUNA
*(Thunnus thynnus)*

To fish for bluefin tuna, a Federal Highly Migratory Species Permit is required. For permits and current fishing regulations visit: hmspermits.noaa.gov or call 1-888-872-8862.

SHARKS

To fish for sharks (blue, porbeagle, and common thresher sharks) a Federal Highly Migratory Species Permit is required. For permits and current fishing regulations visit: hmspermits.noaa.gov or call 1-888-872-8862.

Anglers are prohibited from taking coastal sharks including shortfin mako in Maine’s territorial waters.

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