

2025 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 May 19, 2025. **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 23 inches.

Bag limit: 1 fish per angler per day.

Season: Sept 1 – Oct 31, inclusive.

*Changes possible in 2025. Check DMR website.

HADDOCK

(*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*)



Size: Minimum size 18 inches.

Bag limit: 15 fish per angler per day.

Season: Cannot possess from March 1 through March 31 inclusive.

*Changes possible in 2025. Check DMR website.

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.

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

Maine territorial waters; Season: Halibut can be retained from sunrise on May 18 through sunset on June 13th. No fishing on Wednesdays and Thursdays (no harvesting or gear in the water).

Method of take: Anglers must use 14/0, 15/0, or 16/0 circle hooks. Limited to 100 hooks both per person and per vessel.

Federal waters: No season, no more than 1 fish per day. For complete regulations see Chapter 34.07:

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. No more than two treble hooks per lure. It is unlawful to use any hook other than a circle hook when using bait.

ATLANTIC MACKEREL

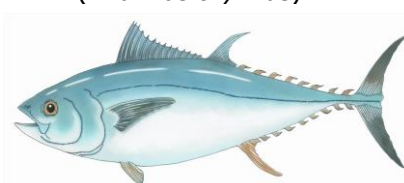
(*Scomber scombrus*)



Bag limit: 20 fish per angler per day

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) in Federal waters 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. See Chapter 50.



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