

2026 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 July 1, 2026. **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.
- **Method of take general guidelines:** unless further restricted, a person may fish for, take, possess or transport any species of fish if they have been taken by speargun, harpoon, minnow trap, hand dip net or hook and line and are only for personal use.

ATLANTIC COD (*Gadus morhua*)



Size: Minimum size 23 inches.
Bag limit: 1 fish per angler per day.
Season: Sept 1 – Oct 31, inclusive.
Method of take: see general guidelines

HADDOCK (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*)



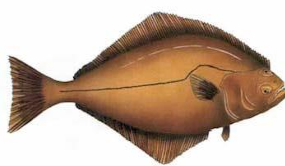
Size: Minimum size 17 inches.
Bag limit: 15 fish per angler per day.
Season: Cannot possess from March 1 through March 31 inclusive.
Method of take: see general guidelines

POLLOCK (*Pollachius virens*)



Maine Territorial waters: No size or bag limits.
Federal waters: Minimum size 19 inches & no bag limit.
Method of take: see general guidelines

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.
Method of take: see general guidelines

SUMMER FLOUNDER (*Paralichthys dentatus*)



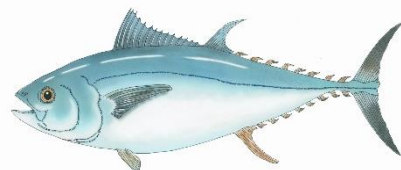
Size: Minimum size 20 inches
Bag limit: 2 fish per angler per day
Method of take: see general guidelines

ATLANTIC MACKEREL (*Scomber scombrus*)



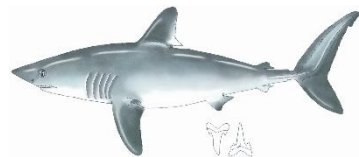
Size: No minimum size
Bag limit: 25 fish per angler per day
Method of take: see general guidelines

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.



DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
Marine Resources Laboratory
PO Box 8, West Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575-0008
Telephone (207) 633-9500 Fax (207) 633-9579

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BLUEFISH

(*Pomatomus saltatrix*)



Size: No minimum size.

Bag limit: 5 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.

TAUTOG

(*Tautoga onitis*)



Size: No minimum size

Bag limit: none

Method of take: see general guidelines

CUNNER

(*Tautoglabrus adspersus*)



Size: No minimum size

Bag limit: none

Method of take: see general guidelines

SILVER HAKE/WHITING

(*Merluccius bilinearis*)



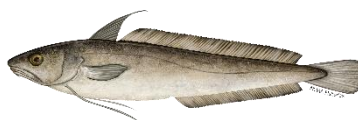
Size: no minimum size

Bag limit: none

Method of take: see general guidelines

WHITE HAKE

(*Urophycis tenuis*)



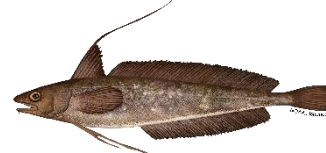
Size: No minimum size

Bag limit: none

Method of take: see general guidelines

RED HAKE

(*Urophycis chuss*)



Size: No minimum size

Bag limit: none

Method of take: see general guidelines

CUSK

(*Brosme brosme*)



Size: no minimum size

Bag limit: none

Method of take: see general guidelines

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.

Method of take: Hook and line only

MONKFISH

(*Lophius americanus*)



Size: Minimum size 17 inches

Bag limit: none

Method of take: see general guidelines

ACADIAN REDFISH

(*Sebastes fasciatus*)



Size: Minimum size 9 inches.

No bag limit.

Method of take: see general guidelines

ATLANTIC WOLFFISH

(*Anarhichas lupus*)



Anglers are prohibited from possessing Atlantic wolffish.



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