

2023 NJ Recreational Minimum Size, Possession Limits & Seasons

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	MINIMUM	POSSESSION LIMIT <small>(per person unless noted)</small>		
American Eel	No Closed Season	9"	25		
Black Drum	No Closed Season	16"	3		
Black Sea Bass	May 17-June 19	12.5" exc. tail filaments	10		
	July 1-August 31	12.5" exc. tail filaments	1		
	October 1-October 31	12.5" exc. tail filaments	10		
	November 1-December 31	12.5" exc. tail filaments	15		
Blue Crab - Peeler or Shedder	Crab Pot/Trot line Seasons:		Recreational limit - 1 Bushel		
	Soft			Delaware Bay & Tributaries: April 6-December 4	3.5"
	Hard			All Other Waters: March 15-November 30	4.5"
Bluefish - Private Shore Angler	No Closed Season	No minimum	3		
For Hire Vessel	No Closed Season		5		
Cobia	No Closed Season	37"	1 per vessel		
Cod	No Closed Season	21"	No Limit		
Hard Clam	See Marine Digest for additional regulations and Sunday restrictions	1.5"	150 in aggregate		
Pollock	No Closed Season	19"	No Limit		

For more information on what catch is safe to eat, visit: FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org

Fish are measured from tip of snout to tip of tail (except Black Sea Bass and Sharks).
No species of fish with a minimum size limit listed above may be filleted or cleaned at sea.

Remember to register before fishing. IT'S FREE and REQUIRED! SaltwaterRegistry.nj.gov

For complete regulatory information see njfishandwildlife.com. This publication is a summary of the New Jersey recreational fishing regulations at the time of publication. It is not the full law.



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SPECIES

OPEN SEASON

MINIMUM

POSSESSION LIMIT

(per person unless noted)

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	MINIMUM	POSSESSION LIMIT
Red Drum	No Closed Season	18" to less than 27"	1
River Herring	Closed	NA	0
Scup (Porgy)	August 1-December 31	10"	30
Shark - not including dogfish	See current Marine Digest or njfishandwildlife.com for regulatory requirements.		
Spanish Mackerel	No Closed Season	14"	10
Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass			
Delaware River & Tributaries (Calhoun St. Bridge to Salem River & Tributaries)	March 1-31 & June 1-December 31	28" to less than 38"	1
Atlantic Ocean 0-3 miles from shore	No Closed Season		
All other marine waters	March 1-December 31		
Greater than 3 miles from shore	Harvest and Possession Prohibited	Harvest and Possession Prohibited	0
Summer Flounder (Fluke)			
All waters except those noted below:	May 2-September 27	2 fish at 17" to less than 18" 1 fish at 18" or greater	3
Delaware Bay & Tributaries	May 2-September 27	17"	3
Island Beach State Park	See current Marine Digest for IBSP & Delaware Bay Regulations		
Tautog (Blackfish)	January 1-February 28	15"	4
	April 1-April 30	15"	4
	August 1-November 15	15"	1
	November 16-December 31	15"	5
Weakfish	No Closed Season	13"	1
Winter Flounder	March 1-December 31	12"	2

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