

2020 NJ Recreational Minimum Size, Possession Limits & Seasons

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	MINIMUM LENGTH	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 15-Jun. 22	12.5" exc. tail filaments	10
	Jul. 1-Aug. 31	12.5" exc. tail filaments	2
	Oct. 8-Oct. 31	12.5" exc. tail filaments	10
	Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	13" exc. tail filaments	15
Blue Crab - Peeler or Shedder	Crab Pot/Trot line Seasons:	3"	Recreational limit - One Bushel
	Soft Delaware Bay & Tributaries: Apr. 6 - Dec. 4	3.5"	
	Hard All Other Waters: Mar. 15 - Nov. 30	4.5"	
Bluefish (Snapper)	Jan. 1-Dec. 31		
Private/Shore Angler	No minimum	No minimum	3
For Hire Vessel	No minimum	No minimum	5
Cobia	Jun. 1 - Sept. 30	40"	1 per person- No more than 3 per vessel
Cod	No Closed Season	21"	No Limit
Pollock	No Closed Season	19"	No Limit
Porgy (Scup)	No Closed Season	9"	50



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! SaltwaterRegistry.nj.gov



SPECIES

OPEN SEASON

MINIMUM LENGTH

POSSESSION LIMIT

(per person unless noted)

Red Drum	No Closed Season	18" to less than 27"	1
River Herring	Closed	NA	0
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)	Mar. 1-31 & Jun. 1-Dec. 31	28" to less than 38"	1
• Atlantic Ocean 0-3 miles from shore	No Closed Season		
• All other marine waters	Mar. 1-Dec. 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 22-Sept. 19	18"	3
• Delaware Bay & Tributaries	May 22-Sept. 19	17"	3
• Island Beach State Park	May 22-Sept. 19	16"	2
Tautog (Blackfish)	Jan. 1-Feb. 28	15"	4
	Apr. 1-Apr. 30	15"	4
	Aug. 1-Nov. 15	15"	1
	Nov. 16-Dec. 31	15"	5
Weakfish	No Closed Season	13"	1
Winter Flounder	Mar. 1-Dec. 31	12"	2

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New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife



New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

