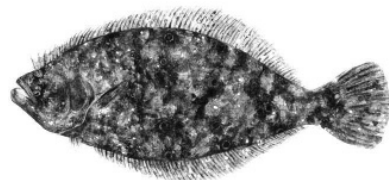
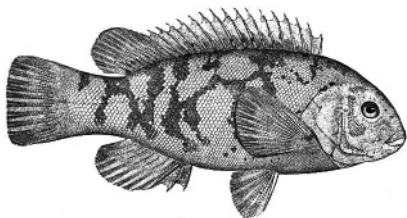
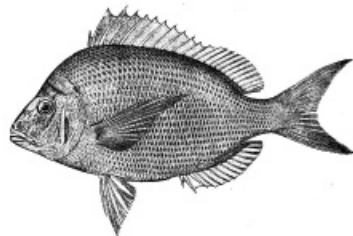
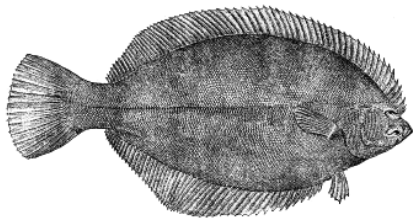
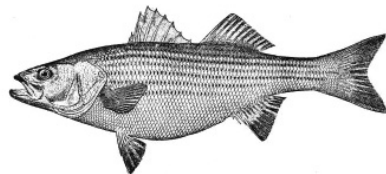
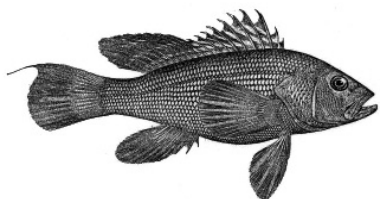




New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation

New York Recreational Marine Fishing Regulations Guide

2009-2010



www.dec.ny.gov

From the Director of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources

Thank you for purchasing the new recreational marine fishing license. The fees from your license will help fund the Department of Environmental Conservation's efforts to manage the marine resources of New York. License fees are deposited in the Marine Resources Account to support sustainable fishery resources to provide the recreational opportunities you enjoy. Funds also are available to support research, habitat protection, enforcement and public outreach. In addition, the angler registry provided through the licensing program will enable managers to gather information which will be used to make better decisions on fishery management.

As anglers, you can also help by following catch and size limits, abiding by fishing regulations, staying informed of new rules as they unfold, and remaining a good steward of the marine environment. Our actions today affect the ability of future generations to enjoy New York's fish and wildlife resources.

Enjoy your time on the water!

Patricia Riexinger

From the Chief, Bureau of Marine Resources

New York's Marine District offers some of the best recreational angling in the nation. The diversity of the species that can be landed is truly amazing as are the diverse areas and ways to catch fish. Whether from shore, private, charter or party boat, in quiet beach areas or a fishing pier in New York City, opportunities abound. Whether you are fishing for sport and practicing catch-and-release or looking for a healthy meal, New York's Marine District can provide both. While most species are safe for consumption, there are some health restrictions. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the health advisories listed on pages 18-21.

Finally, along with most states in the nation, New York will be implementing a saltwater license this year. This will enable us for the first time to determine an accurate number of recreational anglers and better statistics on fishing so we can better manage our vital fisheries resources into the future. Please feel free to visit our website at www.dec.state.ny.us to get the latest information on specific size, seasons and bag limits.

Thank you and have a safe and healthy time.

James Gilmore

David A. Paterson, Governor

Pete Grannis, Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Graphic Design: Gilbert J. Kusler

Health Advisory Map: NYS Department of Health

Marine and Coastal District Map: Natalie M. Sacco

Fish Illustrations: State of New York Forest, Fish and Game Commission

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USING THIS GUIDE

1. Consult the license information section to determine whether you need a recreational marine fishing license and to find further information on the license.
2. Review the following to ensure proper compliance with fishing regulations:
 - Recreational Marine Fishing Regulations Table
 - Definitions
 - General Regulations
 - Diagrams on How to Properly Measure a Fish
 - Fish Identification
3. Review information on health advisories and how to clean a fish to reduce contaminant exposure.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Information in this guide is only a summary of marine fishing laws and regulations provided as a convenience to the angler. For complete and detailed references on New York's marine laws and regulations review the official articles of the New York State Fish and Wildlife Law and Volume 6 of the Codes, Rules, and Regulations of the State of New York. Copies can be reviewed at your local supreme court library or by contacting a DEC Law Enforcement Office.

Introducing a New Saltwater License

New York State now requires a new recreational marine fishing license for our marine and coastal waters and for migratory marine species, effective October 1, 2009. In this guide, you will find information regarding the new marine license, current recreational regulations and useful material on fishing in our marine waters.

In 1979, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) established a program known as the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey (MRFSS) used for estimating recreational fishing impacts on marine fish populations. The survey collects recreational fisheries catch and effort (number of marine recreational fishing trips) information from all U.S. coastal states through dockside interviews and phone surveys. This information is used in developing federal and state fishery management plans to implement and assess fishing regulations.

Recently, MRFSS was replaced by the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), which will provide improved catch and effort data in a more efficient and dependable manner. As part of its program to improve catch and effort data through MRIP, beginning January 1, 2010, NMFS is requiring a complete registry of all recreational saltwater anglers that fish in federal waters or harvest anadromous species. These anglers will be required to register with the National Saltwater Angler Registry (NSAR) unless the angler has been issued a license by a state with a qualified licensing program. Many coastal states, including New York, have established their own marine licensing programs, which will provide more accurate estimates of the number of saltwater anglers, substitute for the federal angler registry and help generate funds for marine resource management within their state.

For more information on the MRIP and the NSAR, visit the following website: www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/mrip/index.html

Who Needs a Marine License?

Anyone age 16 or older, fishing (taking or attempting to take fish or bait species) from shore, pier and docks, or from a boat in the following waters and conditions:

- The Atlantic Ocean within three nautical miles from the coast and all other tidal waters within the state, including the Hudson River up to the Governor Malcolm Wilson Tappan Zee Bridge
- The Hudson River, Delaware River, or Mohawk River and their tributaries where the angler is fishing for “migratory fish of the sea,” such as striped bass, American shad, hickory shad, blueback herring and alewife. See section titled “Licenses for Fishing in the Hudson River” on page 6 of this guide for more information on the Hudson River fishing license requirements.

Because no provisions exist for upgrading current freshwater lifetime licenses, all anglers who currently hold a freshwater lifetime fishing license or a lifetime sportsman license are required to purchase a recreational marine license if fishing in the marine and coastal district or for “migratory fish of the sea” as described above.

Exemptions

- People under 16 years of age
- Fishing onboard an appropriately licensed (by NYSDEC) charter or party boat (See section on page 7 titled “Party or Charter Boats” for further information.)

Free Licenses

The following individuals are eligible for a free fishing license and may obtain a

license at any license-issuing outlet:

- Citizen residents who are legally blind
- New York State residents who are active service members of the NYS Organized Militia (i.e. National Guard) or U.S. Reserve Forces
- New York State residents stationed outside of New York who are on full-time active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces and are in NY for no longer than 30 days
- Resident patients at U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs hospitals or state-funded facilities may obtain a free license through their hospital or facility
- Native Americans who are members of the Shinnecock and Poospatuck tribes or the Six Nations residing on reservations in New York State may obtain a free license through their reservation or by calling DEC’s License Sales Office at 518-402-8843

Resident Requirements

To qualify for a resident license, one must live in New York State for more than 30 days immediately preceding the date of application for a license. Property ownership in New York State is not proof of residency. A residence is that place where a person maintains a fixed, permanent and principal home and to which that person (regardless of any temporary residence) always intends to return. Proof of residency includes evidence that such person votes, or is registered to vote in that place in elections for any public office other than school board (if under 18, the residence of parents or legal guardian shall be deemed such person’s residence). Active members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in the state and full-time college

students (citizens) in residence in the state during the school year (proof required) also qualify for resident licenses.

NYS residents applying in person or by mail may use one of the following proofs of residency:

- NYS driver's license or a NYS non-driver's identification issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles
- IT-201 or W-2 income tax form for the previous year
- Current voter registration card
- Current NYS vehicle registration
- Military LES (Leave and Earnings Statement) or military orders
- Current student ID card
- Current pay stub or letter from a current employer on letterhead containing your legal address

Licenses for Fishing in the Hudson River

Depending on the specific location of the Hudson River being fished and the specific species being fished for, an angler may require a recreational marine fishing license, a freshwater fishing license or both licenses:

- If fishing downstream from the Tappan Zee Bridge, you are considered to be fishing in the marine and coastal district and need a recreational marine fishing license.
- If fishing upstream from the Tappan Zee Bridge for freshwater fish (such as largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, catfish, carp, walleye, perch, etc.) you need a freshwater fishing license.
- If you are fishing upstream from the Tappan Zee Bridge for freshwater fish and "migratory fish from the sea" (such as striped bass, American shad, hickory shad, blueback herring or alewife), you need a recreational

marine fishing license in addition to a freshwater fishing license.

Marine License Fees

RESIDENT	
Annual	\$10
7-Day	\$8
1-Day	\$4
Lifetime	\$150
Lifetime Combination Freshwater and Marine	\$450
NON-RESIDENT	
Annual	\$15
7-Day	\$10
1-Day	\$5

Where to Purchase

Recreational marine fishing licenses are offered for sale as part of DEC's automated licensing system (DECALS) and are available at all locations where hunting and fishing licenses are offered (most town clerk's offices, many bait and tackle shops, sporting goods stores, DEC regional offices in Albany, Allegany, Buffalo, Ray Brook, Stony Brook and Watertown).

You can also purchase your licenses by calling 1-86-NY-DECALS (1-866-933-2257) or by visiting the DEC Internet Sporting License Sales page at: www.dec.ny.gov/permits/28941.html

Duration of License

The recreational marine fishing license is an annual sport-fishing license issued on a calendar-year basis and is good from January 1 through December 31 each year. A license purchased for October 1, 2009 is good only through December 31, 2009. For the calendar year January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, a new marine license must be purchased.

Party or Charter Boats

All party and charter boats licensed by DEC that carry recreational fishing passengers in the marine and coastal district or land fish taken outside the territorial waters of the state are required to purchase a party and charter boat license issued by the DEC for an annual fee of \$250. In addition, licensed party or charter boats are required to purchase a recreational marine fishing license at a cost of \$400, which allows anglers on board to fish without purchasing a recreational fishing license. Party and charter boats are vessels used to carry passengers for hire wherein a fee is charged, either directly or indirectly, for the purpose of taking or attempting to take marine fish for recreational purposes.

While fishing on a charter boat in the Hudson River upstream of the Tappan Zee Bridge, individual anglers are required to purchase a recreational marine fishing license if fishing for “migratory fish of the sea.” The party/charter boat exemption only applies to appropriately licensed boats operating in New York’s marine and coastal district, which ends at the Tappan Zee Bridge.

Fishing in Waters of Bordering States

The New York State recreational marine fishing license offers a reciprocal privilege to bordering states, provided those states have an active marine license program and afford the same privilege to New York marine license holders. This means that anglers holding a New York marine fishing license are not required to purchase non-resident licenses from bordering states while fishing their waters. The following list includes the waters that are covered by a New York marine license.

- Connecticut waters, including those parts of Long Island Sound lying between New York and Connecticut
- New Jersey waters, including those parts of New York Harbor, the Hudson River, the Kill Van Kull, the Arthur Kill, Raritan Bay and the Atlantic Ocean lying between New York and New Jersey
- Rhode Island waters, including those parts of Long Island Sound, Block Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean lying between New York and Rhode Island

How the Marine License Fee Helps

All revenues generated from sales of annual, 7-day and 1-day resident and non-resident recreational marine fishing licenses will be deposited into the Marine Resources Account. The Marine Resources Account is a special sub-account of the Conservation Fund. In accordance with State Finance Law, monies in this account shall be available to DEC specifically for the care, management, protection and enlargement of marine fish and shellfish resources.

The Marine and Coastal District Conservation, Education and Research Board is responsible for reviewing the allocations and expenditures of DEC related to the Marine Resources Account. The Board also is responsible for annual reports to DEC’s commissioner on expenditures and fiscal needs and for recommendations on maximum fees to be charged for recreational marine fishing licenses. All revenues generated from the sales of lifetime recreational marine fishing licenses and lifetime combination fishing and recreational fishing licenses will be deposited into the Fish and

Game Trust Account per State Finance Law. Monies in this account are invested by the state comptroller, and the earned income is transferred into the Conservation Fund to be used for intended purposes.

Providing Resource Information

A licensed recreational marine angler may be asked to provide information on the species, number, weight, or other information that is useful toward the management of resources at anytime during the fishing season either by phone or dockside interviews.

Freshwater Fishing

For information on New York's freshwater fishing regulations and licensing, refer to the freshwater fishing guide online at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7917.html or call DEC's Central Office Bureau of Fisheries at 518-402-8920.

Commercial Licensing

The new recreational marine fishing license discussed in this guide DOES NOT cover any "commercial purposes" fishing activity. "Commercial purposes"

means the taking of food fish by any method for subsequent sale, trade or barter or to offer for sale, trade or barter and the taking of food fish when setting, maintaining, operating or using nets, with limited exceptions for the collection of baitfish. A separate license is issued for commercial purposes activities, and any means of sale, trade, or barter of fish without the required commercial purposes licensing is prohibited. For more information regarding commercial licensing or baitfish exceptions, please contact DEC Bureau of Marine Resources by phone at 631-444-0430.

Shellfish and Crustaceans (Lobster and Crabs)

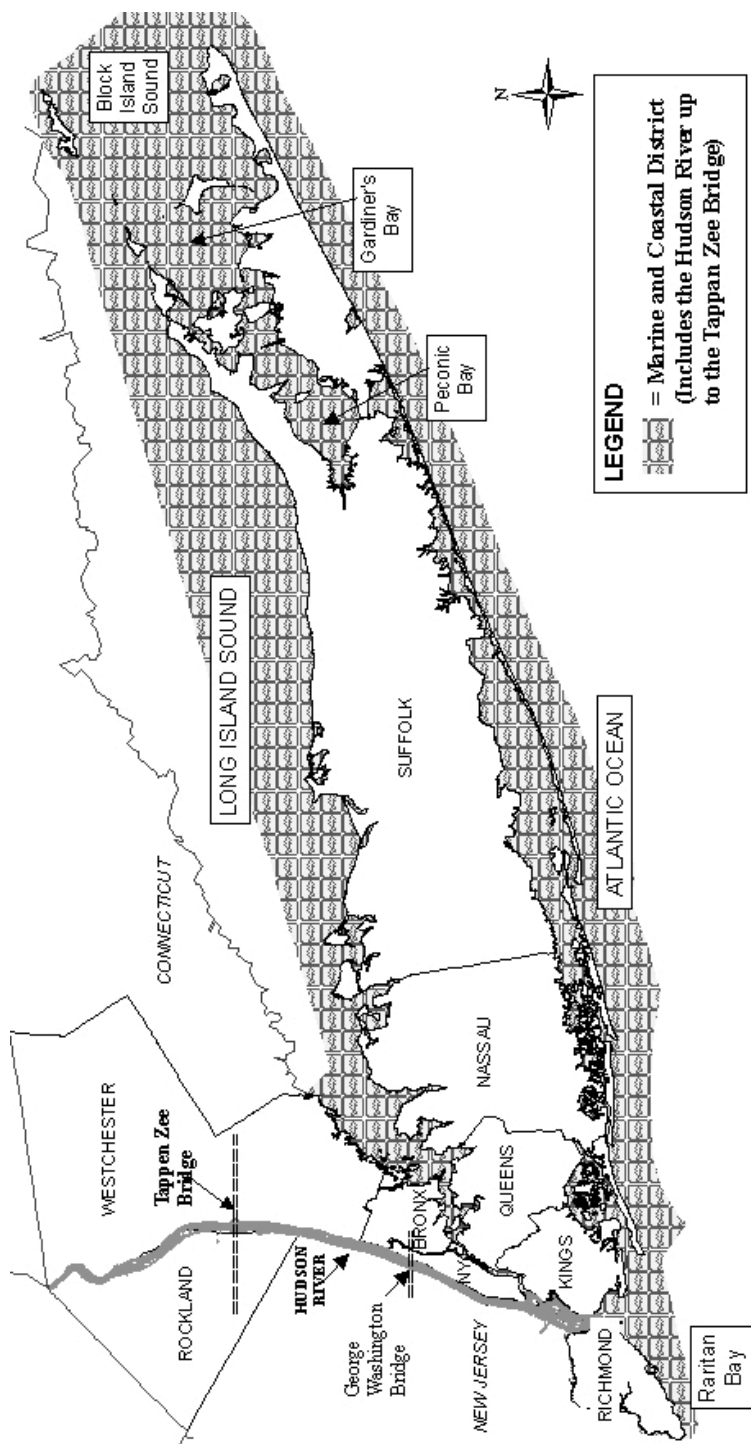
The recreational marine fishing license does not apply to any shellfish or crustacean-harvesting (taking and possession) activities. For more information on shellfish harvesting, please visit DEC's website at: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/345.html or contact DEC by phone at 631-444-0475. For more information regarding harvest of crustaceans, contact DEC by phone at 631-444-0435.

Map of Marine and Coastal District Waters

The following map on page 9 represents the marine and coastal district waters for which the marine license applies. The marine and coastal district includes the Atlantic Ocean within three nautical miles from the coast and all tidal waters within the state up the Hudson River to the Governor Malcolm Wilson Tappan Zee Bridge.

Although not included in the map, the marine license also applies to the Hudson River, Delaware River and Mohawk River and their tributaries for when a person is fishing for "migratory fish of the sea," such as striped bass, American shad, hickory shad, blueback herring and alewife.

Map of Marine and Coastal District Waters



See description of map on page 8.

Recreational Marine Fishing Regulations

Important Note: Many recreational marine regulations and rules change frequently in response to rapid changes in fishing conditions and development of interstate management plans for marine species. Therefore, responsible anglers should become familiar and comply with the latest regulatory changes. For the most current recreational marine regulations, please refer to DEC’s website at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html

TABLE 1. New York State Marine and Coastal District Recreational Fishing Regulations Please note that additional changes may occur. Therefore, check online (website link provided above) for the most current regulations before going fishing. Specific regulations for fish species that undergo frequent regulatory changes are not provided in the table.

SPECIES	*MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY POSSESSION LIMIT(S) (# of Fish)	OPEN SEASON
Summer Flounder (Fluke) **	Please go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html		
Winter Flounder	Please go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html		
Tautog (Blackfish)	Please go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html		
Bluefish (Snappers)	No minimum size limit for first 10 fish 12”TL for the next 5	15 No more than 10 shall be less than 12”TL	All year
Weakfish	16 (10” filleted & 12” dressed)	6	All year
Atlantic cod	Please go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html		
Pollock	19	No limit	All year
Haddock	19	No limit	All year
Striped bass - marine waters (Anglers aboard licensed party/charter boats) **	28	2	April 15-Dec 15
Striped bass - marine waters (All other anglers)	28-40 >40	1 1	April 15-Dec 15
Striped bass - waters north of George Washington Bridge	Please go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html		
Scup (Porgy) Anglers aboard licensed party/charter boats**	Please go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html		
Scup (Porgy) All other anglers	Please go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html		
Black sea bass	Please go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html		
Atlantic sturgeon	No Possession Allowed	No Possession Allowed	No Possession Allowed
Cobia	37	2	All year
Spanish mackerel	14	15	All year
King mackerel	23	3	All year
Red drum	27	No limit for fish less than 27”TL fish greater than 27”TL shall not be possessed	All year
American eel	6	50	All year
*All minimum sizes are in total length (TL) unless otherwise noted. (See section titled “How to Properly Measure a Fish” on page 13 of this guide to use as a guideline for measuring minimum sizes.)			
**See section in this guide titled “Striped Bass, Scup and Summer Flounder (Fluke) Special Regulations” on page 14.			

Recreational Marine Fishing Regulations

TABLE 2. Recreational Fishing Regulations for Sharks

Important Note: The recreational regulations for shark fishing will be changing in 2009. For further information, Call the NMFS Fisheries Information Line at 978-281-9278.

CATEGORY	SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY POSSESSION LIMIT
Large & Small Coastal Sharks & Pelagic Sharks **	Sandbar, Silky, Tiger, Blacktip, Bull, Great hammerhead, Lemon, Nurse, Scalloped hammerhead, Smooth hammerhead, Spinner, Blacknose, Finetooth, Blue, Oceanic whitetip, Porbeagle, Shortfin mako, & Thresher	54 inches fork length*	One shark per vessel per trip
	Atlantic sharpnose, & Bonnethead	No size limit	One shark per person per vessel per trip
Prohibited Sharks **	Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye thresher, Bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longin mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sand tiger, Sevengill, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, & White	No Possession Allowed	No Possession Allowed
*For guidelines on obtaining the correct minimum size, review the section titled "How to Properly Measure a Fish" on page 13 of this guide			
**See section in this guide titled "Shark Special Regulations" on page 15			

Definitions

Angling means taking fish by hook and line. It includes bait and fly fishing, casting and trolling and also includes the use of landing nets in completing the catch of fish taken by hook and line. (Angling does not include snatching or hooking).

To constitute "angling," the taking must be in accordance with the following requirements:

1. The operator must be present and in immediate attendance when lines are in the water.
2. One person may operate not more than two lines, with or without a rod.
3. Each line shall not have more than five lures or baits or a combination of both, and, in addition, each line shall not exceed 15 single hooks,

seven double hooks, five triple hooks or any combination of such hooks, provided the total number of hook points does not exceed 15.

At sea transfer means the transferring of fish from one vessel to another vessel other than in harbor at a vessel's permanent mooring. The at sea transfer of a species for which there is a possession or trip limit is prohibited.

Catch and release means a fishery where the fish are caught and immediately returned to the water without harm.

In the marine and coastal district, this pertains to striped bass fishing only. During the closed season, all striped bass taken shall be returned to the water immediately, without unnecessary injury.

Definitions

Chumming means depositing in the water any substance, not attached to a hook that may attract fish.

Closed season means the time during which fish, wildlife, shellfish, crustacean, or protected insects may not be taken legally. Whenever an open season or a closed season is provided by the fixing of dates, such dates shall be deemed part of such open season or closed season. One may not fish for a species during its closed season. (An exception applies for striped bass, in which catch and release is accepted during the closed season).

Finning means the removal of a fin, other than the caudal fin, from a shark and not retaining the remainder of the shark's carcass.

Fishing means the taking, killing, netting, capturing or withdrawal of fish from the waters of the state by any means, including every attempt to take and every act of assistance to any other person in taking or attempting to take fish.

Food fish means all species of edible fish and squid (cephalopoda).

Hooking, snatching or snagging means taking fish that have not taken or attempted to take a bait or artificial lure into their mouth, by impaling fish with one or more hooks or similar devices, whether or not baited, into any part of their body.

Migratory fish of the sea means both catadromous and anadromous species of fish which live a part of their life span in saltwater and part of their life in freshwater. For purposes of this guide, species included under "migratory fish of the sea" are striped bass, American shad, hickory shad, blueback herring and alewife.

Open season means the time during which fish, game, wildlife, shellfish, crustacea or protected insects may be taken legally.

Party and charter boats are vessels used to carry passengers for hire wherein a fee is charged, either directly or indirectly, for the purpose of taking or attempting to take marine fish for recreational purposes.

Shark means any species of the order *Squaliformes*, except species in the suborder *Batoidea*.

Slot size limit means a size limit which has both a minimum length and a maximum length.

Spear means a hand-propelled single or multiple-pronged pike, blade or harpoon and does *not* include the mechanically propelled device commonly called a spear gun or underwater gun.

Take or taking means the act to pursue or hunt.

Transported overland means transport by motorized vehicle other than on the water body where the fish were taken.

Trip limit means the maximum amount of fish that can be possessed on board or landed by a vessel during a period of time, not less than 24 hours, in which fishing is conducted, beginning when the vessel leaves port and ending when the vessel returns to port. A fisher shall not land more than a possession limit or trip limit in any one calendar day.

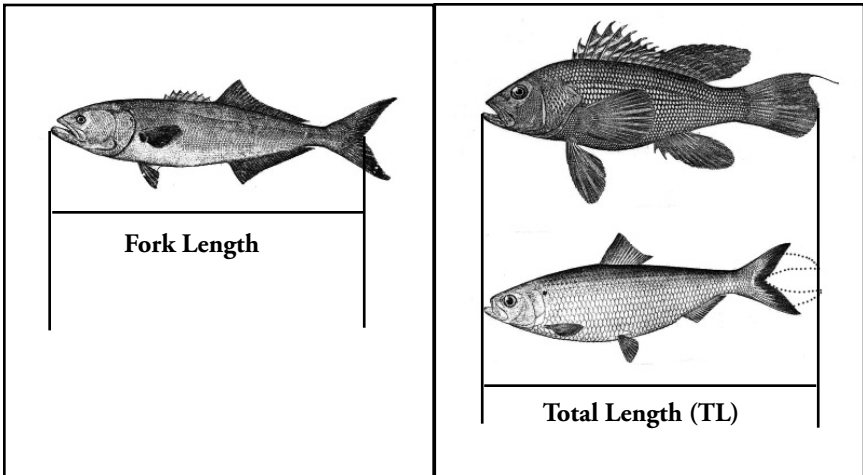
How to Properly Measure a Fish

a) Dressed length is the longest straight-line measurement from the most anterior portion of the fish, with the head removed, to the longest lobe of the caudal fin (tail), with the caudal fin intact and with the lobes squeezed together, laid flat on the measuring device. *Used for weakfish only.*

b) Fillet length is the longest straight-line measurement from end to end of any fleshy side portion of the fish cut lengthwise away from the backbone, which must have the skin intact, laid flat on the measuring device. *Used for weakfish only.*

c) Fork length means the straight-line measurement of a fish from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail. The measurement is not made along the curve of the body. *Used for sharks only.* (See diagram below.)

d) Total length (TL) is the longest straight-line measurement from the most anterior or forward part of the fish (tip of the snout), with the jaws closed, to the longest lobe of the caudal fin (tail). The tail rays or lobes of a fish with a forked tail may be squeezed together to give the longest overall measurement. For black sea bass, total length excludes the tail filament. (See diagrams below.)



c) Fork Length
(For Shark Species Only)

d) Total Length
(For All Species, except Sharks)

Note: Illustrations shown with mouth open: please note that to properly measure fish, the mouth must be closed.

General Regulations

Taking and Possession

- A person may not fish for, take or possess a species (excluding striped bass catch and release) on the waters of the marine and coastal district, shores thereof or anywhere inland from such shores other than during the open season specified for the species.
- A person may not take or have in possession or intentionally kill or injure fish less than the size specified for such species or outside of any slot size limit specified for such species.
- The at sea transfer of any species for which there is a possession or trip limit is prohibited.
- A person may not possess, kill or unnecessarily injure fish in excess of the possession limit or trip limit specified for such species.
- The fish an angler catches and immediately releases uninjured will not be counted as part of the daily limit for that species.
- A person may not continue to fish for a species while in possession of a daily limit for that species.
- If any fish are unintentionally taken contrary to any provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Law, they shall be returned to the water at once without unnecessary injury.
- The sale of any marine species is prohibited unless a separate commercial food fish license is purchased and the holder of a commercial license shall carry and visibly display such license at all times when fishing under authority of such permit. It is illegal to take or possess bluefish, scup, black sea bass, striped bass, summer flounder, tautog, weakfish or winter flounder

for commercial purposes on any charter or party boat while such vessel is carrying passengers for hire.

- No person shall take Atlantic salmon from the waters of the marine and coastal district.
- It is illegal to intentionally harm, possess, or kill endangered or threatened species.

Striped Bass, Scup and Summer Flounder (Fluke) Special Regulations

- For all anglers (except for valid marine and coastal district party and charter boat license holders), it is unlawful for any person to possess striped bass, summer flounder (fluke) or scup from which the head or tail has been removed, or that have been otherwise cleaned, cut, filleted or skinned so that the total length or identity cannot be determined, except that it is not unlawful if such fish is being prepared for immediate consumption or storage at a domicile or place of residence.
- For summer flounder (fluke), white-side fillets and skin may be removed for use as bait, provided the carcass of the summer flounder with the dark side completely intact is retained and available for inspection to determine compliance with the size limit.
- No person shall take striped bass for recreational purposes in any other way than by angling and spearing in the marine and coastal district.
- During the closed recreational season for striped bass, catch-and-release fishing by *angling only* is permitted. During the closed season, all striped bass taken shall be

General Regulations

returned to the water immediately without unnecessary injury.

- Customers aboard a licensed party or charter boat who take more than 10 scup from Sept 1 - Oct 15 (dates are likely to change in 2010) or take two striped bass from April 15 - December 15 must possess an original dated receipt from the licensed vessel.

Shark Special Regulations

- A person may fish for white sharks with rod and reel, provided the person releases such fish immediately with a minimum of injury and that such fish are not removed from the water.
- All landed sharks must have head, tails and fins attached.
- The sale of shark species is prohibited.
- Finning of shark species is prohibited.

Tagged Fish

If you catch a tagged fish, write down the tag number, length of the fish, date and location of capture, and send this information to the address on the tag. For more information, contact the American Littoral Society at 732-291-0055, extension 106, if you have a fish with a yellow dorsal loop tag, or contact the United States Fish and Wildlife Service at 800-448-8322 if you catch a striped bass with a tag.

Collection of Baitfish

- Bait fish taken for personal use in the marine and coastal district shall only be possessed or used in waters of the marine and coastal district, and the Hudson River downstream from the Federal Dam at Troy to the Battery at the southern tip of

Manhattan Island and shall not be possessed or used in a water body outside the defined waters.

- Bait fish taken for personal use in the marine and coastal district may be transported overland only for use in waters of the marine and coastal district and only within the following counties: Queens, Kings, Richmond, New York, Bronx, Suffolk, Nassau, Rockland and Westchester.

Nets, Traps and Gear Allowed for Recreational Angling Purposes

The following types of gear may be used in the marine and coastal district waters for recreational purposes only (no sale, trade or barter), while following the taking and possession regulations as mentioned in this guide. **Restrictions apply to certain marine and coastal district waters. See section on page 16 titled “Gear Restrictions” in order to abide by the regulations within those waters.**

- Landing nets may be used in completing the catch of fish hooked by angling.
- Cast nets, not in excess of 20 feet in diameter, with only one per boat and operated by hand, may be used for the purposes of taking only Atlantic menhaden (“bunker”) and mullets for recreational purposes only.
- Seines not larger than 30 feet long or four feet deep
- Lift nets not larger than 16 square feet
- Bait traps not more than 30 inches long
- Hook and line by angling (See definition of angling on page 11 for appropriate number of lines and hooks allowed.)

General Regulations

Gear Restrictions

- Nets of metallic fabric are prohibited.
- In Oyster Bay Harbor, seines measuring more than 25 feet long and four feet deep are prohibited.
- In Richmond County, nets of not more than ten feet long, operated by hand, may be used only to take minnows and shrimp for bait.
- In the Nissequogue River, nets of not more than 20 feet long and four feet deep, operated by hand, may be used to take bait fish during daylight hours only.

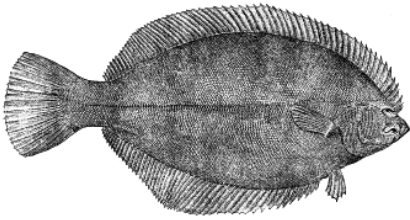
The use of nets is prohibited in the following waters:

- In Carmans River, Suffolk County north of a line running from the most southerly point of land within the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge on the western shore of the river and easterly to the point where the southern boundary of the refuge meets the eastern shore of the river
- In Moriches Inlet, Shinnecock Inlet, Mecox Inlet and in the Atlantic Ocean within one-half mile of the shores thereof and for a distance of one-half mile measured in both directions east and west along the beach from the seaward entrances to such inlets
- In Connetquot River
- In the waters of the Atlantic Ocean and Fire Island Inlet within one thousand feet of the beach between Rockaway Inlet Jetty at Rockaway Point and the headland extending into Fire Island Inlet known as “sore thumb”

Marine Resources Advisory Council

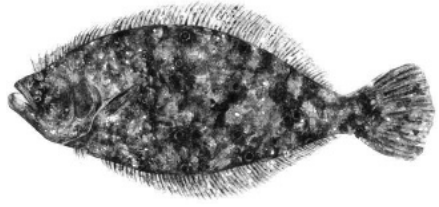
The Marine Resources Advisory Council (MRAC), established in 1987, represents opinions of New York’s recreational and commercial marine fishers and provides advice to DEC’s Bureau of Marine Resources on issues such as commercial and recreational fishing, proposed regulations and the protection and use of New York’s valuable marine resources. These public meetings are held six to eight times a year, usually at the Bureau of Marine Resources in East Setauket. To find more information about MRAC and upcoming meetings (including location, time and topics for discussion), go to the following website: www.somas.stonybrook.edu/community/MRAC or contact DEC’s Bureau of Marine Resources at 631-444-0430

Marine and Migratory Fish of the Sea



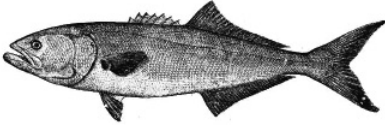
Winter Flounder

(Eyes face to the RIGHT when on a flat surface)



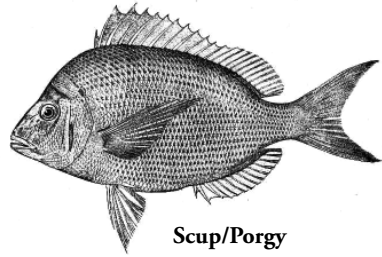
Summer Flounder/Fluke

(Eyes face to the LEFT when on a flat surface)

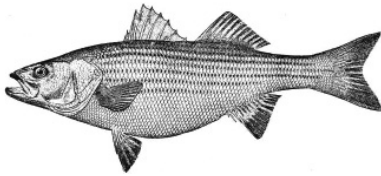


Bluefish

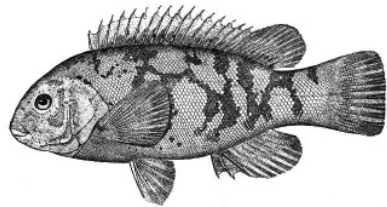
(Large mouth and teeth –
Spot at base of pectoral fin)



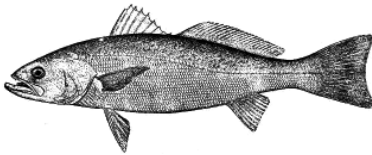
Scup/Porgy



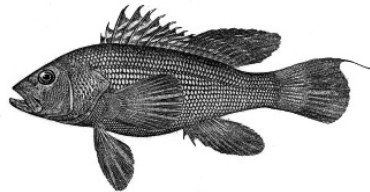
Striped Bass*



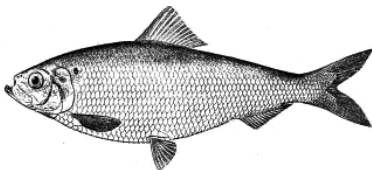
Tautog/Blackfish



Weakfish

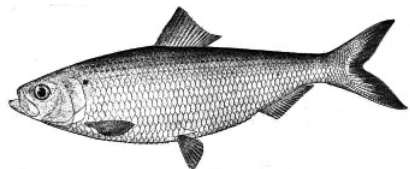


Black Sea Bass



Alewife*

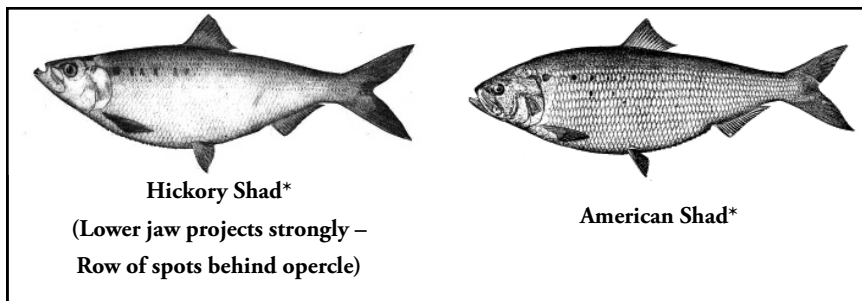
(Eye Large - Usually one shoulder spot)



Blueback Herring*

(Eye small - Usually one shoulder spot)

Marine and Migratory Fish of the Sea



*Alewife, American shad, blueback herring, hickory shad
and striped bass are “migratory fish of the sea.”

Health Advisories

Fish can be good to eat and nutritious, but some fish contain chemicals that may be harmful to a person’s health. The following advice is provided by the New York State Department of Health (DOH) on eating fish caught in New York State marine and coastal district waters and waters that include “migratory fish of the sea.”

DOH recommends that women of childbearing age and children under the age of 15 not eat any fish from the Hudson River estuary and waters in the Upper Bay of the New York Harbor area (see Table 4 on the following page). This is because chemicals may have a greater effect on developing organs in young children or in the unborn child. Chemicals also can build up in women’s bodies and are often passed on in mother’s milk.

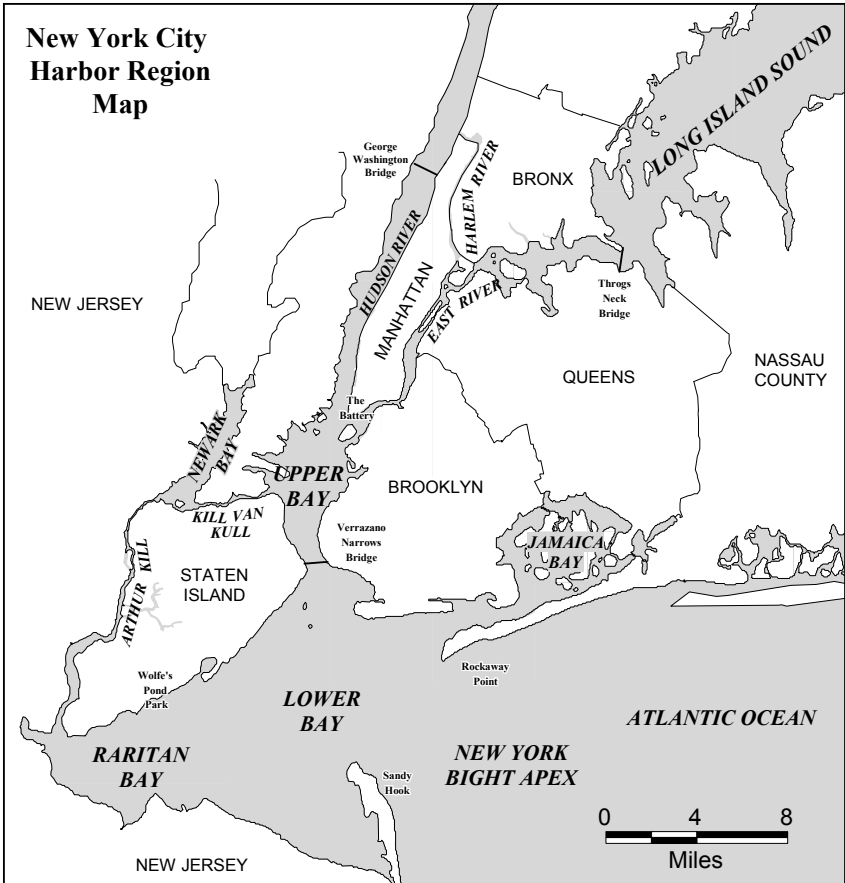
TABLE 3. Advisories for Lower Bay of New York Harbor, Raritan Bay east of Wolfe’s Pond Park, Jamaica Bay, Long Island Sound, Long Island South Shore waters, Peconic and Gardiners bays and Block Island Sound. Locations are indentified on maps on pages 9 and 20.

POPULATION	ADVICE
Women of childbearing age and children under the age of 15	EAT NO weakfish greater than 25 inches. EAT NO MORE THAN ONE MEAL PER MONTH of American eel, striped bass, bluefish greater than 20 inches and smaller weakfish. EAT NO more than one meal per week of smaller bluefish.
Women beyond childbearing age and adult males	EAT NO MORE THAN ONE MEAL PER MONTH of weakfish greater than 25 inches. EAT NO MORE THAN ONE MEAL PER WEEK of American eel, bluefish, striped bass and smaller weakfish.
Everyone	The hepatopancreas (“the green stuff” also known as mustard, tomalley, liver) found in the body section of crabs and lobsters should not be eaten because it has high contaminant levels. Because contaminants are transferred to cooking liquid, crab or lobster cooking liquid should also be discarded.

TABLE 4. Advisories for the Hudson River estuary (South of Troy), Upper Bay of New York Harbor area and Western Raritan bay. Locations are identified on maps on pages 9 and 20.

WATER	EAT NONE	EAT NO MORE THAN ONE (1/2 LB.) MEAL PER MONTH	EAT NO MORE THAN ONE (1/2 LB.) MEAL PER WEEK
For All Waters Listed Below	<p>Women of childbearing age and children under the age of 15 should EAT NO fish of any species from the waters listed below. Other people should follow the listed advice.</p>		
	<p>Do not eat the hepatopancreas (“the green stuff” also known as mustard, tomalley, liver) of crab and lobster and crab and lobster cooking liquid.</p>		<p>Blue crab (eat no more than 6 blue crabs per week)</p>
Hudson River - Troy Dam south to bridge at Catskill	All fish species except those listed at right→	Alewife, Blueback herring, Rock bass, & Yellow perch	
Hudson River – south of Catskill (Note: Harvest/possession of Hudson River American eel for food is prohibited per NYSDEC regulations.)	Channel catfish, Gizzard shad & White catfish	Atlantic needlefish, Bluefish, Brown bullhead, Carp, Goldfish, Largemouth bass, Rainbow smelt, Smallmouth bass, Striped bass, Walleye & White perch	All other fish species not listed
Upper Bay of New York Harbor - north of Verrazano Narrows Bridge	Gizzard shad & White perch	American eel, Atlantic needlefish, Bluefish, Rainbow smelt & Striped bass	All other fish species not listed
Harlem River and East River to the Throgs Neck Bridge	American eel & Gizzard shad	Atlantic needlefish, Bluefish, Rainbow smelt, Striped bass & White perch	All other fish species not listed
Newark Bay, Arthur Kill & Kill Van Kull	American eel, Gizzard Shad, Striped bass & White perch	Atlantic needlefish, Bluefish & Rainbow smelt	All other fish species not listed
Raritan Bay west of Wolfe’s Pond Park	White perch	Striped bass	All other fish species not listed

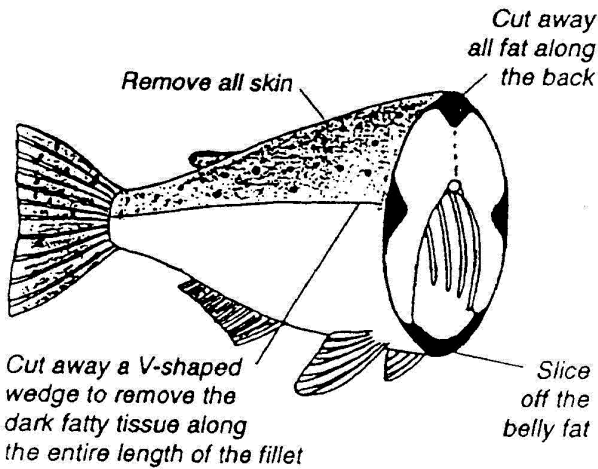
Health Advisories



Refer to Table 3 on page 18 and Table 4 on page 19 for Health Advisories in the New York City Harbor Region.

Cleaning and Cooking Your Fish

Many chemicals are found at higher levels in the fat of fish. You can reduce the amount of contaminants you eat by properly trimming, skinning and cooking your catch. Remove the skin and trim all the fat from the belly flap, the line along the sides and the fat along the back and under the skin (see diagram below). Broil or bake your fish on a rack or grill so that the fat drips away. Do not use drippings to prepare sauces or gravies.



Health Advisory Contact and Additional Information

DOH also issues advisories on eating fish from New York State fresh waters. Call DOH toll-free at 800-458-1158, ext. 27815, for a free copy of the statewide advisory booklet or for additional information. The booklet is also available on the internet: www.nyhealth.gov/nysdoh/fish/fish.htm or you can request it or ask questions by e-mail: BTSA@health.state.ny.us

Helpful Information for Angling in the Marine and Coastal District

Public Access to New York's Marine Waters

Looking for a place to launch your boat or fish on the shore or the pier? DEC provides a list of contacts to accessible fishing areas for various towns in the marine and coastal district at the following website: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7901.html

If you don't have online access, call DEC at 631-444-0436 to request information on boat launches, shores or piers with public access in your specific area.

Artificial Reefs

New York's artificial reefs provide available fishing grounds to anglers. Fishes common to New York reefs include blackfish (tautog), black sea bass, porgy (scup), bergall (cunner), hake and cod.

A list of some popular artificial reefs and their locations in the waters of the marine and coastal district can be found on DEC's website at: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7896.html or for more detailed information and the locations of more than 300 individual reefs, call 631-444-0438.

Marine Fishing Records

Did you just catch a really BIG fish in the marine and coastal district? If so, you may have a new state record, and DEC's marine fish records list recognizes those anglers who break existing state records.

Review the marine fish records list provided at the following website: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7906.html. If you believe you have a record fish (proof will be required) not listed in the table, or you do not have access to the Internet and want more information, contact DEC at 631-444-0442.

Environmental Conservation Officers

Call toll free, **1-877-457-5680**. You will have a choice of being connected to a dispatcher or leaving a voicemail message. Specify to the dispatcher that you have a concern related to the marine and coastal district. To give confidential information concerning significant illegal activities, you may also call **1-800-TIPP-DEC** to speak to a dispatcher.

Any officer or lieutenant in the marine and coastal district can be contacted for any complaint. Below are the officer's names and cell phone numbers listed under the areas where they predominantly work. Marine officers are responsible for marine resource enforcement (fish, crustacea, shellfish and horseshoe crabs) whether on land, such as in seafood markets, or on water.

NYC Marine Waters of the five boroughs and north as far as the Tappan Zee Bridge and western Long Island Sound, including the Westchester shoreline

Lt. Francisco Lopez 646-294-7166

ECO Jamie Powers 646-294-7174

ECO Kevin Thomas 646-294-7153

Nassau and Suffolk County Marine Waters - North and South Shore from the NYC line to east of Montauk and federal waters

Lt. Joseph Billotto 516-204-6237

ECO Sean Reilly 516-779-9358

ECO Brian Farrish 516-351-8601

Reporting a Violation

If you observe someone violating the Environmental Conservation Law or see the results of a violation, follow these procedures to report it:

- *Maintain distance from the violator.* Do not approach or attempt to confront the suspect(s). They may be dangerous, could destroy evidence or simply evade the officers if forewarned.
- *Write everything down.* Make notes on what the violators are doing. How many people are involved? What exactly have you observed?
- *Note their appearance.* Determine and record identifying features such as age, sex, height, weight, hair color and any other marks that would aid in identifying the person or people.
- *Record their clothing.* Note the type and color of the suspect's hat, coat, pants and shoes or boots.
- *Note vehicle(s) involved.* Jot down license numbers, color, make, model, year and any other distinguishing characteristics to help authorities track down the violator(s).

Contact Information

Bureau of Marine Resources

Finfish and Crustaceans 631-444-0435

Marine Fisheries Permits 631-444-0471

Shellfisheries 631-444-0475

Emergency Shellfish Closures 631-444-0480

Law Enforcement 631-444-0250

Where to Write Us:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Bureau of Marine Resources

205 N. Belle Meade Road, Suite 1

East Setauket, NY 11733

fwmarine@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Printed on recycled paper

Bureau Marine Resources Mission

It is New York's policy to maintain the long-term health, abundance, habitats and diversity of the state's marine fisheries resources to ensure their availability for future generations.