

# 2023 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](http://www.maine.gov/dmr/recreational-fishing/licenses/registry) or call 207-624-9550.

The following Maine saltwater recreational fishing regulations are current as of August 18, 2023. **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 22 inches.  
**Bag limit:** 1 fish per angler per day.  
**Season:** Sept 1 – Oct 31, inclusive.

## HADDOCK

(*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*)



**Private Recreational Size:** Minimum size 17 inches.  
**Private Recreational Bag limit:** 10 fish per angler per day.  
**For Hire Size:** Minimum size 18 inches.  
**For Hire Bag limit:** 15 fish per angler per day  
**Recreational and For Hire Season:** Cannot possess from March 1 through March 31 inclusive.

## 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

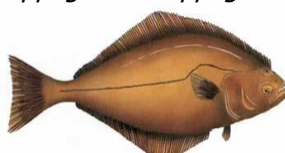
(*Brosme brosme*)



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  
**Season:** Maine territorial waters, halibut can be retained from sunrise on May 18 through sunset on June 13th.  
**Method of take:** Anglers must use 14/0, 15/0, or 16/0 circle hooks.

**Federal waters:** No season, no more than 1 fish per day. For complete regulations see Chapter 34.07: [www.maine.gov/dmr/laws-](http://www.maine.gov/dmr/laws-)

## 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

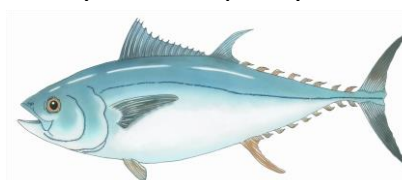
(*Scomber scombrus*)



**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](http://hmspermits.noaa.gov) or call 1-888-872-8862.

## SHARKS



To fish for sharks (blue, porbeagle, and common thresher sharks) a **Federal Highly Migratory Species Permit is required**. For permits and current fishing regulations visit: [hmspermits.noaa.gov](http://hmspermits.noaa.gov) or call 1-888-872-8862.

Anglers are prohibited from taking coastal sharks including shortfin mako in Maine's territorial waters.



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