Methods of Recreational Fishing
No person shall take, catch, kill or attempt to take, catch or kill any fish within the marine waters of the state by any means except in the manner commonly known as angling with hand line or rod and line unless specifically provided for by statute or regulation.

Delaware Fishing License Requirement
A Delaware fishing license is required for all non-resident anglers aged 16 and over for fishing either fresh or tidal waters of Delaware. Delaware fishing license information can be found at http://www.fw.delaware.gov/Fisheries/Pages/NewFishingLicense.aspx.

New York Fishing Registry Requirement

Bait Fish
No license is required for the taking of baitfish for personal use with the following gear:
1. Dip nets 24 inches diameter or less for the taking of Atlantic herring only (does not include river herring — alewife and blueback herring) for live bait. The taking or possession of river herring is prohibited.
2. Bait seines 50 feet long or less.
3. Cast nets 20 feet in diameter or less.
4. Lift or umbrella nets four feet square or less.
5. Not more than five killipots.
6. Not more than two miniature fykes or pots for the taking of eels for bait.

Fish taken in this manner may not be sold or used for barter unless the angler is in possession of a commercial bait net license.

Wanton Waste Prohibited
Fish of any species which are purposely killed shall become part of the angler’s daily possession limit and shall not be returned to the water from which they were taken. This does not apply to fish which are released alive and subsequently die, but does apply even to species without size/possession limits.

Spearfishing
Spearfishing may be conducted by means of a spear, harpoon or other missile while completely submerged in the marine waters of the state for any species, except except lobster.

Persons who fish with a spear for species with size limits are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure the fish meets the minimum size limits before being killed or injured.

Prohibited Species
It is illegal to take, possess, land, purchase, or sell any of the following species:
- Atlantic sturgeon
- basking shark
- big eye sand tiger shark
- diamondback terrapin
- sand tiger shark
- sandbar shark
- shortnose sturgeon
- white shark
- river herring (alewife and blueback herring; see herring illustrations, page 18)
- See Sharks (page 16) for the full list of prohibited shark species

Sea Turtles & Marine Mammals
It is illegal to intentionally molest, kill or possess sea turtles, including terrapins, or marine mammals, or to possess any part thereof.

Be the First to Know! Get on the List
The Marine Fisheries and Shellfish e-mail list is free service provides the latest information about Fish and Wildlife events, public hearings and other matters related to marine resources. There are six other lists to help you get the most out of New Jersey’s fish and wildlife resources. Sign up today.

Visit Fish and Wildlife’s website: NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm

Fish Measurement

1. Lay fish flat on top of, or alongside a measuring rule, not measured over the body.
2. Fish are measured from the tip of the snout (mouth closed) to the longest part of the tail.

Resource Information
Anyone who takes fisheries resources may be required to provide information on the species, number, weight or other information pertinent to management of resources. Anglers are encouraged to report all fishing activity after each trip. Visit Fish and Wildlife’s Volunteer Angler Survey at NJFishandWildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm.

Accessible Fishing Sites
For people with disabilities, visit: www.NJFishandWildlife.com/sites.htm
An Accessible Fishing Sites list is available to assist anglers whose mobility is impaired. All sites are wheelchair-accessible except for the Musconetcong River in Morris County, where vehicle access is to the shoreline.

Regulations in red are new this year.
Finfish

Regulations for most finfish are listed in the table on page 21.

Filletting

The filleting at sea of all fish with a size limit, or any species of flatfish, is prohibited except for summer flounder; see Summer Flounder, page 16. Anglers shall possess no parts of any fish caught on a previous fishing trip. Party boats may fillet fish at sea if they obtain a Special Fillet Permit. Applications may be obtained from Fish and Wildlife’s Bureau of Marine Fisheries.

Black Sea Bass

Black sea bass are measured along the midline from the snout to the end of the central portion of the tail, not to include the tail filaments. (See fish measuring example on page 14.) The recreational regulations for black sea bass remain the same as last year including an open season of May 15–June 22 with a 10 fish possession limit and 12.5-inch minimum size limit; an open season of July 1–Aug. 31 with a 2 fish possession limit and a 12.5-inch minimum size limit; an open season of Oct. 8–Oct. 31 with a 10 fish possession limit and 12.5-inch minimum size limit; and an open season of Nov. 1–Dec. 31 with a 15 fish possession limit and a 13-inch minimum size limit. For the most current regulations, go to NJFishandWildlife.com/njregs.htm#marine or call the marine fish “listen only” information line at (609) 292-2083.

River Herring

The taking or possession of any river herring (alewife and blueback herring) in New Jersey is prohibited. See the fish ID illustrations on page 18 for herring species identification.

Top 8 Tips for Releasing Fish Unharmed

Proper handling and releasing techniques reduce fish mortality.

- Land fish as quickly as possible, except not when retrieving from depths of 40-feet or more. Fighting a fish to exhaustion increases mortality as does rapidly bringing up a fish through the changing water pressure and temperature gradients.
- Keep fish to be released in the water as much as possible. Plan ahead with tools and camera.
- Minimize physical injury. Do not touch gills or allow fish to flop around on deck.
- Carefully remove hooks using a dehooker or needle-nose pliers.
- Use plain hooks, not stainless, which will rust away quickly if one must be left in a gut-hooked fish. Be prepared with a long-reach tool to cut the leader at the hook. Cut this line close to the hook’s eyelet.
- To bring a fish out of the water momentarily, use a neoprene net or one of knotless nylon. Handle the fish carefully using wet hands, wet cotton gloves or similar material to minimize loss of the fish’s protective slime layer.
- To revive lethargic fish, hold in a normal, upright position. Move the fish forward in an “S” or figure-8 pattern so that water flows over the gills only from front to back.
- Use circle hooks (not offset) for species that bite and flee, such as striped bass, weakfish or sea bass. Consider pinching hook barbs with pliers.
The 2019 shark regulations complement existing federal shark regulations (see 2019 Federal Recreational Regulations table, page 22). However, the following additional measures are required for state waters:

- In state waters, there is no minimum size limit for non-blacknose small coastal sharks and blacknose sharks in the recreational fishery, but federal regulations include a 54-inch minimum size limit for blacknose and finetooth small coastal sharks.
- All sharks within the Aggregate Large Coastal and Hammerhead groups will have a closed season within state waters from May 15 through July 15 to protect spawning female sharks during the pupping season.
- See page 22 footnote for species list defining shark groupings.

All sharks harvested by recreational fishermen must have heads, tails, and fins attached naturally to the carcass until landed. Anglers may still gut and bleed the carcass as long as the tail is not removed. Filleting sharks at sea is prohibited.

Recreational anglers should access the following National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website, https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/outreach-and-education/shark-identification-placard to download the NOAA Fisheries Shark Identification Placard, an excellent pictorial guide to identifying sharks that are legal to harvest.

These shark species are prohibited from possession: Atlantic angel, basking, bigeye sixgill, bigeye thresher, bigeye tiger, bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, dusky, Galapagos, longfin mako, narrowtooth, night, sandbar, sandtiger, sevengill, silky, sixgill, smalltail, white and white sharks.

Note: To differentiate sharks from dogfish—the smooth dogfish has flat, tiny teeth; the spiny dogfish has strong, dorsal spines, shorter than, and in front of, the dorsal fins along the topline of the shark’s back. Neither are present in sharks.

Striped Bass Bonus Program
At press time, the Striped Bass Bonus Program will continue in 2019, where anglers possessing a bonus permit may keep a stripers at 24 inches to less than 28 inches. The open season for this program will be September 1 through December 31.

The current allocation from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is 215,912 pounds. Should New Jersey exceed this quota, any overage would be subtracted from the following year’s quota.

Application Process: Striped Bass Bonus Program permits are issued via mail only. Go to NJFishandWildlife.com/bonusbas.htm to download the application and for regulation or program updates. The permit is non-transferable and valid for the current calendar year. Only one permit can be used per day and harvest reporting is mandatory.

Striped Bass Bonus Permit Harvest Reporting: The Striped Bass Bonus Permit must be securely attached to the fish through the mouth and gill immediately upon capture and prior to transportation. Harvest reporting is mandatory and must be reported online or by leaving a message at (609) 748-2074.
New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP)

ATTENTION: New Jersey Saltwater Anglers

REGISTER. You make a difference! It’s still free, still easy and still required.

The saltwater registry acts as a current contact list for mail and telephone surveys of anglers. Participation in the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP) is vital in achieving accurate recreational fishing estimates, helping to ensure healthy fisheries for future generations.

Do your part to help maintain sustainable fisheries and join the thousands of other anglers who have already registered with the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program.

In 2018, the NJSRRP had 158,489 individual registrants, with just over 69 percent (109,817) being New Jersey residents. Individuals registered from all 50 U.S. states, four U.S. territories and 48 other countries. The pie chart below shows the 15 states with the greatest number of participants (totaling 155,083 individuals) in the NJSRRP.

Anglers must renew annually; registrations expire at the end of each calendar year. For more information on the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program and to register, visit www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov

Motor Boat Registration & Title Requirements
NJ Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC)

**Registration**
Most boats must be registered to operate on New Jersey waterways.

- All titled boats must be registered also.
- Any boat (including jet skis and non-titled watercraft), mechanically propelled (incl. electric motors), regardless of length, must be registered.
- Boats greater than 12 feet in length, regardless of propulsion means, must be titled and registered at an MVC office.

Boats and marine equipment which need not be registered:

- Those not based in New Jersey or operating here less than 180 consecutive days that are operating under a federally approved numbering system from another state
- Ship’s lifeboats
- Non-motorized vessels used exclusively on small lakes and ponds on private property
- Racing vessels with New Jersey State Marine Police permit
- Non-motorized inflatable device, surfboard, racing shell, dinghy, canoe or kayak
- Non-motorized vessel less than 12 feet in length

**Title**
For use on New Jersey waterways, all boats more than 12 feet in length must be titled, with the exception of ship’s lifeboat, canoe, kayak, inflatable, surfboard, rowing scull, racing shell, tender/dinghy used for direct transportation between a vessel and shore for no other purposes.

**Boat Operator License (MVC)**
An operator license is required to operate power vessels on fresh, non-tidal waters such as lakes, creeks and rivers. (Minimum age 16 years; with certain exceptions.)

**For More Information:**
New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
(888) 486-3339 toll free in NJ or (609) 292-6500 from out-of-state

Boat Safety Certificate (NJSP)
A boat safety certificate (from an approved boat safety course; see NJSP website, below) is required to operate a personal watercraft or power vessel, including electric motors, in NJ waters (tidal and non-tidal).

New Jersey State Police (NJSP)
(609) 882-2000
http://www.njsp.org/marine-services
Crustaceans

American Lobster

The legal possession size limit of whole lobsters, measured from the rear of the eye socket along a line parallel to the center line of the body shell to the rear of the body shell, shall be not less than 3½ inches nor greater than 5¾ inches. Lobster parts may not be possessed at sea or landed. There is no harvest or possession of lobster in Lobster Management Area 4 from April 30 – May 31 and Lobster Management Area 5 from February 1 – March 31.

The possession limit is six lobsters per person. No person shall possess any lobster with eggs attached or from which eggs have been removed or any female lobster with a v-notched tail, as illustrated below.

Special Lobster Restrictions: No person shall use, leave, deploy, or tend any lobster, fish or conch pot within an artificial reef located in state waters except in areas designated as a full access zone. Within these designated full access zones lobster, fish and conch pots shall be used, left, deployed or tended only between sunrise and sunset.

For information about lobster pot deployment and New Jersey Reef Full Access Zone Locations, scan this QR code or go to NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/2016/marlet-reefgear02-11-16.pdf.

Horseshoe Crabs

The harvest of horseshoe crabs is prohibited. Possession of horseshoe crabs is also prohibited except for those individuals holding a scientific collecting permit for research and education and those fishermen that can provide suitable documentation that the horseshoe crabs in their possession were harvested outside of New Jersey.

Mollusks

1. All persons必须 be licensed to harvest any shellfish. See license information, page 23. Shellfish means any species of benthic mollusks (except conch) including hard and soft clams, oysters, surf clams, bay scallops and mussels.

2. It is illegal to harvest shellfish from condemned waters, even for bait purposes. It is also illegal to harvest shellfish including surf clams from beaches adjacent to water classified as condemned. Shellfish water classification charts are available from license agents or any state shellfish office. See page 23 for shellfish license information. Charts are updated annually.

3. Shellfish harvesting is prohibited before sunrise and after sunset. Shellfish harvest is also prohibited on Saturdays except in the seasonally approved areas of the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers, when harvesting is permitted between Nov. 1 and April 30.

4. Harvesting shellfish on public grounds is restricted to the use of hand implements.

5. It is illegal to harvest shellfish from leased grounds. These grounds are delineated by stakes or buoys set by the lease holder. Charts of the leases may be examined at Fish and Wildlife’s Nacote Creek or Delaware Bay shellfish offices during regular business hours. Invasion onto leased grounds is punishable by penalties up to $3,000 and loss of all equipment.

Recreational Shellfishing

1. No holder of any recreational shellfish license may take more than a total of 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. See Shellfish License Information, page 23.

2. It is illegal to dredge shellfish on public grounds. Use of hand implements are the only legal harvest methods.

3. The minimum size of hard clams that may be harvested is 1½ inches in length. Clams less than 1½ inches in length must immediately be returned to the bottom from which they were taken. Specific seasons, regulations and size limits exist for oyster beds in Great Bay, Delaware Bay, plus the Mullica, Great Egg Harbor and Tuckahoe rivers. Check with the nearest shellfish office (Nacote Creek or Delaware Bay) for these detailed regulations.

4. Shells taken in the process of harvesting oysters must be culled from the live oysters and returned immediately to the area from where they were taken.
### 2019 New Jersey Recreational Fishing Seasons, Minimum Size and Possession Limits

Regulations remain in effect until changed. For the most current regulations, go to NJFishandWildlife.com or call the marine fish "listen-only" information line at (609) 292-2083. Regulations in red are new this year. See page 14 for how to measure fish. Note: No species of fish with a minimum size limit listed below may be filleted or cleaned at sea. Party boats licensed to carry 15 or more passengers may apply for a permit to fillet these species. See also Summer Flounder, page 16.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Open Season</th>
<th>Minimum Length</th>
<th>Harvest &amp; Possession Limit (per person unless noted)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Eel</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>9&quot;</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Drum</td>
<td>May 15 - June 22</td>
<td>12.5&quot;</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Sea Bass</td>
<td>July 1 - Aug. 31</td>
<td>12.5&quot;</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Min. length excludes tail filament; see page 14.)</td>
<td>Oct. 8 - Oct. 31</td>
<td>12.5&quot;</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1 - Dec. 31</td>
<td>13&quot;</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefish (Snapper)</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cod</td>
<td>June 1–Sept. 30</td>
<td>40&quot;</td>
<td>1 fish per person; no more than 3 fish per vessel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haddock</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>18&quot;</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollock</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>19&quot;</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Drum</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>18&quot;</td>
<td>1 not greater than 27&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Herring</td>
<td>No Open Season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scup (Porgy)</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>9&quot;</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shad</td>
<td>Delaware River &amp; tributaries</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>6 (maximum of 3 American shad)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All Other Marine Waters</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>6 (no American shad may be harvested or possessed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark</td>
<td>Aggregate large coastal group</td>
<td>Jan. 1–May 14 and July 16–Dec. 31</td>
<td>One shark (of any species, except prohibited species) per vessel per trip; plus one Atlantic sharpnose shark per person per trip (no minimum size); plus one bonnethead shark per person per trip (no minimum size).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aggregate Large Coastal and Pelagic: Shortfin Mako: Male: 71&quot; fork length Female: 83&quot; fork length All others 54&quot; fork length</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hammerhead group</td>
<td>Jan. 1–May 14 and July 16–Dec. 31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-blacknose small coastal group</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Blacknose group</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pelagic group</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spanish Mackerel</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>14&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass</td>
<td>Delaware River &amp; tributaries</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Delaware River &amp; tributaries**</td>
<td>March 1–March 31 and June 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td>One @ 28&quot; to &lt; 43&quot; and one ≥ 43&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Delaware River &amp; tributaries**</td>
<td>March 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Atlantic Ocean (0–3 nautical miles from shore)</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rivers, bay and estuaries</td>
<td>March 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3–200 nautical miles (federal waters)</td>
<td>Prohibited</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Flounder (Fluke)</td>
<td>Delaware Bay and tributaries</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Island Beach State Park, shore fishing</td>
<td>May 24–Sept. 21</td>
<td>17&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All water except as above</td>
<td>May 24–Sept. 21</td>
<td>16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tautog (Blackfish)</td>
<td>May 24–Sept. 21</td>
<td>18&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 1–Feb. 28</td>
<td>15&quot;</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 1–April 30</td>
<td>15&quot;</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aug. 1–Nov. 15</td>
<td>17&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov. 16–Dec. 31</td>
<td>15&quot;</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weakfish</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>13&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Winter Flounder</td>
<td>March 1–Dec. 31</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Crab</td>
<td>部位</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>3&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>soft</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>3½&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hard</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>4½&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobster (carapace length)</td>
<td>See closed seasons on page 20</td>
<td>3½&quot;</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hard Clam (license required)</td>
<td>No Closed Season</td>
<td>1½&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a Except 50 fish harvest/possession limit for party/charter boat employees.
b Not including dogfish; see description on page 16 under Sharks.
c See page 14 for a list of Prohibited Species.
d Unless using non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots, trot lines or crab dredges. See pages 20 and 23.
e Applies to Delaware Bay and tributaries, west of COLREGS line delineating Delaware Bay from Atlantic Ocean but does not include waters of Cape May Canal east of Cape May Ferry Terminal. Transport of summer flounder caught in Delaware Bay, greater than or equal to 17 in. but less than 18 in., may occur in waters east of Cape May Ferry Terminal to George Redding Br. (Rt. 47) located at entrance of Wildwood provided all fishing gear aboard the vessel is stowed with rigs removed; vessel may not stop to fish for any species.

See Closed Seasons (page 16) for specifics of sporttime non-offset circle hook requirements.

† See page 22 for Federal Recreational Regulations.
‡ Non-resident license valid only June – Sept. See water classification chart information on page 23.
# Federal Limits

Regulations in red are new this year.

## 2019 Federal Recreational Fishing Regulations for Minimum Size, Possession Limits and Seasons

See page 14 for how to measure fish. See *Recreational Minimum Size, Possession Limits and Seasons* (page 21) for state waters listings of species not included in these federal waters regulations (3–200nm). For federal regulation questions, please contact the National Marine Fisheries Service at (978) 281-9260, or go to www.nmfs.noaa.gov.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Minimum Size</th>
<th>Possession Limit (number per angler per day unless otherwise specified)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cod</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>23”</td>
<td>10 per person per day</td>
<td><strong>Federal Limits</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Bass</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>No possession allowed in EEZ</td>
<td><strong>Federal Limits</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolphin (Mahi mahi)</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>10 per day, not to exceed 60 per vessel, which ever is less — except on a charter or headboat, then 10 per paying passenger.</td>
<td><strong>Billfish require Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits refer to <a href="https://hmspermits.noaa.gov">https://hmspermits.noaa.gov</a> or call (888) 872-8862.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlin, White</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>66” lower jaw–fork length</td>
<td>None</td>
<td><strong>For current federal waters regulations (3–200nm), refer to <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sta/hms/">www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sta/hms/</a> or call (727) 824-5326.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlin, Blue</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>99” lower jaw–fork length</td>
<td>None</td>
<td><strong>During any sanctioned billfish tournaments offering prize money, non-offset circle hooks are required for lures with natural bait or natural/artificial bait combos.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Albacore (Longfin)</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td><strong>Private boat: 3 fish per person, per trip</strong></td>
<td><strong>All non-tournament billfish landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours, either online at <a href="https://hmspermits.noaa.gov">https://hmspermits.noaa.gov</a> or by calling (800) 894-5528.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Bigeye</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>27” curved fork length</td>
<td>None</td>
<td><strong>Private boat: 5 fish per person, per trip</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Skipjack</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td><strong>For headboat vessels: 1 per paying passenger, no more than 15 per vessel per trip.</strong></td>
<td><strong>For current regulations refer to <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sta/hms/">www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sta/hms/</a> or call (727) 824-5399.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Yellowfin</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>27” curved fork length</td>
<td>3 per person per trip</td>
<td><em><em>For prohibition species: 1 authorized</em> shark/vessel/trip plus 1 Atlantic sharpnose and 1 bonnethead shark/person/trip</em>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharks*</td>
<td>Aggregate Large Coastal Group Pelagic Group</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>Aggregate Large Coastal and Pelagic: Shortfin Mako: Male: 71” fork length Female: 83” fork length All others 54” fork length Hammerheads: 78” fork length Other listed sharks: None</td>
<td><strong>See below for list of shark groups which MAY be kept or MUST be released. Swordfish, tuna and sharks require an HMS permit when fishing in federal waters (3–200 nm). For permits, refer to <a href="https://hmspermits.noaa.gov">https://hmspermits.noaa.gov</a> or call (888) 872-8862. Recreational fishermen (those that do not have a limited access commercial shark permit) can not sell, barter or trade any Atlantic shark or shark pieces.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahoo</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>2 per person per day</td>
<td><strong>For more information, contact the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council at (843) 571-4366.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wreckfish</td>
<td>July 1–Aug. 31</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>1 per vessel per day</td>
<td><strong>For current federal waters regulations (3–200nm), refer to <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sta/hms/">www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sta/hms/</a> or call (888) 872-8862.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Shark Species That MAY Be Kept (Authorized Species): Aggregate Large Coastal Shark—blacktip, bull, lemon, nurse, tiger, spinner; Hammerhead Shark—scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, great hammerhead; Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Shark—Atlantic sharpnose, bonnethead, finetooth; Blacknose Shark—blacknose; Pelagic Shark—Shortfin mako, blue, porbeagle, oceanic whitetip and common thresher. Shark Species THAT MUST BE Released (Prohibited Species): Atlantic angel, basking, bigeye sand tiger, bigeye bio-stigill, bigeye bio-thresher, bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, dusky, Galapagos, longfin mako, narrowtooth, night, sandbar, sand tiger, sevengill, silky, sigill, smalltail, whale and white.**

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**Notes**

1 Bluefin tuna are managed in two regions; Northern, extending north from the Great Egg Inlet and Southern extending south from Great Egg Inlet. Bluefin tuna retention limits may change throughout the season. Visit [https://hmspermits.noaa.gov](https://hmspermits.noaa.gov) or call (888) 872-8862 or (978) 281-9260 for current information.

All recreational bluefin tuna landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at [https://hmspermits.noaa.gov](https://hmspermits.noaa.gov) or by calling (800) 894-5528.

For permits, refer to [https://hmspermits.noaa.gov](https://hmspermits.noaa.gov) or call (888) 872-8862 or 888-USA-TUNA for up-to-date limits.

All non-tournament swordfish landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at [https://hmspermits.noaa.gov](https://hmspermits.noaa.gov) or by calling (800) 894-5528.

For charter vessels: 1 bonnethead shark/person/trip plus 1 Atlantic sharpnose and 1 bonnethead shark/vessel/trip.

For headboat vessels: 1 per paying passenger, no more than 15 per vessel per trip.

For current federal waters regulations (3–200nm), refer to www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sta/hms/ or call (727) 824-5326.
Shellfish License Information

A shellfish license (formerly called clamming license) is required for harvesting all species of benthic mollusks (except conchs, addressed in the commercial marine fisheries regulations), including, but not limited to, hard and soft clams, surf clams, oysters, bay scallops and mussels. Other specific commercial shellfish licenses exist such as surf clam dredge, Delaware Bay oyster dredge boat and Delaware Bay licenses to harvest in Areas 1, 2 and 3.

Anyone engaged in any shellfish harvesting activity with someone holding a commercial shellfish license must also possess their own commercial shellfish license.


Chesapeake-Style Crab Pot

Shellfish License Fees
- Resident recreational shellfish: $10
  Harvest limit: 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. Sale of catch prohibited.
- Non-resident recreational shellfish: $20
  Harvest limit: 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. Sale of catch prohibited. License valid only during June, July, August and September.
- Juvenile recreational shellfish: $2
  For persons under 14 years of age. Subject to same restrictions as resident or nonresident adult recreational license holders.
- Resident commercial shellfish: $50
  Unlimited harvest. Shellfish may be sold only to certified dealers.
- Non-resident Commercial Shellfish: $250
  Unlimited harvest. Shellfish may be sold only to certified dealers.
- Resident senior citizen recreational shellfish license: FREE lifetime license ($2 application fee). NJ residents age 62 years or older. Harvest limit: 150 shellfish (in aggregate) per day. Sale of shellfish prohibited.
- Disabled veterans: Fish and Wildlife-certified disabled veterans are eligible for free shellfish license at any shellfish license agent location. To become certified, call (609) 984-6213.

Recreational crab pot/trot line license: $2
Harvest limit: one bushel per day. Refer to the shellfish regulations on page 20 for all recreational crabbing regulations.

Non-commercial crab dredge license: $15
Harvest limit: one bushel per day during the crab dredge season. See page 20 for recreational crab regulations.

Terrapin Excluders and Biodegradable Panels Are Required on Chesapeake-Style Crab Pots

NOTE: It is illegal to catch or take diamondback terrapins in New Jersey. Users of non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots: note all pots set in any body of water less than 150-feet wide at mean low tide or in any manmade lagoon MUST include diamondback terrapin excluder devices. Non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots set in any body of water MUST include biodegradable panels. These crab pot modifications will help reduce the unintentional drowning of terrapins allowing these and other species to escape in the event that pots are lost or abandoned. Terrapin excluder devices must be no larger than 2-inch high by 6-inch wide and securely fastened inside each funnel entrance. Biodegradable panels must measure at least 6½-inch wide by 5-inch high and be located in the upper section of the crab pot. The panel must be constructed of, or fastened to the pot with, wood lath, cotton, hemp, sisal or jute twine not greater than ⅜” diameter, or non-stainless steel, uncoated ferrous metal not greater than ⅜” diameter. The door or a side of the pot may serve as the biodegradable panel ONLY if it is fastened to the pot with any of the material specified above. Crabbers should note: ALL non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots MUST be licensed and marked with the gear identification number of the owner. For crab pot license information and regulations, see page 20.

Shellfish and Non-Commercial Crab Pot License Information

(For over-the-counter sales only. Call first to be sure the agents licensing system is active.)

ATLANTIC COUNTY
- Bass Pro Outdoor World, 30 N. Christopher Columbus Blvd, Atlantic City ... (609) 449-4500
- Buck Tails Outfitters, 639 Harding Hwy, Mays Landing ................. (609) 829-2229
- Butternhod’s Farm & Home Supply, 5715 White Horse Pike, Egg Harbor City ... (609) 965-1198
- Lynkris Hometown Hardware, 208 N. Philadelphia Ave., Egg Harbor City ... (609) 965-0815
- Lynkris Hometown Hardware, 127, Bellvue Ave, Hammonton .......... (609) 561-1592

CAPE MAY COUNTY
- Avalon Hodge Podge, 2389 Ocean Dr., Avalon ............................................ (609) 967-2827
- Belleplain Supply, 346 Handtill Rd., Belleplain ... (609) 861-2345
- City of Ocean City, 861 Asbury Ave., Ocean City ... (609) 529-9328
- Leisure Travel & Ticket Office, 1 Monument Ave, Cape May ... (609) 698-6890
- Sea Gear Outfitters, Ocean City ... (609) 884-0330
- Sea Isle Bait & Tackle, 4200 Park Rd., Sea Isle City ... (609) 263-6540
- United Uniforms, 1050 RT. 47, Rio Grande ... (609) 849-9347
- Upper Township, 2100 Tuckahoe Rd., Tuckahoe ... (609) 628-2805
- Wal*Mart, 3159 Rt. 9 S., Rio Grande ... (609) 465-7760

CAMDEN COUNTY
- Atlantic Motors, 631 Rt. 9 So., Little Egg Harbor ... (609) 296-2430
- Surf City Bait & Tackle, 317 Long Beach Blvd., Surf City ... (609) 494-2333
- Pell’s Fish & Sport Shop, 335 Mantoloking Rd., Bricktown ... (732) 477-2121
- Lacey Marine, Forked River ... (609) 693-0151
- Grizz’s B & T, 103 Lacey Rd., Forked River ... (609) 693-9298

GLOUCESTER COUNTY
- Sportsman’s Outpost, 2517 Fries Mill Rd., Williamstown ... (856) 881-3244
- Caso’s Gun-A-Rama, 176 Danforth Ave., Jersey City ... (201) 435-5099
- The Sporting Life, 653 Highway 22E, Whitehouse Station ... (908) 923-4332
- Auto Parts of Woodbridge, 108 Main St., Woodbridge ... (732) 634-6264
- Sayreville Sportsman Shop, 52 Washington Ave., Sayreville ... (732) 238-2060

HUNTERDON COUNTY
- Brielle Bait & Tackle, 800 Ashley Ave., Brielle ... (732) 528-5720

MONMOUTH COUNTY
- Grizz’s B & T, 103 Lacey Rd., Forked River ... (609) 693-9298
- Lacey Marine, Forked River ... (609) 693-0151
- Pell’s Fish & Sport Shop, 335 Mantoloking Rd., Bricktown ... (732) 477-2121
- Pineland Sporting Goods, 959 W. Veterans Hwy., Jackson ... (732) 961-7248
- Shooter’s Sporting Center, 1535 Route 539, Little Egg Harbor ... (609) 296-4080
- Surf City Bait & Tackle, 317 Long Beach Blvd., Surf City ... (609) 494-2333
- Wal*Mart, 631 RT. 9 So., Little Egg Harbor ... (609) 296-2430

OCEAN COUNTY
- Creekside Outfitters, 403 RT. 9, Waretown ... (609) 242-1812
- Downes Marina, 287 Brennan Concours, Bayville ... (732) 269-0137
- Garden State Yacht & Sales, 101 Route 35 South, Pt. Pleasant Beach ... (732) 892-4222
- Lacey Marine, Forked River ... (609) 693-9298
- Pell’s Fish & Sport Shop, 335 Mantoloking Rd., Bricktown ... (732) 477-2121
- Pineland Sporting Goods, 959 W. Veterans Hwy., Jackson ... (732) 961-7248
- Shooter’s Sporting Center, 1535 Route 539, Little Egg Harbor ... (609) 296-4080
- Surf City Bait & Tackle, 317 Long Beach Blvd., Surf City ... (609) 494-2333
- Wal*Mart, 631 RT. 9 So., Little Egg Harbor ... (609) 296-2430

OCOTBER 1, 2023