

NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife

BLUEFISH FOR HIRE REGULATIONS

Bluefish regulations in effect January 1, 2021

- 5 fish (no size limit) for any person fishing from a party/charter vessel with a valid Federal party/charter vessel permit, and captained by a properly credentialed operator with a valid US Coast Guard endorsement. See important notes regarding for-hire trips below.
- 3 fish (no size limit) for all other anglers.

Important notes regarding Bluefish for-hire trips:

- Any angler fishing from a charter/party vessel, captained by a properly credentialed operator with a valid USCG endorsement and valid Federal party/charter permit, may land five fish, including the captain and his mates.
- Federal law restricts captains and their mates from pooling catch.
- If a charter/party boat holds a federal commercial permit, they are subject to a 5-fish limit when carrying passengers for hire.
- Private recreational vessels not fishing under a bluefish commercial permit or charter vessel permit may land three fish (per person).
- The owner, operator and crew of a charter/party boat issued a bluefish commercial permit are not subject to the recreational possession limit when not carrying passengers for hire and when the crew size does not exceed five for a party boat and three for a charter boat (these are commercial trips, and the commercial 9" minimum size limit applies).