

This summary provides a broad overview for the recreational fishery in Federal waters, 3-200 miles offshore; the regulations summarized here may be found at 50 CFR part 648.

Please keep in mind that, if the Federal minimum size, possession limit, and/or season differ from the regulations for the state in which you will be landing, you must follow the more restrictive regulations.

Updated July, 2017

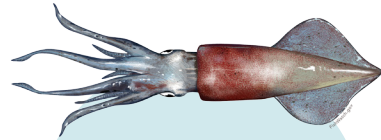
Questions regarding charter/party and recreational vessel regulations?

**Contact:
Sustainable Fisheries
Division
(978) 281 - 9315**



**Summer Flounder
(Fluke)**

Please see regulations for the State you will be fishing in (Table 1)



Longfin Squid

No Minimum Size
Unlimited
All Year



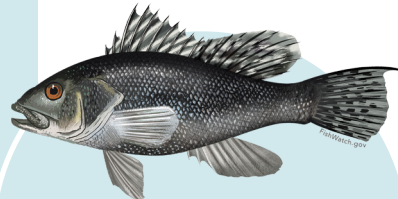
Shortfin Squid

No Minimum Size
Unlimited
All year



Butterfish

No Minimum Size
Unlimited
All Year



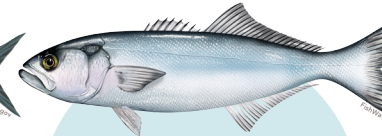
Black Sea Bass

12.5 inches
15 Fish Limit
May 15 - Sept 21 &
Oct 22 - Dec 31



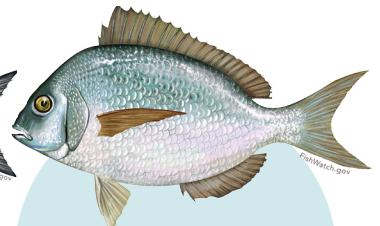
Atlantic Mackerel

No Minimum Size
Unlimited
All year



Bluefish

No Minimum Size
15 Fish Limit
All year



Scup/Porgies

9 inches
50 Fish Limit
All year



Golden Tilefish

No Minimum Size
8 Fish Limit
All year

Important Notes:

- Fishing for striped bass in the EEZ is prohibited
- No possession of Atlantic sturgeon
- 14 inch min. size limit for Weakfish
- Information on tunas and sharks go to <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/>

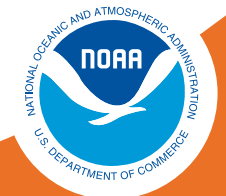


Table 1: 2017 State Recreational Measures for Summer Flounder

State	Minimum Size	Possession Limit	Open Season(s)
MA	17 inches	4 fish	5/22 - 9/23
RI	19 inches	4 fish	5/1 - 12/31
CT *	19 inches	3 fish	5/17 - 9/21
NY	19 inches	3 fish	5/17 - 9/21
*CT, 46 designated shore sites	17 inches	3 fish	5/17 - 9/21
NJ*	18 inches	3 fish	5/25 - 9/5
*NJ, 1 designated shore site	16 inches	2 fish	5/25 - 9/5
DE	17 inches	4 fish	All Year
MD			
VA			
NC			

*NJ) inside Delaware Bay (west of the COLREGs line at Cape May, NJ), anglers may keep 3 fish at 17 inches, May 25-September 5.

Table 2: 2017 State Recreational Measures for Black Sea Bass

State	Minimum Size	Possession Limit	Open Season(s)
ME	13 inches	10 fish	5/19 - 9/21 10/18 - 12/31
NH	13 inches	10 fish	All Year
MA	15 inches	5 fish	5/20 - 8/29
RI	15 inches	3 fish	5/25 - 8/31
		7 fish	9/1 - 9/21 10/22-12-31
CT	Private	15"	5 fish
	Party/Charter		8 fish
NY	15 inches	3 fish	6/27 - 8/31
		8 fish	9/1 - 10/31
		10 fish	11/1 - 12/31
NJ	12.5 inches	10 fish	5/26 - 6/18
		2 fish	7/1 - 8/31
		Fall Season Regulations TBD	
DE	12.5 inches	15 fish	5/15 - 9/21
MD & VA			10/22 - 12/31
NC (North of Cape Hatteras)	12.5 inches	15 fish	All year

Table 3: 2017 State Recreational Measures for Scup

State	Fishing Mode	Minimum Size	Possession Limit	Open Season(s)
MA	Private	10 inches	30 fish/person or 150 fish/vessel if 5 or more anglers are aboard	5/1 - 12/31
	Charter/Party - Bonus		45 fish	5/1 - 6/30
	Charter/ Party - Regular		30 fish	7/1 - 12/31
RI	Private	10 inches	30 fish	5/1-12/31
	Shore Program (7 designated shore sites)	9 inches		
	Charter/Party	10 inches	30 fish	5/1 - 8/31 11/1 - 12/ 31
			45 fish	9/1 - 10/31
CT	Private	10 inches	30 fish	5/1 - 12/31
	Shore Program (46 designated shore sites)	9 inches		
	Party/Charter Bonus Season	10 inches	45 fish	9/1 - 10/31
NY	Private	10 inches	30 fish	5/1 - 12/ 31
	Charter/Party		45 fish	9/1 - 10/31
NJ	All	9 inches	50 fish	1/1 - 2/28 7/1 - 12/31
DE	All	8 inches	50 fish	All Year
MD	All	8 inches	50 fish	
VA	All	8 inches	30 fish	
NC (North of Cape Hatteras)	All	8 inches	50 fish	

Please keep in mind that, if the Federal minimum size, possession limit, and/or season differ from the regulations for the state in which you will be landing, you must follow the more restrictive regulations.