Saltwater

2021 RECREATIONAL FISHING GUIDE



- Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations
- Commonly Caught Species
- Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Derby
- Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Calendar
- Lobstering and Crabbing
- Bait & Tackle Shops
- Charter & Head Boats

Shhhhh. No wake zone.



Protect your baby (and their toys) with coverage for fishing gear and personal property too.

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On the Cover:

Charter Captain Mel True of Fishnet Charters shows off a scup caught by a customer.

Photo courtesy Capt. Mel True

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Getting Back to Normal

Fishing has always been a popular pastime, but in 2020 we saw a surge in interest because of the pandemic. DMF saw an increase in resident saltwater fishing permit sales of about 20%. Many anglers rediscovered great local fishing. Fishing is a lot of fun, can produce amazing fresh nutrition, and is by nature a "socially distanced" form of recreation. Tackle shops saw many product lines sold out, and boat dealers saw unprecedented sales. More people stayed close to home and rediscovered the pursuit of our prized species such as striped bass, bluefish, sea bass, scup, and more. However for-hire fishing businesses, including party and charter boats, who often accommodate tourist anglers, suffered greatly this past year due to the pandemic's travel and vessel capacity limitations. Those captains are ready in 2021 to take their customers once again to productive fishing grounds for some excellent fishing.



Daniel I. McKiernan. Director

On the resource side, striped bass anglers all along the east coast are now using circle hooks to minimize the inadvertent mortality to released stripers. The response to this new rule has been very positive as so many anglers want to see their sport fishing sustained. Another encouraging sign is the abundance of menhaden (AKA "pogies") that have been seen in large and recurring schools throughout state waters, especially north of Cape Cod. These filter-feeding fish, rich in oil and calories, are the preferred prey of so many predator fish. Follow the bait and you will find the fish...and the sea birds, the ospreys, and marine mammals such as humpback whales. Speaking of whales, DMF and the MA Environmental Police can use your help to report any sightings of any entangled or stranded marine mammals or turtles. You can find the list of contacts in this guide.

On shore, DMF is proud to open its newest fishing pier at Deer Island in Boston this year. This amazing fishing structure was erected on MA Water Resources Authority property and was a cooperative project with the Authority. This is another in the growing list of DMF-funded access projects that are supported with the dedicated saltwater fishing permit revenues. DMF is working diligently with its partners including the Office of Fishing and Boating Access to improve the ability of anglers to reach the water.

Don't forget to enter the Saltwater Derby for 2021. We are hoping to be able to reconvene next winter with all the 2021 winners for an in-person trophy ceremony. We are all looking forward to more in-person meetings and gatherings with the fishing public soon. Getting back to normal will eventually mean gathering in larger groups again for the things we all love to do: the backyard cookout, Red Sox games, the 4th of July and enjoying one another's company. This past year has reminded us how rewarding fishing can be with friends and family, so go fishing! Fish from shore, fish from one of the DMF piers, or fish on a charter or party boat where the captains' skill and knowledge can practically guarantee success.



Your Permit Dollars at Work

Public Access

- Develops and maintains large fishing
- Funds small projects improving or repairing existing access sites
- Funds the deployment of dedicated recreational artificial reefs

Angler Education

- Provides free clinics for young anglers
- Develops online resources for classroom educators

Improved Recreational **Catch Data**

• Increases the sample size for the Marine Recreational Information Program's Access Point Angler Intercept Survey

Research and Conservation

- River herring population management and restoration work
- Striped bass migratory patterns and genetics

For more information see our website www.mass.gov/marinefisheries





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Department of Fish and Game

Ronald Amidon Commissioner

Division of Marine Fisheries

Daniel J. McKiernan Director



Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission:

Raymond W. Kane Jr. - Chatham Chairman

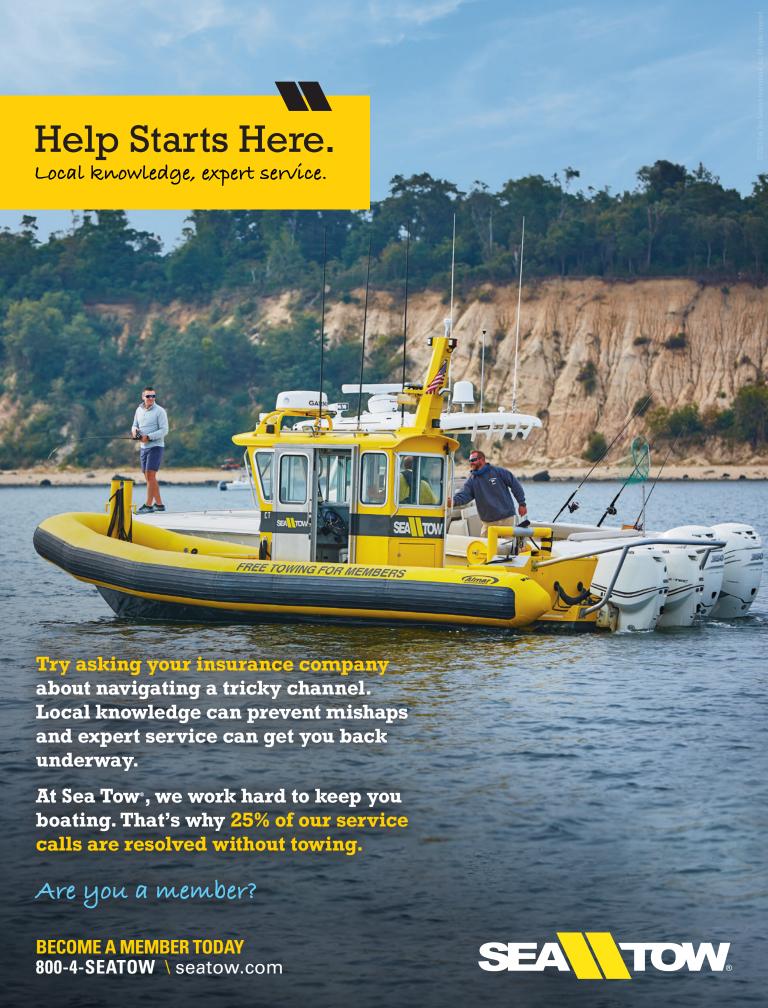
Kalil Boghdan - Hamilton Tim Brady – Plymouth William Doyle - Plymouth Michael Pierdinock - Plymouth Bill Amaru - Orleans Shelley Edmundson - Tisbury Arthur Sawyer - Gloucester Louis Williams - Salem



Marine Recreational Fisheries Development Panel

Kalil Boghdan - Hamilton Chairman

Kevin Blinkoff - Bourne Patrick Paquette - Hyannis Mike Moss - Sutton Michael Pierdinock - Plymouth

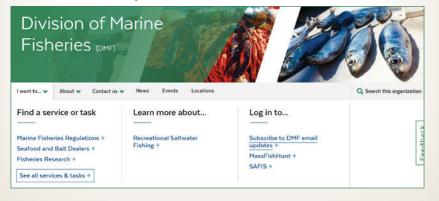


The Division of Marine Fisheries The Department of Fish and Game's Division of Marine Fisheries is responsible for the manage-

The Department of Fish and Game's Division of Marine Fisheries is responsible for the management of the Commonwealth's living marine resources. The Division promotes and develops commercial and recreational fisheries through research, technical assistance, and the collection of statistics. Biologists are assigned to regions of the state and interact with many federal, interstate, state, and local management agencies as well as local fishing groups. For further information, contact your local Recreational Fisheries Biologist.



We've implemented a new email subscription service to make it easier for you to get timely updates on the topics which interest you. Stay connected with the latest DMF recreational, commercial, and event updates by signing up. Go to mass.gov/marinefisheries and click "subscribe to DMF email updates"



Recreational Fisheries Program Biologists

South Shore Office:

836 South Rodney French Boulevard New Bedford, MA 02744 (508) 990-2860

John Boardman

South Shore/South Coast john.boardman@mass.gov

Annisquam River Marine Fisheries Station:

30 Emerson Avenue Gloucester, MA 01930 (978) 282-0308

Matt Ayer

North Shore/Metro Boston matt.ayer@mass.gov

Boston Office:

251 Causeway St., Suite 400 Boston. MA 02114 (617) 626-1520



Office of Law Enforcement

Environmental Police Officers are responsible for enforcing Massachusetts fish and game laws including the commercial and recreational harvest of living marine resources. In addition, they also enforce the Commonwealth's boating and recreational vehicle laws and regulations. Fishing violations can be reported to the following number:

Toll-Free Number: 1-800-632-8075



Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

About This Guide

This high-quality guide is offered to you by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

The revenue generated through ad sales significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important agency programs.

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This guide is also available online at

eRegulations.com





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ATTENTION ANGLERS: REWARD

Acoustic Tagging Research

DMF is conducting multiple tagging studies to investigate the movements of striped bass, Atlantic cod, and winter flounder. Fish have been both internally and externally tagged with acoustic transmitters.





Acoustic receiver

Acoustic transmitter



Acoustically tagged striped bass

If you recapture a tagged fish (with DMF on the tag):

Record the:

date caught, location, length, weight, and tag number.

If the fish is being harvested, retain the internal tag.

To claim your reward contact:

MA Division of Marine Fisheries

Bill Hoffman

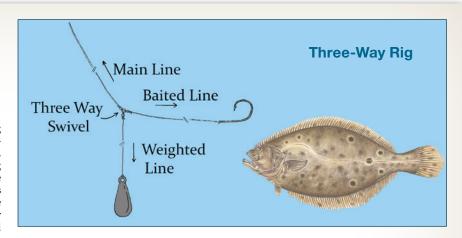
Bill Hoffman

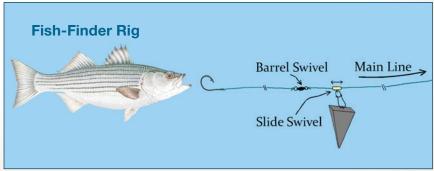
(978) 282-0308 ext. 106 bill.hoffman@mass.gov

Common Rigs Used for Bait Fishing

Three-Way Rig: Gets its name from using a three-way swivel and is useful for catching striped bass, tautog, winter flounder, and just about any other bottom-dwelling species. Various lengths (6-24 inches) can be used for the weighed leader which carries the bait down in the water column. The baited leader (12-36 inches) presents live or dead bait when stationary or drifting and can be used to slow-troll plugs or other lures.

Fish-Finder Rig: A simple rig to set-up and tie that can be used when fishing for multiple species from shore. This rig allows for large pieces of bait to be presented and allows for the fish to ingest the bait before setting the hook. The weight on the slide swivel holds the line down but allows for the bait to be dropped back to fish such as striped bass, fluke, and many others.





These and more fishing knots are available on waterproof plastic cards at www.proknot.com

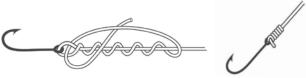
Improved Clinch Knot— Blood Knot—

The improved clinch knot has become one of the most popular knots for tying terminal tackle connections. It is quick and easy to tie and is strong and reliable.

The knot can be difficult to tie in lines in excess of 30 lb test. Five+ turns around the standing line is generally recommended, four can be used in heavy line. This knot is not recommended with braided lines.



1. Thread end of the line through the eye of the hook, swivel or lure. Double back and make five or more turns around the standing line. Bring the end of the line through the first loop formed behind the eye, then through the big loop.

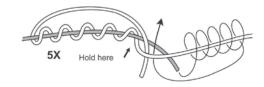


2. Wet knot and pull slightly on the tag end to draw up coils. Pull on the standing line to form knot with coils pressed neatly together.



clip tag end.

Use this knot to join sections of leader or line together. It works best with line of approximately equal diameter.



1. Overlap ends of lines to be joined. Twist one around the other making 5 turns. Bring tag end back between the two lines. Repeat with other end, wrapping in opposite direction the same number of turns.



2. Slowly pull lines or leaders in opposite directions. Turns will wrap and gather.



3. Pull tight and clip ends closely.

2021 Saltwater Fishing Permit Today!

Who Needs a Permit?

All anglers age 16 or older that wish to engage in the recreational activity of finfishing, with the following exceptions:

- Anglers who regardless of their age otherwise meet the definition of a disabled person in M.G.L. c. 19C
- Anglers fishing on permitted for-hire vessels (charter/head boat)

Reciprocity

- All permitted MA residents may fish in the three neighboring coastal states (NH, RI, CT)
- Permitted anglers from these three neighboring coastal states may also fish in MA waters

Permit Fee

- The fee for an individual angler (resident or non-resident) is \$10
- No charge for anglers age 60 or over

How Will the Permit Fee Money be Used?

All money from permit fees are deposited into a dedicated account and can only be used for implementing projects that will enhance recreational saltwater fishing including:

- Improvement of public access for recreational saltwater anglers
- Development and implementation of education materials for the public
- Other marine recreational fishing programs approved by the recreational fishing development panel



To Obtain a 2021 Massachusetts Recreational Saltwater Fishing Permit:

Visit our website at:

www.mass.gov/marinefisheries

Call toll-free from 5am-5pm:

1-866-703-1925

For a list of permit vendor locations and to view frequently asked questions, please visit our website at:

www.mass.gov/marinefisheries

For questions, please email: marine.fish@mass.gov

or call:

Boston – (617) 626-1520 **Gloucester** – (978) 282-0308 x150 **New Bedford** – (508) 990-2860



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512 Amherst St., Nashua, NH (603) 882-8868

1139 N. Montello St., Brockton, MA (508) 588-1018

100 Broadway, Route 1N, Saugus, MA (781) 233-3900

1271 Main St., Tewksbury, MA (978) 851-9024



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Have You Fished Today?

Here's What You Could Be Catching!



Know How To Handle Your Fish -Both On The Line and Off

Use circle hooks.

Circle hooks, along with barbless hooks, greatly reduce the chance of lethally wounding a fish. Make sure that the point is in line with the shank and not offset (often sold as octopus circle hooks); this is especially important in catch and release.

Have a fair fight.

Use appropriate tackle for the size and species of fish you're trying to catch. Stay focused when reeling in fish as higher stress levels and often higher mortality rates are associated with longer fight times.

Stay wet.

When the fish gets close, be sure to handle it with wet hands. Using a dry cloth or gloves can remove both slime and scales, both needed for the fish's health.



Save Fish

DMF strongly recommends the use of circle hooks for their proven ability to reduce mortality of released fish.

Keep it in the water.

If you aren't going to keep or measure the fish, try to remove the hook with the fish in the water. This will keep the fish happier and both you and your boat cleaner!

Support the fish.

When removing a fish from the water, be sure to support the full body weight. Place your hand under the belly of the fish as you lift it out of the water. Don't ever grab the fish by the gills or eyes and never hold the fish up by only its jaw.

Get that hook out.

Hopefully you're using a circle hook, but whatever hook it is, get it out quickly. Use a dehooker if you don't need to pull the fish out of the water or pliers if necessary to remove a stubborn hook. If the hook is deep in the mouth or gut, simply cut the line as close to the

Reduce time out of the water.

The longer the fish stays out of the water, the greater the chance of mortality. Get a quick photo or measurement and get it back into the water. Be sure to know the regulations before you start fishing so there is no question as to what the size limit is.

Don't just toss it back.

Remember, a fish out of water is holding its breath! Help it take a "deep breath" by releasing it head-first. If necessary, hold onto the fish and move it back and forth in the water to increase flow of oxygen-rich water over its gills before letting it go.



Circle Hooks Save Fish!

Did you know...



- Recreational anglers in Massachusetts catch and release millions of fish each year!
- Sometimes fish die from their hook wounds after they are released back into the ocean.
- Circle hooks can help lower the number of these deaths by 50%!

Using Circle Hooks



When using **live bait**, turn the hook through soft flesh or bridle the bait to the hook.



For **cut-bait**, rotate the piece completely onto the hook to ensure it doesn't fall off.



When the fish takes the bait, **be patient and don't set** the hook.



Calmly reel the line tight and the **hook will do all** the work.

What species benefit from Circle Hooks?

Fish that eat by inhaling their food are good candidates for circle hooks. Examples include:



 Striped Bass hook size: 7/0, 8/0, 9/0, 10/0



• Black Sea Bass hook size: 4/0, 5/0, 6/0



• Tuna Species
be sure the gap on the hook
you select is large enough to fit
around the lip of your target fish

New Coastwide Rule for 2021

- Striped bass anglers must use in-line circle hooks when targeting striped bass if using bait: any marine or aquatic organism, live or dead, whole or parts thereof.
- Visit www.mass.gov/marinefisheries for more information.



Circle Hook

J-Hook

Why don't circle hooks snag?

Circle hooks are designed so that the point is turned back towards the shank at a 90° angle. This causes the hook to catch on the lip or mouth instead of the gut or gills.



Offset Hook

Circle Hook

Avoid offset hooks

Offset hooks are NOT true circle hooks! The offset shape makes it easy to "foulhook" a fish.





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New Deer Island Pier **Open This Season!**

Recreational saltwater anglers value access to high quality fishing locations along our coastline. Access can mean a boat ramp, sandy beach, rocky jetty, fishing pier, and even artificial reefs. In keeping with the mission of continuing to provide and protect that access, DMF, along with the Department of Fish and Game's Office of Fishing and Boating Access (FBA) have constructed a brand-new fishing pier in Boston Harbor. The Deer Island Pier is open and ready for anglers of all skill levels to enjoy the phenomenal sights and target a variety of species, including striped bass, mackerel, and winter flounder!

A fishing pier providing access to Boston Harbor was first conceived by the Marine Recreational Fisheries Development Panel back in 2012. This appointed panel provides advice to the DMF director on recreational permit revenue fund spending. At the time, with several successful pier projects on Cape Cod and the Islands either completed or in the pipeline, panel members stressed to DMF that seeking out an urban opportunity for a future large-scale fishing access project would benefit a wide range of anglers.

At first sight, the Deer Island location was promising on many levels. Further evaluation by staff biologists and local fishing experts supported the site as a suitable location to provide much-needed public access to Boston Harbor. In 2015, the panel endorsed the development of a recreational fishing pier at Deer Island.

Over the next few years, DMF worked with other state and local agencies, stakeholders, and engineers to take the Deer Island Fishing Pier from a concept to construction. In late July, 2019, construction began with the dissembling of a portion of the rocky shoreline, the first sign of the stunning pier to come.

Getting to this point required DMF's close cooperation with two and the FBA. The MWRA owns and operates the Deer Island Wasteimprovement and construction of new and old access sites.

way out onto the newly finished pier. The final step of the project was having a new parking lot built adjacent to the pier. The additional parking and existing bus service make this an exceptional site for the fishing public who want to travel to this newest access point on the Massachusetts coastline!

During construction, schools of striped bass were seen blitzing within casting distance from the end of the pier. Local anglers have told tales of winter flounder being caught in the footprint of this location. Bluefish and tautog are no stranger to these waters either. There is little doubt that many fish will be caught form this steel and timber structure and the memories of time spent fishing with family and friends will last for many years to come.

This projected is funded by the Marine Recreational Fisheries Development Fund which is financed through the sale of recreational saltwater fishing permits. One third of the fund is dedicated to providing anglers with public access to saltwater fishing opportunities.



We need your help!

Become a citizen scientist!

We're looking for volunteer anglers to report their groundfish catch, fishing time, and locations. The first 100 participants will get a free pair of fishing pliers, and each reported fishing trip will enter your name in a drawing for a YETI cooler.



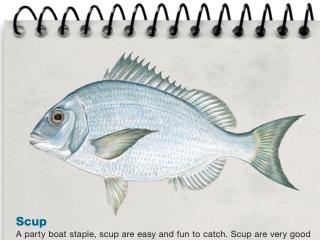


Go to www.mass.gov/haddock to sign up.





Species Profile: Scup



A party boat staple, scup are easy and fun to catch. Scup are very good eating though be careful of the many bones.

Location: South side of Cape Cod and along coast to Rhode Island Season: May-October

Baits and Lures: Clams, strips of squid, seaworms.

Methods and Tackle: Light- to medium-weight tackle, drift-fishing, jetties, piers, bridges.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weights: Adult 2 lb.

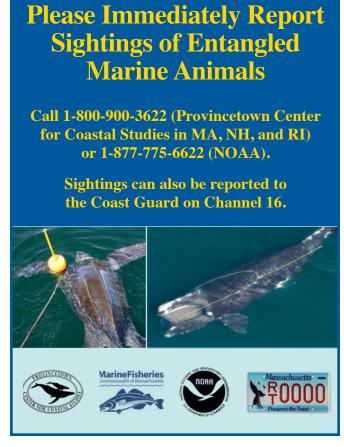
If you're looking for something new to catch and eat, try scup! This seafood recommendation may come as a surprise to the many anglers who have caught and released these plentiful and voracious feeders without realizing that scup are quite tasty and easy to prepare.

With a shiny, silvery color and tall disc-like body, the scup is a commonly caught species in areas like Nantucket Sound, Vineyard Sound, and Buzzards Bay.

Large schools of scup can be found starting in early May, when Massachusetts coastal waters reach 45 degrees. Scup are a lot of fun to catch, and if you come upon a large school the action can be fast and furious as you drop and reel to your heart's content. Take caution when handling scup during hook removal, as they have very sharp dorsal spines.

In Southern New England, scup spawn from May to August, peaking in June. By age 2-3 (when they are roughly 6 inches), most scup are sexually mature. Females release an average of 7,000 eggs per annual spawn, which often takes place over sandy or weedy areas. Fertilized eggs float for about 40 hours before they hatch, and larvae begin feeding





on copepods and other plankton within several days. As larvae mature, they settle to the sea floor and develop into juveniles. These juveniles will remain in shallow water estuaries through the summer and early fall. Each year, as many as 80% of all juvenile scup are eaten by larger predators such as striped bass, bluefish, and black sea bass. Adult scup feed on bottom invertebrates like crabs, annelid worms, clams, mussels, jellyfish, and sand dollars. Scup can live up to at least 14 years, weigh up to 5 pounds, and grow up to 18 inches, although most of the catch in Massachusetts consists of fish less than 6 years old, 3 pounds in weight, and 14 inches in length. The current state record scup is 5 pounds 14 ounces!

Scup are targeted by both commercial and recreational fishermen, and they are regulated by both interstate and federal fish-

ery management plans. Overall, the management plans allocate 78% of the annual allowed harvest to the commercial fishery, and 22% to the recreational fishery. The commercial fishery is managed by a quota system, minimum fish size, and gear restrictions. The recreational fishery is managed by regional possession limits, minimum sizes, and season lengths designed to achieve the harvest limit. There are also special regulations for the charter and party boat fisheries.

The scup stock is managed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and is in great shape with the estimate of spawning stock biomass being almost double the target value. This is good news for this important species that is targeted not only by anglers but also by other predatory fish that feed on the smaller scup as prey.



Photos courtesy Capt. Joe Huckemeyer

So go on, get out there on the water and catch up this tasty species. You can catch them from shore, private boat, charterboat, or headboat. As with any species, be familiar with the regulations and have a measuring device ready to quickly check if you have keepers, should you wish to take some home.

Fileting a scup takes some practice, but once you get the hang of it the meat is a cinch to cook. A very sharp filet knife and a sturdy cutting surface are a must, and watching a few video tutorials of fileting a scup will help ensure you get as much meat as possible from your catch. Baked, broiled, grilled, or pan fried, scup is a light and sweet fish that cooks quickly and is a delicious addition to your weekly meal plan!



J&J WHOLESALE BAIT 519 Crescent St, Brockton, MA 02302 (508) 587-0150 JJWholesaleBait@Gmail.com J&J WHOLESALE FRESH AND FROZEN BAIT SALTWATER: Live Eels, Sand Worms, Squid, Mackerel, Herring, Pogies, Clams, Ballyhoo, Chum, Green Crabs, Butterfish. FRESHWATER: Nightcrawlers, Shiners, **Meal Worms, Trout Worms** REGULAR DELIVERIES to Cape Cod and Rhode Island! Servicing Cape Cod with high quality product for over 30 years! Refridgerated or Frozen on delivery

Retail store located in Brockton.

BAIT · TACKLE · LICENSES

Approximately one-half of all saltwater recreational fishing trips take place from shore.

Unfortunately, this highly popular method of fishing is being threatened by the rapidly accelerating loss of public access to coastal waters. Much of this loss is the direct result of acquisition and development of coastal properties by private parties who then post their holdings against public access. In Massachusetts, colonial law granted private ownership to the intertidal zone (the wet sand), but reserved the public rights of fishing, fowling, and navigation. Although the public rights were reserved for certain uses of the intertidal zone, it is often not possible to enjoy those rights because access across private property to the intertidal zone was never reserved.

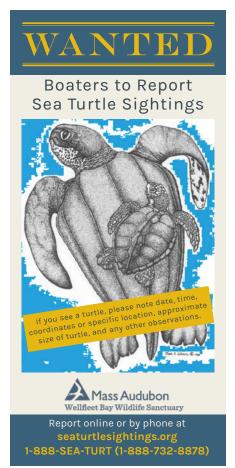
- Wareham River Fish Pier, Wareham
- · Craven's Landing at Scortons Creek, Sandwich
- · Popponesset Beach Shorefishing Area, Mashpee
- · Parker River Fishing Pier, Yarmouth
- Bass River Fishing Pier, Yarmouth (South Street)
- Bass River Fishing Pier, Yarmouth (High Bank Rd)
- · Dogfish Bar, Aquinnah

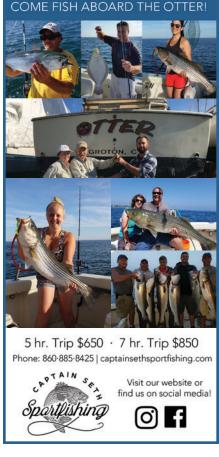
To guarantee that the public has access to shore-based fishing opportunities, the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries and the Department's Office of Fishing and Boating Access (FBA) with help from federal aid in Sport Fish Restoration funds and funds generated from the sale of recreational fishing permits, have made it a priority to find, acquire, and provide access by way of land acquisition of easements and/or tidal property.

Currently there are fourteen *MarineFisheries* properties and/or FBA properties or facilities providing anglers with access to shore fishing locations:

- · Great Rock Bight Shorefishing Area, Chilmark
- · Leland Beach, Edgartown
- Fore River Shorefishing Area, Quincy
- . Broad Cove Shorefishing Area, Somerset
- Cashman Park Fishing Pier, Newburyport
- · Oak Bluffs Fishing Pier, Martha's Vineyard
- Deer Island Fishing Pier, Boston

For a full listing of access sites, see pages 27-30.







LET'S GO SALTWATER FISHING!



This summer, children from age 7 to 15 and their families can join us for one of our Angler Education programs.

FREE clinics covering:

- · Knot tying
- · How to cast
- · Catch and release fishing tips
- · Educational activities
- AND MUCH MORE!

Clinic dates and registration are available on our website:

www.mass.gov/service-details/saltwater-angler-education-program









Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Regulations listed below are subject to change during the 2021 season.

SPECIES	NOTE	MIN. SIZE	OPEN PERIODS	POSSESSION LIMITS		
American Eel	(1)	9"	All Year	25 fish		
American Shad	(2)	Catch and rele	d release only, with exceptions.			
Black Sea Bass	(3,7)	15"	May 18 – Sep 8	5 fish		
Blue Marlin		Federal rules a	pply. Consult NOAA Fis	heries.		
Bluefish, Private Vessel & Shore		None	All Year	3 fish		
Bluefish, For-Hire Vessels		None	All Year	5 fish		
Cod (North of Cape Cod)	(4,5)	21"	Sep 15 - Sep 30 & Apr 1 - Apr 14	1 fish		
Cod (South & East of Cape Cod)	(4,5)	21"	All Year	10 fish		
Dab (Plaice)	(4,5)	14"	All Year	No limit		
Fluke (Summer Flounder)		17"	May 23 – Oct 9	5 fish		
Gray Sole (Witch)	(4,5)	14"	All Year	No limit		
Haddock (North of Cape Cod)	(4,5)	17"	Apr 1 - Dec 31	15 fish		
Halibut	(4,5)	41"	All Year	1 fish		
Monkfish	(4,5)	None	All Year	No limit		
Pollock	(4,5)	None	All Year	No limit		
Redfish	(4,5)	None	All Year	No limit		
River Herring		Harvest, posse	ession, sale and use are	prohibited.		
Sailfish		Federal rules apply. Consult NOAA Fisheries.				
Scup, Private Vessel & Shore	(7)	9" All Year		30 fish (150 fish/vessel maximum)		
Scup, For-Hire Vessels		9"	Jan 1 – Apr 30	30 fish		
			May 1 – June 30	50 fish		
			July 1 – Dec 31	30 fish		
Sharks (excludes spiny dogfish)		See www.mas current regulat	s.gov/marinefisheries fo	or		
Smelt		None	Jun 16 – Mar 14	50 fish		
Spiny Dogfish		None	All year	No limit		
Striped Bass	(6)	28" – less than 35"	All year	1 fish		
Tautog	(8)	16"	Apr 1 – May 31	3 fish		
			Jun 1 – Jul 31	1 fish		
			Aug 1 – Oct 14	3 fish		
			Oct 15 – Dec 31	5 fish		
Tunas		Federal rules a	pply. Consult NOAA Fis	heries.		
Weakfish		16"	All year	1 fish		
White Marlin		Federal rules a	pply. Consult NOAA Fis	heries.		
White Perch		8"	All year	25 fish		
Windowpane Flounder	(4,5)	Prohibited 25 non				
Winter Flounder (North of Cape Cod)	(4,5)	12"	All year	8 fish		
Winter Flounder (South & East of Cape Cod)	(4,5)	12"	Mar 1 – Dec 31	2 fish		
Wolffish	(4,5)	Prohibited				
Yellowtail Flounder	(4,5)	13"	All year	No limit		

Prohibitions

Snagging, snatching of anadromous fish: including shad, smelt, white perch, striped bass, trout, and salmon, but excluding alewives or blueback herring.

The taking of striped bass by any means other than hook-and-line.

To "high-grade" striped bass, i.e. the discard of dead, legal size striped bass.

To retain live striped bass in the water by attaching to a stringer or placing in a live well or holding car.

The taking of billfish using gear other than a rod and reel.

The taking of Atlantic salmon, sturgeon, all marine mammals, all sea turtles, and the diamond back terrapin from Massachusetts waters.

For anyone, except the owner, to handle, destroy, or molest any lobster or crab pot or other fishing gear, including any gear swept up on the shore, beaches or flats whether public or private, or to take fish there from.

To sell, barter, or exchange fish or shellfish without a commercial permit.

For any recreational fisherman to use any type of hook other than a circle hook when fishing for striped bass with bait: any marine or aquatic organism, live or dead, whole or parts thereof. This shall not apply to any artificial lure.

Notes:

- 1) Subject to regulation by the Division and the municipality. Please consult municipal regulations.
- 2) American shad is a catch and release fishery, except for on the Merrimack and Connecticut Rivers where anglers may retain up to 3 fish per day, with no minimum size limit.
- 3) Black sea bass are measured from the tip of the snout or jaw (mouth closed) to the farthest extremity of the tail, not including the tail filament.
- 4) Federal rules apply beyond state waters. Consult NOAA Fisheries for permitting requirements and regulations.
- 5) It is unlawful to fish with hook and line gear in the Winter Cod Conservation Closure from November 15 through January 31. It is unlawful to take cod from the Spring Cod Conservation Closure from April 16 through July 21.
- 6) Striped bass must be kept whole, meaning the head, tail, and body remain intact. Only evisceration is allowed. Permitted for-hire vessels may fillet striped bass for their customers.
- 7) Black sea bass and scup may be filleted but not skinned while at-sea. No more than two fillets per allowed fish may be possessed.
- 8) When the tautog fishery is open, private anglers are subject to 10-fish maximum tautog limit for the vessel. The most restrictive limit of the per angler bag limit or per vessel maximum limit applies.
- * Possession limits are per person per day unless otherwise noted.

Massachusetts Saltwater Fish Records

SPECIES	WEIGHT	LOCATION	DATE	ANGLER
Albacore*	65 lb. 6 oz.	Atlantis Canyon	10/4/20	Sean Ready
Bigeye Tuna	319 lb. 5 oz.	Welker Canyon	8/11/18	Daniel Bliss
Black Sea Bass	8 lb. 15 oz.	Buzzards Bay	5/12/07	Aaron Costa
Bluefish	27 lb. 4 oz.	Graves Light	9/11/82	Louis Gordon
Bluefin Tuna	1228 lb.	Cape Cod Bay	9/23/84	Marlene Goldstein
Blue Marlin	873 lb.	Canyons	8/21/15	Dr. Ralph DeLaTorre
Blue Shark	458 lb. 2 oz.	Jeffreys Ledge	8/9/11	Ethan Lynch
Bonito	13 lb. 8 oz.	New Bedford Dike	9/23/02	Eddie Gomez
Cod	92 lb.	Jeffreys Ledge 7/5/87		Robert Radzik
Coho Salmon	18 lb. 8 oz.	North River 1/21/86		James Lewis
Cusk	34 lb. 4 oz.	Stellwagen Bank	7/15/90	Gabe Silvestrone
Dolphinfish	61 lb. 3 oz.	Veatch Canyon		
False Albacore	19 lb. 5 oz.	Edgartown	9/27/90	Donald MacGillivray
Fluke	21 lb. 8 oz.	Nomans Island	9/25/80	Joseph Czapiga
Haddock	20 lb.	Stellwagen Bank	1972	Don Rehnstrom
	20 lb.	Boston Lightship	8/3/74	Joseph Gelsomini
Halibut	321 lb.	Massachusetts Bay	7/21/65	Norman Cournoyer
King Mackerel	9 lb. 9 oz.	Hedge Fence	10/13/18	Zak Potter
Mackerel	3 lb. 8 oz.	Hampton Shoal	10/9/94	Steve Ostrander
Mako Shark	1324 lb.	Massachusetts Bay	7/27/99	Kevin Scola
Pollock	48 lb. 2 oz.	Cashes Ledge	9/14/92	Sal Mocerino
Porbeagle	495 lb.	Offshore	7/22/11	Jesse Siegel
Scup	5 lb. 14 oz.	Nomans Island	10/17/83	Robert Pimental
Spanish Mackerel	8 lb.	Vineyard Sound	10/8/11	Joe Canha
Striped Bass	73 lb.	Quicks Hole	1913	Charles Church
	73 lb.	Sow and Pigs	1967	Charles Cinto
	73 lb.	Nauset Beach	11/3/81	Anton Stetzko
Swordfish	646 lb.	Nomans Island	1972	Albert Little
Tautog	22 lb. 9 oz.	Gay Head	6/29/78	Michael Horsely
Thresher	630 lb.	Offshore 7/23/11		Timothy Delude
Wahoo	182 lb. 12 oz.	Offshore		
Weakfish	18 lb. 12 oz.	Buzzards Bay	8/19/84	George Mahoney
White Marlin	131 lb.	Nantucket	7/30/82	Ted Nfatzger
Winter Flounder	8 lb. 2 oz.	Georges Bank	7/12/96	Tom Hillebrand
Wolffish	55 lb.	Cape Cod Bay	6/19/00	Andrew Glovsky
Yellowfin Tuna	187 lb.	Nantucket	8/5/90	Mark Boujoukos

^{*} Indicates a new state record

How to Measure Your Catch



For Massachusetts marine waters, minimum fish sizes are measured as **total length**. This is the greatest straight line length (not curved over the body) in inches as measured on a fish with its mouth closed from the anterior tip of the jaw or snout to the farthest extremity of the tail. Fish should be firmly grasped with both hands for proper measuring. Care should be taken so that the head of the fish firmly contacts the zero mark on rulers and tapes simultaneously with the tail extremity.

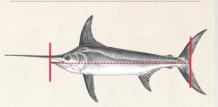
Exceptions:



Tunas are measured using curved fork length. This is in a line, tracing the contour of the body from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork of the tail.



Sharks are measured from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.



Swordfish, sailfish and marlin are measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the tail fork.



Black sea bass are measured from the tip of the snout or jaw (mouth closed) to the farthest extremity of the tail, not including the tail filament.

2021 Saltwater Fishing Derby



Divisions: The saltwater fishing derby is divided into three major divisions—Inshore, Groundfish, and Pelagic.

Each division features:

- A Weigh-In category and a Catch and Release category (unless otherwise noted),
- Adult Awards given to the top Male and Female for each species in the Weigh-In category,
- Junior Awards given to anglers age 15 and under, and
- Pins given to ALL eligible entries collected during the Derby. (Anglers may submit multiple entries, but will receive only one pin per species per year for their qualifying catch.)

Weigh-In Derby: fish being entered in the weigh-in portion of the Derby should be brought to one of our many certified weigh stations scattered along the coast for verification.

Catch and Release Derby: fish being entered in the catch and release portion should be measured to the nearest half inch; a clear photo taken of both the measuring device and the fish, indicating total or fork length, is needed for verification.

Entry forms and photos: Derby entry forms are available on our website and at most bait and tackle shops. Derby entry forms and photos should be sent to the address provided below, attn. John Boardman. Photos can also be shared with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries using Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram by tagging: **#MAsaltwaterderby**

Website: full derby rules, downloadable entry forms, official Derby weigh station locations, and leader boards can be found on our website: www.mass.gov/saltwater-fishing-derby

Time Frame: The Derby runs January 1 through November 30.

Mailing Address:

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries 836 S. Rodney French Blvd. New Bedford, MA 02744

john.boardman@mass.gov

Inshore Derby

SPECIES	WEIGH-IN	(LB.)	CATCH AND RELEASE (IN.)			
	ADULT	JUNIOR	ADULT	JUNIOR		
Atlantic Bonito	5	4	24	22		
Atlantic Mackerel	2	1	16	15		
Black Sea Bass	4	2	20	15		
Bluefish	12	6	32	26		
Dolphinfish	15	5	30	24		
False Albacore	10	7	25	23		
Fluke	7	3	22	18		
King Mackerel	6	4	30	28		
Scup	2	1	15	12		
Spanish Mackerel	4	3	24	22		
Striped Bass	NA	NA	40	32		
Tautog	8	4	20	18		
Weakfish	8	4	22	18		
Winter Flounder	3	2	17	14		

Groundfish Derby*

SPECIES	WEIGH-IN (LB.)	CATCH AND RELEASE (IN.)
Atlantic Cod	30	30
Atlantic Halibut	50	50
Cusk	20	25
Haddock	5	20
Pollock	12	30

Large Pelagic Derby*

SPECIES	WEIGH-IN (LB.)	CATCH AND RELEASE (IN.)
Albacore	30	30
Atlantic Sailfish	40	63
Bigeye Tuna	100	30
Blue Marlin	350	99
Blue Shark	300	60
Bluefin Tuna	100	30
Porbeagle Shark	150	60
Shortfin Mako	250	60
Swordfish	150	55
Thresher Shark	200	65
Wahoo	30	40
White Marlin	60	66
Yellowfin Tuna	50	30

^{*} Junior entries in this category must meet the listed criteria

Prizes and Recognition

In addition to the pin, winners will receive a plaque and certificate commemorating their catch at our annual awards celebration.

- Ceremony takes place during the New England Boat and RV Show
- FREE entry to the New England Boat and RV Show for the winning angler and their guest(s)
- Entry to a private Mass DMF, family-friendly reception directly following the ceremony

Special awards are also given out to the two anglers (adult and junior) who have the most Derby-winning fish: weigh-in and Catch and Release, or combined. Awards for "Top Shop" (the tackle shop that weighs in the most derby eligible fish) and "Skillful Skipper" will receive free advertising in our 2022 saltwater sportfish guide.

2020 Catch and Release Derby Winners

SPECIES	DIVISION	LENGTH (INCHES)	ANGLER
Black Sea Bass	Adult	22.5"	Dave DeiCicchi
	Junior	19"	Luke Hamel
Bluefish	Adult	35"	Richard Trifone
Blue Shark	Junior	100"	Ethan Swenson
Bluefin Tuna	Adult	60"	Andrew Jacobs
Bonito	Adult	26"	Anna Jacobs
Cod	Adult	31"	Chad Nikel
False Albacore	Adult	28.5"	Rafael Osona
Fluke	Adult	27"	Paula Silva
	Junior	20"	Eve Skomal
Haddock	Adult	22"	Patrick Connaughton
Mackerel	Adult	16"	Can Tiryaki
Scup	Adult	16"	Anna Jacobs
	Junior	16"	James Oldershaw
Striped Bass	Adult	47.5"	Mark Remlinger
	Junior	35"	John Clark

2020 Anglers of the Year

DIVISION	ANGLER
Adult	Anna Jacobs
Junior	John Clark

2020 Derby Winners

SPECIES	DIVISION	WEIGHT	ANGLER
Albacore	Men's	*65 lbs 6 oz	Sean Ready
	Women's	60 lbs 8 oz	Amanda Moretti
Black Sea Bass	Men's	4 lbs 8 oz	Joseph Amorim
	Women's	4 lbs 4 oz	Lesley Callahan
	Junior's	5 lbs 5 oz	Isaac Grace
Bluefin Tuna	Junior's	154 lbs 2 oz	John Clark
Bluefish	Men's	14 lbs 10 oz	Andrew Jacobs
	Women's	9 lbs 6 oz	Anna Jacobs
	Junior's	11 lbs 2 oz	Lucas Bergman
Bonito	Men's	12 lbs 0 oz	Aidan Gates
	Women's	8 lbs 8 oz	Anna Jacobs
	Junior's	12 lbs 0 oz	Elizabeth Thompson
Dolphin Fish	Junior's	5 lbs 4 oz	John Clark
False Albacore	Men's	12 lbs 8 oz	Rafael Osona
	Women's	8 lbs 0 oz	Anna Jacobs
	Junior's	14 lbs 14 oz	Gunnar Graham
Fluke	Men's	11 lbs 1 oz	Frank Torbey
	Women's	10 lbs 1 oz	Joanne Churchill
	Junior's	6 lbs 9 oz	Bella Sargeant
Scup	Men's	2 lbs 8 oz	Joseph Pearle
	Women's	2 lbs 11 oz	Elizabeth Soares
	Junior's	1 lb 6 oz	Emerson Medeiros
Tautog	Men's	10 lbs 3 oz	Tom Moynihan
	Junior's	9 lbs 2 oz	Jayden Montgomery
Thresher Shark	Men's	383 lbs 0 oz	George Connors
Wahoo	Junior's	72 lbs 8 oz	Brady Johnson
Winter Flounder	Women's	3 lbs 4 oz	Jaqueline Scott
Yellowfin Tuna	Junior's	52 lbs 4 oz	Brady Johnson

^{*} New state record



Saltwater Fish Availability Calendar

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEP.	ост.	NOV.	DEC.
Atlantic Cod												
Black Sea Bass												
Bluefin Tuna												
Bluefish												
Bonito												
Cusk												
False Albacore												
Haddock												
Mackerel												
Pollock												
Scup												
Smelt												
Striped Bass												
Summer Flounder												
Tautog												
Winter Flounder												
Poor		Good		В	est		he commo	shing caler only targete	ed recreati	onal finfisl	n of Massa	chusetts.

2020 Top Shop Award

At the conclusion of the fishing derby each year, a Top Shop award is given to the bait and tackle shop that weighs in the most derby eligible fish. The Skillful Skipper award is also given to those captains that have entered three or more winning fish caught from his or her boat.



Commonly Caught Species

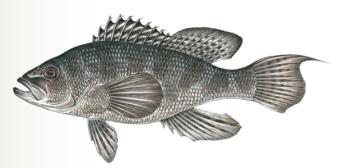


Striped Bass

Striped bass is our most sought-after species, providing great sport through catch and release fishing and great eating when you catch a "keeper". Striped bass is one of the largest fish available to the nearshore angler. Fish range from 1 pound to over 60 pounds.

Location: Whole coast surf, inshore bars, reefs, tide-rips, bays, and estuaries. Season: Mid April-October

Baits and Lures: Seaworms, eels, squid, herring; jigs, plugs, spinners, spoons. Methods and Tackle: Casting from shore, boat-trolling; light to heavy tackle. Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: Catch and Release Only.



Black Sea Bass

The migratory black sea bass is a tasty fish arriving in our near shore waters in the late spring. These fish also have a peculiar life cycle-the majority begin life as females and then change to males at around three years of age.

Location: South side of Cape Cod, Buzzards Bay to Rhode Island border and a few are found in Cape Cod Bay. Fish for them around bottom structure such as reefs, rocks, and wrecks.

Season: May-September

Baits and Lures: Cut squid, clams, green crabs.

Methods and Tackle: Bottom fish from a boat.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: Adult 4 lb.



Tautog

"Tog", "white chin" and "black fish" are all common nicknames for this fish. Tautog are very slow growing compared to most fish and do not migrate far from where they originate but move inshore in the spring and offshore in the

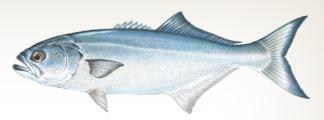
Location: Whole coast, rocky bottoms inshore, bays, harbors, jetties, break-

Season: April-November

Baits and Lures: Crabs, clams, all shellfish.

Methods and Tackle: Still-fishing from boat or shore, medium action spinning or conventional rod, 20-30 lb test line.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: Adult 8 lb.



Bluefish

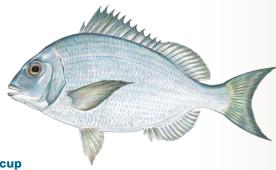
Bluefish are usually ravenous and will strike at just about anything you give them. Watch out for those teeth! They average around 3-7 pounds along the coast and tend to be larger just offshore in the rips. The juveniles, referred to as "snappers," can be found in the estuaries and are fun to catch with light tackle. In all cases, they put up an excellent fight all the way to your boat or shore.

Location: Whole coast surf, inshore bars, tide rips, bays, and estuaries.

Season: June-mid October

Baits and Lures: All small bait fish, jigs, spoons, plugs, spinners, flies. Methods and Tackle: Casting from shore or boat (you may want to use a wire leader) with spin and fly fishing gear, trolling.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: Adult 12 lb.



Scup

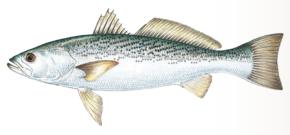
A party boat staple, scup are easy and fun to catch. Scup are very good eating though be careful of the many bones.

Location: South side of Cape Cod and along coast to Rhode Island Season: May-October

Baits and Lures: Clams, strips of squid, seaworms.

Methods and Tackle: Light- to medium-weight tackle, drift-fishing, jetties, piers, bridges.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weights: Adult 2 lb.



Weakfish (Squeteague)

The weakfish looks like a large trout and is found in Massachusetts waters during the summer months. Often found feeding alongside striped bass.

Location: Southern Massachusetts sandbars, deep water drop offs, channels, bays and estuaries

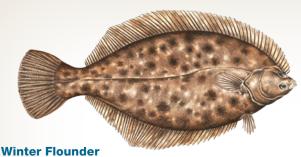
Season: Late June-September

Baits and Lures: Shrimp, seaworms, tinker mackerel, eels, strips of squid; artificial lures (bright plastic shrimp, worms, bucktails, tubes, jigs, sand eel imitations)

Methods and Tackle: Still-fishing, drifting, chumming, casting from shore or boat, trolling; light to medium tackle.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: Adult 8 lb.

Commonly Caught Species



The winter flounder (black back) provides good fishing during the cold weather months. They are very accessible and provide the angler with thick fillets to take home

Location: Whole coast, tidal streams, shallow bays, estuaries.

Season: May-February

Baits and Lures: Sandworms, bloodworms, clams, strips of squid.

Methods and Tackle: Chum pot (crushed clams), still-fishing from boats, piers, jetties, bridges, breakwaters; light tackle

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: Adult 3 lb. Junior 2 lb





Summer Flounder (Fluke)

Fighting ability and fine flavor highlight this flatfish. The upper surface of the summer flounder head faces left. They also have prominent teeth to assist with their aggressive predatory behavior. Larger fluke are referred to as "doormats". Target sandy or muddy bottom along with fast moving rips that contain debris and bait fish.

Location: South side of Cape Cod, Islands, Cape Cod Bay, Buzzards Bay.

Season: May-September

Baits and Lures: Minnows, squid strips, clams, shrimp; spinners, jigs. Methods and Tackle: Drift-fishing, troll, chum, still fish, casting.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: Adult 7 lb.
Junior 3 lb.



Mackerel

Mackerel are fast swimmers and voracious feeders, which offers the angler many options for catching them. They are also an important food fish for many other species of fish and marine mammals.

Location: Whole coast, deep water to shallow bays, beaches, jetties, canal, bridges.

Season: May-September

Baits and Lures: Small bait fish, crab, clams, seaworms, squid strips, jigs, spoons, flies.

Methods and Tackle: Trolling, jigging, casting from shore or boat: light tackle.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: Adult 2 lb. Junior 1 lb.

Tunas: Bluefin (top) and Yellowfin (below)

All the tunas are very swift swimmers, provide a thrilling and sometimes backbreaking fight and are literally hot blooded. The giant bluefin tuna is the biggest and most lucrative of the tunas in our waters and thus creates much competition amongst fishermen. Yellowfin are commonly caught in near offshore waters as are albacore.

Location: Offshore east of North Shore, Cape Cod Bay, East of Cape Cod, South of Islands, offshore in Canyons

Season: Late June-October

Baits and Lures: Bait fish used with chum slick; plastic squids, multi-squid rigs, daisy chains, jigs, artificial lures

Methods and Tackle: Trolling, chunk baits with chum; medium to heavy tackle

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: Yellowfin tuna 50 lb., bluefin tuna 100 lb.



Bonito

Sharpen your reflexes because these small tunas are fast and fun to catch. Watch for feeding schools where there will be jumpers. For a quick identification, look for dark bands running the length of the fish above the lateral line and a silvery belly.

Location: Southern Cape Cod and the Islands, rarely north of Cape Cod. **Season:** Late July-October

Baits and Lures: Strip baits, squid, small jigs, spoons, plugs, flies.

Methods and Tackle: Spinning gear, bait casting, light boat rods, trolling, fly fishing.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: Adult 5 lb. Junor 4 lb.



False Albacore (Little Tunny)

False albacore are very similar to bonito - fast, fun and sometimes a bit tricky to catch. However, unlike bonito, they make poor table fare.

Location: Mostly warmer waters of the south side of Cape Cod and the Islands.

Season: Late July-October

Baits and Lures: Same as for bonito

Methods and Tackle: Same as for bonito

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: Adult 10 lb. Junior 7 lb.



Cod

Cod are the deepwater treasures of Massachusetts.

Location: Whole coast, deepwater, inshore while water is cold.

Season: Year round.

Baits and Lures: Sea worms, clams, mackerel, strips of all fish, crabs, jigs.

Methods and Tackle: Bait-fishing from shore and boats, fishing from boats using medium to stiff boat rod, conventional reel and

at least 50 lb. test line.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 30 lb.



Haddock

Haddock is a member of the cod family and is a delicious fish for the dinner table. The black lateral line distinguishes it from the cod and pollock.

Location: Whole coast, cool waters, prefer depths of 140-450 ft., also prefers shell/sand, smooth rock, or gravel bottom.

Season: May-November

Baits and Lures: Seaworms, clams

Methods and Tackle: Still-fishing from a boat, medium action rod

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weights: 5 lb.



Pollock

The pollock is more available to the angler than its codfish relative. These aggressive fighters offer the thrills of a bluefish and the flesh of a cod.

Location: Whole coast with more north of Plymouth. Inshore (breakwaters and other structures) and offshore depending on the water temperatures. Inshore, pollock tend to be smaller than those offshore.

Season: May-October with the best runs in May, October

Baits and Lures: Same as cod, plus metal lures with a strip of squid.

Methods and Tackle: Still-fishing, casting, trolling. For deep water use same set up as for cod. Lighter spinning gear can be used for inshore fishing.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weights: 12 lb.



Cusk

Like the cod, the cusk is a cool water fish and is found on hard, rough bottom habitat. Look for the continuous dorsal fin to assist with identification.

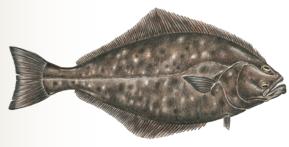
Location: Rocky ledges/hard bottom, moderately deep waters (more than 75 feet).

Season: Year round.

Baits and Lures: Same as cod.

Methods and Tackle: Same as cod.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 20 lb.



Halibut

This is the largest of the Atlantic flatfishes, which if you do happen to hook one, can be very challenging to reel up from deep water.

Location: Whole coast, cool and deep waters, preferred bottom type is sand, gravel or clay not soft mud or rock.

Season: Year round

Baits and Lures: Seaworms, clams, strips of fish, sandlance, jigs.

Methods and Tackle: Fishing from a boat with medium to stiff rod.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weight: 50 lb.



Wolffish (Ocean Catfish)

Wolfish are distinguished by their large size, pronounced molar and canine teeth, and the lack of ventral fins. They do not school and prefer hard bottom, not mud, in deep waters.

Location: Whole coast, deep water, incidental to cod fishing.

Possession Prohibited

Commonly Caught Species



Rainbow Smelt

This small anadromous fish is a seasonal favorite along the coast. They're accessible prior to the spawning runs up coastal streams during the late winter and early spring.

Location: Whole coast, estuaries, the mouths of coastal rivers, and within coastal rivers.

Season: September-February

Baits and Lures: Blood worms, sand worms, grass shrimp, small local bait fish

Methods and tackle: Ice fishing, shore fishing—keep bait moving slowly up

and down within the school; light tackle, hand line.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weights: Not an eligible species.

Sharks: Shortfin Mako (top) and Blue (bottom)

Blue and make sharks are common to our offshore waters and are sought after by recreational anglers. Makes are the more aggressive of the two fish and will put up an exciting fight. Venture with an experienced shark angler to prevent unexpected surprises and make sure you bleed and ice the shark flesh immediately. Anglers are encouraged to release sharks not intended for consumption.

Location: South of the Islands, East of Cape Cod, off North shore including Cape Cod Bay.

Season: June-October

Baits and Lures: Chumming and baited hooks (preferably oily fish)

Methods and Tackle: Trolling, drifting; medium to heavy tackle, wire leader.

Mass. Saltwater Fishing Derby Minimum Weights: Blue shark 300 lb.;

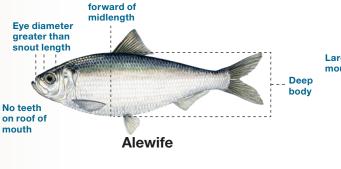
Mako shark 250 lb.

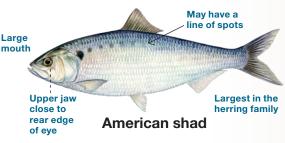
Herring of Massachusetts

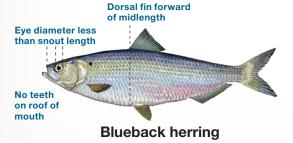
A variety of herring frequent MA coastal and estuarine waters and can be confusing to identify. River herring (alewife and blueback herring) and American shad are generally seen during spring spawning runs. Menhaden and Atlantic herring may appear in our estuaries during coastal migration in the summer or early fall.

Dorsal fin











Atlantic menhaden

Note: The harvest and possession of river herring (alewife and blueback) is prohibited in Massachusetts.

Note:

Use of some ramps requires a fee or a parking sticker that may be purchased in advance. Some town parking facilities are limited to town residents only (RO) and noted where applicable. Fish and Game Office of Fishing and Boating Access (FBA) current or future facilities are italicized.

* indicates a shore fishing area. For more information visit the FBA website at: http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/fba/

LOCATION	SEITTES	PIERS	RAMP	SITE	USABLE TIDE	LOCATION	JETTIES	PIERS	RAMP	SITE	USABLE TIDE
NORTH SHORE:						Nahant				,	
Salisbury						Town Wharf			•	Paved	All
State Beach	3		•	Paved	All	Saugus					
Amesbury				1 avea	7 (11	Fishermen's Outlet			•	Paved	All
Town Landing Merrimac St. (RO)			•	Paved	All	Winthrop					
Newbury				Tavea	7 (11	Shirley Street			•	Paved	All
Newbury Town Landing (RO)			•	Paved	All	Boston					
Newburyport					7 111	Castle Island	1	1			
Cashman Park		•	•	Paved	All	Charlestown Navy Yd. at Pier 4		1			
Merri-Mar Yacht Basin			•	Paved	All	Deer Island Pier		1			
Ferry Landing			•	Paved	All			'			
Water Street			•	Cartop	1/2	Puopolo Park					
Rowley				'		Charles River Res. Commercial Street 1					
Perley's Marina			•	Paved	All						
Ipswich				1		Dorchester					
Town Landing, East Street			•	Paved	All	Rainbow Park, Commercial St.					
Water Street		1	•	Paved	All	SOUTH SHORE:					
Essex						Quincy					
Essex Marina, Dodge Street			•	Paved	All	Town River Marine			•	Paved	All
Pike's Marina, Main Street			•	Paved	All	666 Southern Artery				1 avoa	7 411
Rockport						Bay's Water Marine			•	Paved	1/2
Granite Pier		1	•	Paved	All	128 Bayview Avenue				1 4704	/2
Gloucester				ı		Sea Avenue			•	Paved	1/2
Dunfugin Landing			•	Paved	All	Fore River, Doane St.*					,-
Corliss Landing			•	Paved	1/2	Weymouth					
Lanes Cove			•	Paved	1/2	Back River			•	Paved	All
Long Wharf			•	Paved	All	Hingham				1 0.00	7 111
Manchester				'		Iron Horse Station, Route 3A			•	Paved	All
Town Hall			•	Paved	All	Hull					
Beverly						"A" St. Marine		1	•	Paved	All
River Street			•	Paved	All	Goulds Boat Shop			•	Paved	All
Water Street			•	Paved	All	Pemberton Point		1	•	Paved	All
Danvers						Priscilla Sails			•	Paved	All
Popes Landing			•	Paved	All	Cohasset					
Salem						Parker Avenue			•	Paved	1/2
Kernwood Bridge			•	Paved	All	Scituate					
Winter Island			•	Paved	All	Cole Parkway			•	Paved	All
Willows		1				Driftway Recreation Area			•	Gravel	All
Marblehead						North River Marine			•	Paved	All
Causeway			•	Paved	1/2	Scituate Harbor	1	3	•	Paved	All
Riverhead Beach			•	Paved	1/2	Marshfield					
Lynn						Brick Kiln Road (canoe only)			•	Gravel	All
DCR Pier/Route 1A		1				Green Harbor Marina			•	Paved	All
		'			A .:	Humarock, Ferry Street (RO)			•	Gravel	All
Lynn Municipal Ramp			•	Paved	All	Humarock Marine			•	Paved	All
Blossom St.						Mary's Livery			•	Paved	All
DCR Playground			•	Paved	All	Town Pier, Green Harbor			•	Paved	All
Seaport Landing Marina		1				Union Street (canoe only)			•	Gravel	All

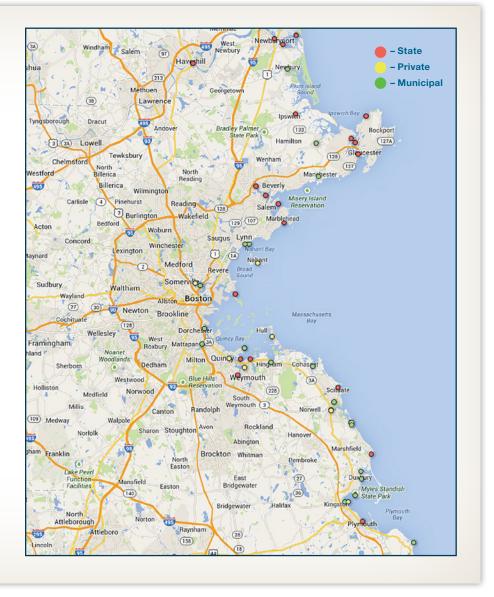
LOCATION	JETTIES	PIERS	RAMP	SITE	USABLE TIDE
Duxbury				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Bay Marine Corp.			•	Paved	All
Mattakeeset Ct.		2	•	Paved	All
Kingston					
Town Landing, River Street			•	Paved	1/2
Plymouth					
Taylor Avenue (4-WD only)			•	Sand	All
Town Wharf	1	1	•	Paved	All
Wareham					
Fishing Pier, Route 6		2			
East Boulevard, Onset			•	Paved	All
Maco's, Rt. 6-28			•	Paved	All
Oak St., Tempest Knob			•	Paved	All
Route 195 Eastbound rest area			•	Paved	1/2
Mattapoisett				· · · · · ·	
Short Wharf, Water Street		2	•	Paved	All
Town Landing			•	Gravel	1/2
Matt Neck Road					
Fairhaven					
Pease Park, Middle Street			•	Paved	All
Hoppy's Landing			•	Paved	All
Seaview Avenue			•	Paved	All
Sconticut Neck					
New Bedford					
East Rodney French					
Boulevard, H Street	2	1	•	Paved	All
West Rodney French					
Boulevard	4		•	Paved	All
Dartmouth					
Padanaram			•	Paved	All
Westport					
Gooseberry Island			•	Paved	1/2
Rte. 88 Bridge			•	Paved	All
Fall River					
Brownell Street	1		•	Paved	All
Freetown					
Water Street, Assonet			•	Paved	1/2
Swansea					
Cole River, Ocean Grove Ave.			•	Paved	All
Somerset					
Brayton Point Rd.			•	Paved	1/2
Broad Cove, Pleasant Street*			•	Car top	1/2
Somerset Village					
Waterfront Park, Main St.			•	Paved	All

LOCATION	JETTIES	PIERS	RAMP	SITE	USABLE
CAPE COD:					
Bourne					
Barlow's Landing			•	Paved	All
Bourne Marina			•	Paved	All
Canal at Electric Avenue (RO)			•	Paved	All
Hen Cove			•	Paved	All
Monument Beach			•	Paved	All
Red Brook Harbor			•	Paved	All
Falmouth					
Childs River, Off Rte. 28			•	Paved	All
Falmouth Inner Harbor	1		•	Paved	All
Great Pond, Harrington St.	1		•	Paved	All
Green Pond			•	Paved	All
Menauhant Road					
Megansett Harbor			•	Paved	All
County Road					
Waquoit Bay, Seapit Road			•	Paved	All
West Falmouth Harbor			•	Paved	All
Old Dock Road					
Wild Harbor, Old Silver Beach			•	Paved	All
Great Harbor, Woods Hole	1	1	•	Paved	All
Sandwich					
Canal Basin			•	Paved	All
Canal-East End	2				
Craven's Landing				Sand	1/2
Scusset Beach State Park		1			/-
Mashpee		•			
Daniels Island Rd.			•	Paved	All
Great Neck Road, Ockway Bay			•	Paved	All
Mashpee Neck Road			•	Paved	All
Poponesset Beach, Wading Place Rd.*					
South Cape Beach	1				
Barnstable					ı
Barnstable Harbor, Blish Point			•	Paved	All
Barnstable Harbor (RO)			•	Paved	All
Bay Street Osterville (RO)			•	Paved	3/4
Bridge Street, Osterville (RO)			•	Sand	1/2
East Bay Road Osterville (RO)			•	Paved	1/2
Haywood Rd. (RO)			•	Paved	All
Lewis Bay Road Hyannis			•	Paved	All
Ocean View Ave Cotuit (RO)			•	Sand	All
Old Shore Road			•	Sand	1/2
Ropes Beach (RO)					
Prince Cove (RO)			•	Paved	All
Scudder Lane (RO)			•	Sand	1/2
Iyanough Rd., Hyannisport (RO)	1		•	Sand	1/2

Massachusetts **Coastal Water** Access Salisbury to Marshfield

Access Map

Courtesy of Google Maps









LOCATION	JETTIES	PIERS	RAMP	SITE	USABLE TIDE
Yarmouth					
Bay View Street			•	Paved	1/2
Centre Street, Bass Hole			•	Paved	1/2
Follins Pond Road			•	Sand	1/2
High Bank Road*		1	•	Paved	All
Lewis Bay Berry Ave.			•	Paved	All
New Hampshire Ave.			•	Paved	3/4
Pleasant St. Beach			•	Paved	1/2
Sea Gull Beach			•	Paved	All
Parkers River, Rt. 28		1			
Smugglers Beach	1	1	•	Paved	All
South Street					
Dennis					
Cold Storage Rd.	1		•	Paved	All
Follins Pond			•	Paved	All
Horsefoot Cove			•	Paved	All
Sesuit Neck Road			•	Paved	All
Uncle Freeman's Way			•	Paved	All
Harwich		!			
Allens Harbor	1		•	Paved	All
Herring River			•	Paved	All
Round Cove			•	Paved	All
Saguatucket Harbor			•	Paved	All
Chatham					
Barn Hill Rd.			•	Paved	All
Bridge Street			•	Paved	3/4
Crows Pond			•	Paved	3/4
Mitchell River Bridge					
Oyster River			•	Sand	All
Ryder's Cove			•	Paved	All
Orleans					
Arey's Pond			•	Paved	All
Cove Road			•	Paved	All
Goose Hummock Shop			•	Paved	All
Herring Brook Way			•	Paved	All
Meeting House Pond			•	Paved	All
River Road (RO)				1 avoa	7 (11
Mill Pond			•	Paved	All
Paw Wah Pond			•	Paved	All
Quanset Road			•	Paved	All
Rock Harbor	1		•	Paved	All
Eastham				, avou	7 111
Rock Harbor	1		•	Paved	1/2
Hemenway Road			•	Paved	1/2
Rt. 6 Town Cove			•	Paved	1/2
Wellfleet				i aveu	/2
Town Pier	1		•	Paved	All
Truro			,	Faveu	All
Pamet Harbor			•	Paved	All

		P	Д.	ဂ ဖ	∃⊂
LOCATION	ETTIES	IERS	RAMP	SITE	JSABLE FIDE
Provincetown					
West End Parking Lot			•	Paved	1/2
Commercial Street					
MARTHA'S VINEYARD:					
Chilmark					
Great Rock Bight, North Road*					
Nashaquitsa Pond, South Road			•	Paved	All
Menemsha	1	1			
Edgartown					
East Beach, Cape Poge*	1		•	Cartop	All
State Road	1				
Memorial Wharf		1			
Edgartown Great Pond			•	Sand	All
Wilson Landing					
Katama Bay			•	Paved	3/4
Edgartown Bay Road					
Eel Pond			•	Paved	All
Pease's Point Way					
Aquinnah	•				
Menemsha Creek	1		•	Paved	All
Lobsterville Beach					
Dogfish Bar*					
Oak Bluffs			,	'	
State Road	3		•	Paved	All
Seaview Ave.		1			
Beach Road	1				
Harbor, East Chop Drive			•	Paved	All
Pecoy Point, Pulpit Rock Road			•	Cartop	All
Tisbury	'				
Lagoon Pond, Beach Road			•	Paved	All
Tashmoo Pond, Lake Avenue	1		•	Paved	All
NANTUCKET:					
Jackson Point			•	Paved	All
Madaket Harbor, H Street			•	Paved	All
Nantucket Harbor			•	Paved	All

Do you want to know where to go fishing or boating?

Public Access to the Waters of Massachusetts is now available. This 146 page map booklet will show and tell you information about current public sites. Send \$8.00, payable by check to:



Office of Fishing & Boating Access

Department of Fish and Game 1 Rabbit Hill Road Westborough, MA 01581

For more information call: (508) 389-7810

Massachusetts Coastal Water Access

Marshfield to Seekonk

Access Map Courtesy of Google Maps







Recreational Lobster and Crabbing Permit

What does a recreational lobster and crabbing permit allow me to do?

The permit allows you to fish, retain and land lobsters in Massachusetts. This may be done with traps or by diving. The permit also allows you to fish for, retain and land edible crabs (excluding blue crabs) by any six-sided trap or other contrivance that is not actively fished. The permit is not needed to fish for, retain or land edible crabs (including blue crabs) by hand, handline or dipnet, or by any star trap, open collapsible trap or open top trap that is being actively tended to.

Who can get a permit?

Any Massachusetts resident can obtain a permit. Non-residents may also obtain a permit, but they must temporarily reside in any coastal Massachusetts municipality and own more than \$5,000 in real estate in the Commonwealth as determined by tax records. Non-US citizens, whether resident or non-resident, must provide their alien registration card as issued by the US Dept. of Justice Immigration and Naturalization Service.

What does a permit cost and where can I get one?

The permit fees are \$55 for residents and \$75 for non-residents. Permits are available at all DMF offices. Additionally, residents may purchase/renew their permit online at http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dmf/recreational-fishing/recreational-saltwater-permits.html.

What is my permit number?

Each permit has a unique identification number that is located on the upper right hand corner of the permit. You are required to mark your traps and dive gear with this permit number (pages 37 and 38).

May I sell, barter or trade the lobsters and edible crabs that I take under my permit?

No, you may only take lobsters and edible crabs for personal use. You are not allowed to sell, barter or trade any of your recreational lobster and edible crab catch. In order to engage in these activities, you are required, by law, to have a commercial lobster permit.

Does this permit allow me to take lobsters and crabs with traps and lobsters by diving?

Yes, when applying for or renewing your permit you must specify if you wish to fish with traps, diving or both. There are no additional costs for each endorsement.

Do I have to fish in a certain geographical area?

When you apply for your permit, we do ask that you check off a geographical area where you intend to fish. However, you are not limited by this selection and may fish throughout Massachusetts. Note that you may not set buoyed traps in the Cape Cod Canal and the taking of lobsters is prohibited in New Bedford Harbor north of an imaginary line drawn from Ricketson's Point (Dartmouth) to Wilbur Point (Fairhaven). Also, different recreational lobster areas may have different recreational lobster management regulations (page 35).

Who can use this permit?

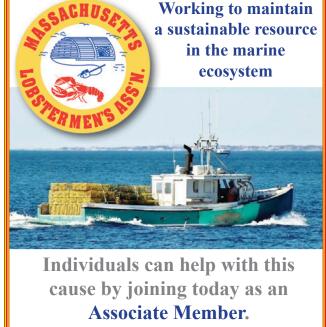
This depends on whether you are fishing traps or diving. A permit with a trap endorsement allows the permit holder, as well as members of the permit holder's immediate family, to haul your traps. Immediate family includes the spouse, parents, children, grandparents, brothers and sisters. No more than one permit endorsed for trap fishing is allowed per household. A permit with dive endorsement is for the permit holder only and does not cover other persons. Additional permits endorsed for diving must be purchased to cover each diver.

Is reporting required?

Yes, annual catch reports are required of all permit holders. These forms are provided by DMF at the time of renewal. License renewals will not be issued until a catch report has been filed.

Do I need the permit for green crabs?

The permit is not needed to take, retain or land green crabs as they are an inedible invasive species. However, state law requires individuals hold an authorization from DMF in order to harvest green crabs. To obtain this free authorization, please contact Kerry Allard for an LOA or more information at (617) 626-1633 or kerry.allard@mass.gov.



For more information visit

lobstermen.com

8 Otis Place, Scituate, MA 02066

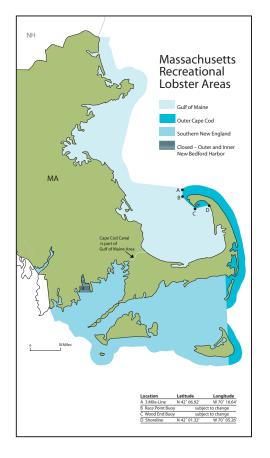
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Recreational Regulations

RECREATIONAL LOBSTER REGULATIONS

RECREATIONALL	OBSTER REGULATIONS					
ALL AREAS						
Season Open	May 16 - November 1 for buoyed traps					
Trap Limit	With trap endorsement, may fish 10 traps per household.					
Bag Limit	15 lobsters per day. Lobsters may be stored and retrieved in excess of this limit, provided fishing activity is not occurring.					
Night fishing	No trap fishing ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise.					
Egg Bearing Females	It is unlawful to possess or land any lobster that is egg bearing, from which eggs have been forcibly removed, or that has come in contact with any substance capable of removing eggs.					
V-Notch	It is unlawful to possess or land any female lobster that bears a v-shaped notch or indentation on the base of the tail flipper to the right of the center flipper that is 1/8" or deeper with or without setal hairs.					
Prohibited Gears	It is unlawful to possess or land any lobster taken by spear gun, pole spear, or other device that pierces the shell as means of harvest; by dipping or dipnet; by star trap or any trap that is fished in an open configuration until retrieved; by dragging or the use of any hauled nets or dredges; or snaring and poles with loops.					
Buoy Line	Maximum 5/16" diameter					
GULF OF MAINE R	RECREATIONAL LOBSTER AREA					
Minimum Size	31/4"					
Maximum Size	5"					
Escape Vent	One rectangular vent 115/16" x 53/4" or two circular vents of 27/16" in diameter					
OUTER CAPE COL	RECREATIONAL LOBSTER AREA					
Minimum Size	3%"					
Maximum Size	_					
Escape Vent	One rectangular vent 2" x 5¾" or two circular vents of 2%" in diameter					
SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND RECREATIONAL LOBSTER AREA						
Minimum Size	3%"					
Maximum Size	51/4"					
Escape Vent	One rectangular vent 2" x 5%" or two circular vents of 2%" in diameter					



RECREATIONAL CRAB REGULATIONS

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE	POSSESSION LIMIT	CLOSED SEASON	EGG BEARING	NIGHT FISHING
Blue Crabs	5" shell width	25 crabs	January 1 – April 30	Prohibited	Fishing for blue crabs with trap gear or retaining blue crabs taken by traps is prohibited
Other Edible Crabs (not including green crabs)	No size requirement	50 edible crabs combined and not to exceed 25 blue crabs.	January 1 – April 30	Prohibited	No tending or hauling traps ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise. Use of non-trap gears is allowed at night.

Crab Identification





Rock Crab





Jonah Crab

Green Crab

Recreational Lobstering and Edible Crabbing

How to Measure a Lobster

The Rules

Lobsters must be measured with a special gauge to make sure that they are keepers. Carapace length is measured from the rear of the eye socket to the rear of the carapace on a line parallel to the center line of the body shell. Make sure the gauge is at the extreme rear of the eye socket below the rostrum or horn. A common error is to measure from the horn located forward of the eye socket, which results in an improper measurement.

All lobsters measuring less than the minimum legal carapace length, or larger than the maximum legal carapace length, must be immediately returned to the waters from which taken. All lobsters must be measured immediately.

Mutilation

It shall be unlawful to possess any lobster, or part thereof, which is mutilated in a manner which makes accurate measurement impossible.



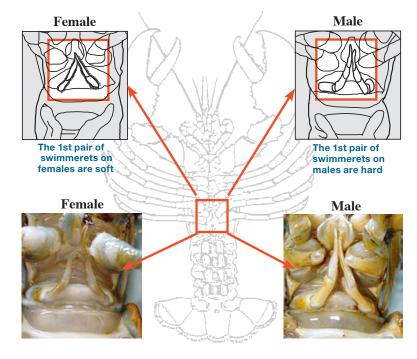




The gauge is placed in the rear of the eye socket

Is it Male or Female?

In order to determine the sex of a lobster, you must look at the first pair of appendages under the tail, called swimmerets. They are positioned near the base of the last pair of walking legs. The first pair of swimmerets are hard in the male, and soft and feathery in the female.



All About Lobster

What are they?

Lobsters are ten-legged (decapod) crustaceans. The American lobster is the only species of clawed lobster in the Northwestern Atlantic region.

Where are they?

The American lobster is distributed throughout the Northwest Atlantic from the Straights of Bell Isle, Newfoundland to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

They are most abundant in coastal zones at depths of less than 150 ft. (~50 m). The greatest abundance of lobster occurs within the Gulf of Maine - from midcoast Maine to southwest Nova Scotia.

American lobster is a long-lived species known to reach more than 40 lb. (18 kg).

Age is unknown because all hard parts are shed and replaced at molting (shedding), leaving no accreting material for age determination. In Massachusetts, shedding typically occurs between June and October.

Lobsters at minimum legal size are generally considered to be between 5 and 7 years of age based on hatchery observations. Maximum age is generally considered to be between 30 and 40 years.

Biology

Fertilized eggs are carried on the female abdomen for a 9 to 12 month period of development prior to hatching.

Female lobsters carry between 1,000 and >100,000 eggs depending on the size of the female.

Hatching typically occurs over a 4 month period from May through September. In Massachusetts we typically see peak hatching from late-June through early-July.

Egg-bearing Females

It is unlawful for any fisherman to take or possess any egg-bearing female lobster or female lobster with the egg mass forcibly removed, at any time.



When eggs are extruded they are dark green and the female is called a green egger.



As eggs develop and approach hatching time they turn brown to reddish brown and the female is called a brown egger.

V-Notching Regulations

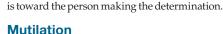
What is a V-Notch?

A *v-notch* is a mark on the tail flipper of a female lobster that was put there by a commercial lobsterman as a means to identify and protect a known breeder in the population from harvest.

Commercial lobstermen make a v-notch in the tail flippers of egg-bearing female lobsters they encounter while fishing. The v-notch remains in the female's flipper after she has hatched her eggs which protects her from harvest through additional molts. If you choose to voluntarily v-notch egg-bearing female lobsters, we strongly encourage you to purchase a v-notching tool; this tool is available at marine supply stores.

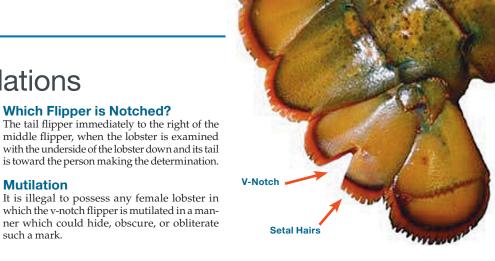
V-Notching History

The practice of v-notching, as a means of protecting local broodstock, originated in Maine and dates back to the early 1900s.



It is illegal to possess any female lobster in which the v-notch flipper is mutilated in a manner which could hide, obscure, or obliterate

Which Flipper is Notched?



Below: Newly v-notched lobster and additional pictures of the v-notched lobster before and after it underwent two successive molts. Note that changes occurred even before the lobster molted









SCUBA Regulations for Recreational Lobster and Edible Crabbing



To recreationally dive for lobsters in Massachusetts, all divers must hold a Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Permit endorsed for diving. A permit endorsed for diving only covers the individual and does not cover the immediate family. Each individual diver must hold their own permit endorsed for diving. This permit must be carried on the vessel at all times when fishing for lobsters. No permit is required for the taking of edible crabs by diving. The taking of edible crabs is subject to recreational crab regulations (page 35).

Gear and Marking Requirements

Dive Flag - MA law requires each diver or group of divers, while swimming or below the surface, to display a dive flag. The dive flag must be at least 12" x 15" in area with a red background and white diagonal stripe. The flag must be displayed on the vessel or on a surface float and must extend at least 3 feet from the surface of the water. Divers are required to stay within 100 feet of the displayed flag while at or near the surface. Divers may display their permit numbers of their dive flag.

Dive Marker - If the permit number for all divers is not displayed on the dive flag, a dive marker must be used. The dive marker must be a 12" x 12" floating panel with a white background. The permit number for each diver must be displayed on each side of the marker in numerals measuring 3" in height by ½" in width. Dive Tank - The permit number must be marked on your dive tank in numerals that measure 3" in height by ½" in width.

Divers may take lobsters by hand. They may





Catch Limits

There is a limit of 15 lobsters per day per permit, and all lobsters must meet the legal requirements. Divers are required to measure all lobsters in possession prior to surfacing.

Taking of blue crabs and other edible crabs is prohibited from January 1 through April 30.



All About Gear

Permit Requirements

To recreationally fish for lobsters or edible crabs excluding blue crabs you must hold a Recreational Lobster/Crabbing Permit endorsed for trap fishing. This endorsement allows you to fish up to 10 traps. Any member of your immediate family may fish your traps for you. No household may hold more than one permit endorsed for traps, nor fish more than 10 traps. This permit must be carried on the vessel at all times when fishing for lobsters or edible crabs. This permit allows up to 15 lobsters to be kept per day.

Surface Identification

Buoy Colors

All traps and cars must be buoyed at the surface. Each permit holder must have a unique buoy color combination of up to three colors. This color combination is provided by the applicant on the application. Each buoy must be marked with this color scheme, typically by painting the buoys. The color scheme must also be visibly displayed on the vessel. This is commonly done by displaying a buoy on the vessel or painting the color scheme on the side of the vessel. You should look to see what combinations recreational and commercial trap fishermen are using in your area and try to pick a unique color combination.

Buoy Marking

All buoys must be permanently marked

alphanumerical sequence. This begins with the letter "N"; then the permit number; followed by a dash (-); then a single digit from 0 to 9, indicating the sequential pot number in the series that the permit holder is fishing. Each letter and number must be 1" in height by ½" in width. Common techniques include permanent marker, painting or burning.

Most recreational fishermen prefer to fish single buoyed pots rather than

trawls, which are a series of pots

tied together at one or both ends.

However, they may fish either.

Each style of trap configuration

requires a unique surface

identification.

Single Pots vs Trawls

Single traps shall be marked with a single 7" x 7" or 5" x 11" buoy. The use of buoy sticks is optional, but if a stick is used a flag shall not be attached.

Trawls shall be marked on the east end with a double buoy consisting of any combination of two 7" x 7" or 5" x 11" buoys and one or more three foot sticks (so the two buoys can be sideby-side or stacked). Then the west end of the trawl shall be marked with a single 7" x

7" or $5"\,x\,11''$ buoy with a 3 foot stick and flag. Trawls of two or three traps shall only be marked on one end, whereas trawls of four or more traps must be marked on both.

Gear Identification

All traps and cars must be permanently marked with permit holder information in the same alphanumerical sequence as the buoy number. This alphanumerical sequence shall be permanently secured into the inside of the trap through the use of a synthetic plate or by being burned or cut by a wooden lath.



Lobster/Crab Trap Requirements

Maximum Size

It is unlawful for any trap to exceed a volume of 22,950 cubic inches.

Escape Vents

Escape vents are required in order to allow sub-legal sized lobsters and other non-targeted species to leave the trap. Escape vents must be unobstructed. Circular vents are preferred for retaining crabs.

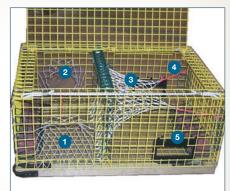
One or more rectangular escape vent or two or more circular escape vents shall be placed on a side of the parlor section of the trap and are typically affixed with hog rings. While a particular orientation is not mandated, certain orientations enhance escapement (see Escape Vent and Ghost Panel Placement). If your trap has two parlors, both areas must be vented.

Escape vent sizes and frequency are specific to the Recreational Lobster/Crab Area (p 30) where the traps are set and hauled:

- Gulf of Maine Recreational Lobster/Crab Area. Rectangular escape vents must measure at least 1 ½6" by 5 ¾" or two circular vents must measure 2 ⅙" diameter.
- Outer Cape Cod or Southern New England Recreational Lobster/Crab Area. Rectangular escape vents must measure 2" by 5 ¾" or two circular vents must measure at least 2 ¾" diameter.

Anatomy of a Lobster Trap

- **1. Entrance Head:** Mesh opening where lobsters enter the trap.
- **2. Kitchen:** This is where the bait bag is placed to attract lobsters into the trap.
- **3. Parlor Head or Funnel:** Lobsters use this mesh netting as a means out of the kitchen, assuming it's a way out of the trap.
- 4. Parlor: Area where the lobsters end up after leaving the kitchen and traveling up the funnel. Most of the catch will be found in this part of the trap.



5. Escape Vent/Ghost Panel: Opening of designated size that allows sub-legal lobsters to escape the trap. The biodegradable materials used to attach the escape vent panel will allow the "ghost panel" to open if the trap has been lost or abandoned. This prevents the trap from continuing to fish after it has been lost or abandoned.

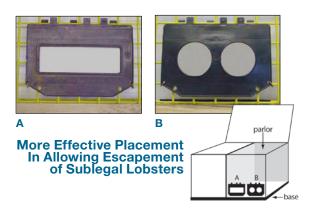
Ghost Panels

Ghost panels are designed to create an opening to allow the escapement of lobsters and incidental catch within 12 months after a trap has been lost or abandoned.

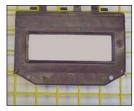
- Panel size. The panel must be rectangular and measure at least 3 ¾" x 3 ¾". The panel may be your escape vent or trap door.
- Panel location. The panel must be located in the outer parlor section of the trap and in a position which allows unobstructed exit of lobsters. The panel should not be located on the bottom of the trap.
- Panel fasteners. The panel or the trap door or escape vent if being used as a panel must be fastened to the trap with one of the following materials: cotton; hemp; sisal or jute twine not greater than 3/16" diameter; or non-stainless, uncoated ferrous metal not greater than 3/32" in diameter.
- Wooden traps. Traps constructed entirely or partially of wood shall be considered in compliance if constructed with wooden lath to the extent that deterioration of the wooden component(s) will result in an unobstructed opening of at least 3 ½" by 3 ½".

Escape Vent and Ghost Panel Placement

• Note: These examples are meant to be used as suggestions for escape vent and ghost panel placement in lobster traps. It is NOT required that escape vents and ghost panels be positioned in any way, except to provide an "unobstructed" means for escape by sub-legal lobsters.



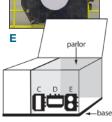






Less Effective Placement In Allowing Escapement of Sublegal Lobsters

• Less effective locations for escape vent panels include the inside of a trap and the upper panel and door.



Line Configuration Requirements

Your buoy lines are the lines that connect your pots to their surface buoy. While swimming through the water column large whales, porpoises and sea turtles may become entangled in these lines. As Massachusetts provides important waters for these species, your buoy lines are subject to certain requirements to reduce injury and mortality associated with entanglements and to identify entangling gear.

Sinking Buoy Lines

The top 2/3 of all buoy lines must be comprised of sinking line. The bottom 1/3 of the line which may be floating line, if so desired. Sinking line has a specific gravity that is greater than or equal to that of seawater (1.03) and does not float in the water column.

Buoy Line Marking

By marking the rope, that gear can be identified to a certain area and fishery, if it is taken off an entangled whale.



Buoy Line Diameter

All buoy lines must have a diameter that does not exceed $\frac{5}{16}$ ".

Weak Links

On the top of the buoy line before the buoy, all lines must have a breakable section (weak link) that will part when subjected to 600 pounds of pull pressure and after parting will result in a knot-less end, not thicker than the diameter of the line (see image).

Buoy Line Marking

Mid-way on the buoy line there must be a 4" red mark. If the buoy line is red, then a white mark may be used instead. Common marking tools include tape and paint (see image).

Ground Line

If fishing trawls, the groundline that connects each pot must be sinking line (see image).



Whale Gear Restrictions and Closures

Abandoned Gear

All traps must be hauled at least once every 30 days, or the gear is considered to be abandoned. It is unlawful to abandon gear in Massachusetts waters. If you believe your gear is lost and may become abandoned, please contact the Massachusetts Environmental Police or the Division of Marine Fisheries and inform them of when and where the gear was last hauled and set.

Trap Gear Closure

All traps must be removed from and may not be set in waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth from November 1 - May 15.

Blue Crab Trap Prohibition

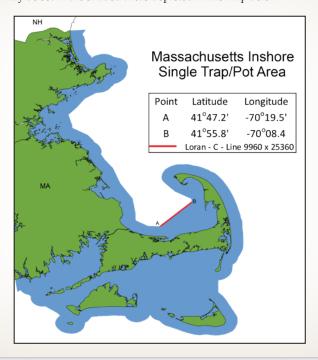
The use of traps to take blue crabs and the retention of blue crabs taken by traps is prohibited.

Single Traps Closure

The use of single traps is prohibited in state-waters north of Cape Cod that are seaward of 3-miles from shore, with an exception for an area off Billingsgate Shoal. This area includes those waters that are shoreward of the Loran-C Line 9960-X-25360, as it runs from Barnstable to Wellfleet (see map for coordinates).

Single Trap Area

Single traps may be set in the shaded areas depicted in the map below.



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* Denotes official DMF Saltwater Fishing Derby Weigh Station.

If you would like to become an official weigh station please contact DMF Biologist John Boardman (508) 742-9739, john.boardman@mass.gov

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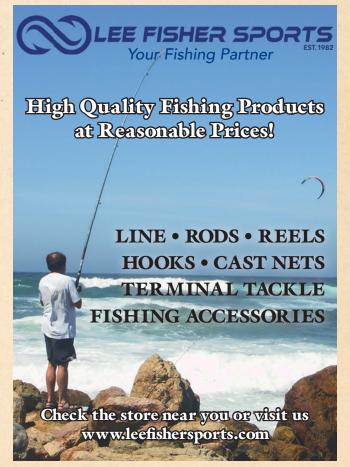
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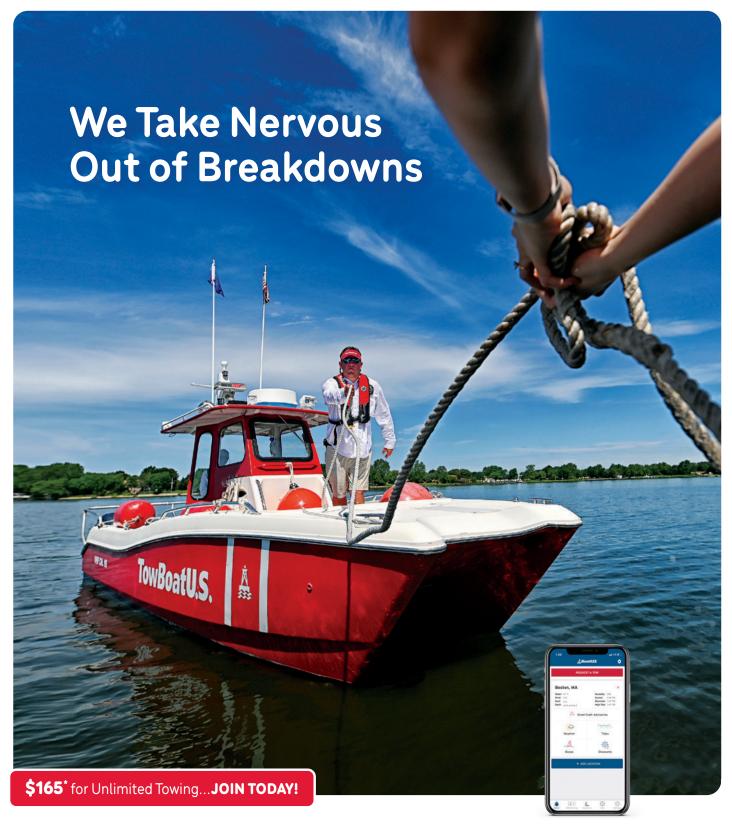
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