

ATLANTIC OCEAN, COASTAL BAYS and TRIBUTARIES - 2019

Species	Minimum Size Limits	Season	Creel Limit	Remarks
American eel	9 inches	January 1–August 31, except open year round for spears and baited traps or pots	Daily—25	
Black Drum	16 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—1 Boat limit—6	
Black sea bass	12.5 inches	May 15–Dec 31	Daily—15	
Bluefish	8 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—10	
Croaker (Hardhead)	9 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—25	
Red drum (Channel Bass or Puppy Drum)	18–27 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—1	
Scup (Porgy)	8 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—50	
Sharks	See Highly Migratory Species Section			
Spanish Mackerel*	14 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—15	
Spotted seatrout	14 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—4	
Striped Bass	See Next Page			
Summer Flounder (Fluke)	16.5 inches	Open Year Round	4/person/day	
Tautog	16 inches	CLOSED May 16–June 30	January 1–May 15, 4 fish/person/day July 1–October 31, 2 fish/person/day November 1–December 31, 4 fish/person/day	
Wahoo	None	Open Year Round	Daily—2	Only applies to federal waters.
Weakfish	13 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—1	
Alewife Herring, American Shad, Atlantic sturgeon, Blueback Herring and shortnose STURGEON	CLOSED			

Striped Bass

Jan. 1-Dec. 31	No area restrictions in state waters	2 fish per person per day. Must be between 28 inches and 38 inches, inclusive, or greater than or equal to 44 inches	Striped bass may not be caught, harassed or possessed in the Exclusive Economic Zone, which stretches from 3-200 miles off the coast.
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Sharks

Shark Species Approved for Recreational Harvest*	Season	Minimum Fork Length	Daily Creel Shore* (per angler)	Daily Creel Vessel* (per trip)
Atlantic Sharpnose Shark Bonnethead Shark Smooth Dogfish*	Open Year Round	None		
Blacknose Shark Blue Shark Common Thresher Shark Finetooth Shark Oceanic Whitetip Shark Porbeagle Shark Shortfin Mako Shark (subject to change) **	Open Year Round	54 inches	Each recreational shore angler is allowed a maximum of 1 shark per calendar day from this list of approved species. In addition, each recreational shore angler may harvest 1 of each of the following species per calendar day:	Each recreational vessel is allowed a maximum of 1 shark per trip from this list of approved species. In addition, each recreational angler may harvest 1 of each of the following species per trip:
Blacktip Shark Bull Shark Lemon Shark Nurse Shark Spinner Shark Tiger Shark	Open Year Round Except May 15–July 15	54 inches	1. bonnethead 2. Atlantic sharpnose shark 3. smooth dogfish	1. bonnethead 2. Atlantic sharpnose shark 3. smooth dogfish
great, Scalloped, and smooth Hammerhead Sharks	Open Year Round Except May 15–July 15	78 inches		
Spiny Dogfish	Open Year Round	None	None	None

*. All species not listed in the above table, including sandbar and dusky sharks, are prohibited and must be released.

** Effective March 3, 2019, federal minimum size is now sex specific: males 71 and females 83" fork length.