

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

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

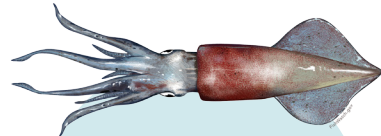
Updated June 1, 2016

**Questions regarding charter/party and recreational vessel regulations?**

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



**Summer Flounder  
(Fluke)**  
Please see the regulations for the State you will be fishing in (Table 1).



**Longfin Squid**  
No Minimum Size  
Unlimited  
All Year



**Shortfin Squid**  
No Minimum Size  
Unlimited  
All year



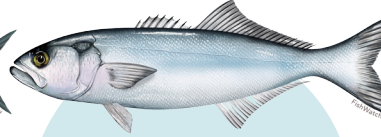
**Butterfish**  
No Minimum Size  
Unlimited  
All Year



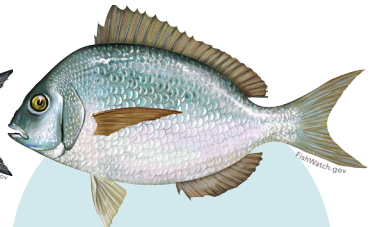
**Black Sea Bass**  
12.5 inches  
15 Fish Limit  
May 15 - Sept 21 and  
Oct 22 - Dec 31



**Atlantic Mackerel**  
No Minimum Size  
Unlimited  
All year



**Bluefish**  
No Minimum Size  
15 Fish Limit  
All year



**Scup/Porgies**  
9 inches  
50 Fish Limit  
All year



**Golden Tilefish**  
No Minimum Size  
8 Fish Limit  
All year



**Blueline/Gray  
Tilefish**  
No Minimum Size  
7 Fish Limit  
All year

**Both Golden and Blueline Tilefish regulations apply from Maine to Virginia**

**Important Notes:**

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



**Table 1: 2016 State Recreational Measures for Summer Flounder**

| State                          | Minimum Size | Possession Limit | Open Season(s) |
|--------------------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| MA                             | 16 inches    | 5 fish           | 5/22 - 9/23    |
| RI                             | 18 inches    | 8 fish           | 5/1 - 12/31    |
| CT *                           | 18 inches    | 5 fish           | 5/17 - 9/21    |
| NY                             |              |                  |                |
| *CT, 46 designated shore sites | 16 inches    | 5 fish           | 5/17 - 9/21    |
| NJ*                            | 18 inches    | 5 fish           | 5/21 - 9/25    |
| *NJ, 1 designated shore site   | 16 inches    | 2 fish           | 5/21 - 9/25    |
| DE                             | 16 inches    | 4 fish           | 1/1 - 12/31    |
| MD                             |              |                  |                |
| PRFC                           |              |                  |                |
| VA                             |              |                  |                |
| NC                             | 15 inches    | 6 fish           | 1/1 - 12/31    |

\*n NJ inside Delaware Bay (west of the COLREGs line at Cape May, NJ), anglers may keep 4 fish at 17 inches, May 22-September 26.

**Table 2: 2016 State Recreational Measures for Black Sea Bass**

| State                                  | Minimum Size                                      | Possession Limit | Open Season(s)                |
|--|---|------------------|-------------------------------|
| ME                                     | 13"   | 10 fish          | 5/19 - 9/21                   |
| NH                                     | 13"   | 10 fish          | 1/1 - 12/31                   |
| MA                                     | 15"   | 5 fish           | 5/21 - 8/31                   |
| RI                                     | 15"   | 3 fish           | 6/24 - 8/31                   |
|  |   | 7 fish           | 9/1 - 12/31                   |
| CT                                     | Private   | 5 fish           | 5/1 - 12/31                   |
|  | For-hire with Letter of Authorization from CT DEP | 8 fish           | 5/1 - 12/31                   |
| NY                                     | 15"   | 3 fish           | 6/27 - 8/31                   |
|  |   | 8 fish           | 9/1 - 10/31                   |
|  |   | 10 fish          | 11/1 - 12/31                  |
| NJ                                     | 12.5"   | 10 fish          | 5/23 - 6/19                   |
|  | 13"   | 2 fish           | 7/1 - 8/31                    |
| DE, MD, & VA                           | 12.5"   | 15 fish          | 5/15 - 9/21;                  |
|  |   |                  | 10/22 - 12/31                 |
| NC ((North of 35°15'N (Cape Hatteras)) | 12.5"   | 15 fish          | 5/19 - 9/21;<br>10/18 - 12/31 |

**Table 3: 2016 State Recreational Measures for Scup**

| State                                  | Fishing Mode                              | Minimum Size | Possession Limit  | Open Season(s)               |
|--|---|--------------|---|------------------------------|
| MA                                     | Private                                   | 10 inches    | 30 fish/person or 150 fish/vessel if 5 or more anglers are aboard | 5/1 - 12/31                  |
|  | Charter/Party - Bonus                     |              | 45 fish   | 5/1 - 6/30                   |
|  | Charter/ Party - Regular                  |              | 30 fish   | 7/1 - 12/31                  |
| RI                                     | Private                                   | 10 inches    | 30 fish   | 5/1-12/31                    |
|  | Shore Program (7 designated shore sites)  | 9 inches     |   |                              |
|  | Charter/Party                             | 10 inches    | 30 fish   | 5/1 - 8/31;<br>11/1 - 12/ 31 |
| CT                                     | Private                                   | 10 inches    | 30 fish   | 5/1 - 12/31                  |
|  | Shore Program (46 designated shore sites) | 9 inches     |   |                              |
|  | CT DEEP Registered Party/Charter          | 10 inches    | 30 fish   | 5/1 -8/31;<br>11/1 - 12/31   |
| NY                                     | Private                                   | 10 inches    | 30 fish   | 5/1 - 12/ 31                 |
|  | Charter/Party                             |              | 30 fish   | 5/1 -8/31;<br>11/1 - 12/31   |
|  |   |              | 45 fish   | 9/1 - 10/31                  |
| NJ                                     | All                                       | 9 inches     | 50 fish   | 1/1 - 2/28;<br>7/1 - 12/31   |
| DE                                     | All                                       | 8 inches     | 50 fish   | 1/1 - 12/31                  |
| MD                                     | All                                       | 8 inches     | 50 fish   | 1/1 - 12/31                  |
| VA                                     | All                                       | 8 inches     | 50 fish   | 1/1 - 12/31                  |
| NC ((North of 35°15'N (Cape Hatteras)) | All                                       | 8 inches     | 50 fish   | 1/1-12/31                    |

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