2012 Marine Recreational Fishing Regulations in Connecticut

Marine Fisheries Division
Phone 860-434-6043
www.ct.gov/dep/fishing

Species	Minimum Size *	Possession Limit	Open Season	Notes
Alewives, River Herring	Take prohibited			
American Eel	6”	50	All Year	
Black Sea Bass	13.0” (excludes the tendril)	15	June 15 – Dec 31	
Bluefish	none	10	All Year	
Scup (Porgy): Anglers other than Party/Charter	10.5”	20	May 1 – Dec 31	Includes anglers fishing on private vessels and anglers fishing from shore.
Scup (Porgy): At designated shore Sites ***Only*** (see Note).	9”	20	May 1 – Dec 31	Visit: www.ct.gov/dep/fishing or your local tackle shop for a list of 42 shore fishing sites designated in the Enhanced Opportunity Shore Angler Program (Summer Flounder and Scup only).
Scup (Porgy): Party/Charter anglers	11”	20	May 1 – Aug 31 Nov 1 – Dec 31	Includes passengers on Party/Charter Vessels.
		40	Sep 1 – Oct 31	
Shad, American & Hickory	None	6 (aggregate)	All Year	
Striped Bass: **New for 2012** – The Bonus Fishery Program is expanded to all state waters (see Note).	28”	2	All Year	No Spearing/gaffing, head and tail must remain intact and fish must not be rendered unidentifiable while on state waters. Visit: www.ct.gov/dep/fishing for details on the expanded 2012 Striped Bass Bonus Fishery Program. Voucher required to retain up to two fish per day (one per voucher) during May and June between 22” and 28”.
Summer Flounder (fluke):	18”	5	May 15–Oct 31	Fillets must meet size limit or be accompanied by legal-size rack(s) (carcasses). Visit: www.ct.gov/dep/fishing or your local tackle shop for a list of 42 shore fishing sites designated in the Enhanced Opportunity Shore Angler Program (Summer Flounder and Scup only).
Summer Flounder (fluke): At Designated shore Sites ***Only*** (see Note).	16”	5		
Tautog (Blackfish)	16"	2	Apr 1 – Apr 30	
		2	July 1 – Aug 31	
		4	Oct 10 – Dec 6	
Tunas	Federal rules apply. -See note on reverse side-			
Weakfish	16"	1	All Year	
White Perch	7”	30	All Year	Applies only to Marine District and tidal rivers and streams open to fishing year round.
Winter Flounder	12"	2	April 1 – May 30	
Sea-run Trout (Brown, Brook, Rainbow)	15"	2 (aggregate)	All Year	Angling only; rules are specific to the Marine District.
Cod	22"	10	All Year	State creel limit and minimum size automatically changes based on federal regulations (50-CFR-648.89) see: www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/the648.htm
Haddock	18"	No Limit	All Year	
Pollock	19"	No Limit	All Year	
Monkfish	17"	No Limit	All Year	17" total length or 11" tail length. Rarely taken locally.
Red Drum	27” *Maximum*	No Limit	All Year	Rarely taken locally.
Yellowtail Flounder	13"	No Limit	All Year	Rarely taken locally.
Atlantic Salmon, Atlantic Sturgeon, Shortnose Sturgeon	Take prohibited.			

*Fish minimum lengths are total length (tip of snout to end of tail).

Blue Crabs	5" (hard shell) 3.5" (soft shell) shell measured from spike to spike	No Limit***	May 1 - Nov 30	No license required. Approved methods: scoop/scap net, hand line, or manually operated and personally attended devices.
Lobster	3-3/8” minimum and 5-¼” maximum carapace length	No Limit***	All Year	Personal Use Lobster License required (10 pot limit) and purchase of pot tags required see: www.ct.gov/dep/fishing or contact Marine Fisheries. Possession of v-notched lobsters is prohibited. For information on statutes and regulations see: http://www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/fishing/saltwater/marinecirc.pdf

*** Possession of egg bearing blue crabs or lobsters from which eggs have been removed is prohibited

General

This document summarizes regulations pertaining to recreational fishing for marine species in Connecticut. For legal purposes, Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (www.ct.gov/dep/laws-regs) and the Connecticut General Statutes (http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/Statutes.asp) must be consulted. Fish taken contrary to these regulations shall be released immediately, without avoidable harm.

Licenses

A Marine Waters Fishing License (MWFL) is required of anyone age 16 or older, fishing from shore or from a privately owned boat in the marine district of this state, or landing marine fish or "bait species" in Connecticut taken from offshore waters. Licenses may be purchased online at www.ct.gov/dep/fishing, or at DEP offices, participating town halls, and tackle shops. Special "Personal Use" licenses are required for a) persons taking lobsters for their own use by up to 10 pots or SCUBA and b) persons taking menhaden with a single gill net not more than 60 feet in length, for personal use from marine waters.

Fees

Resident:

Age 16-64 - $10.00

Age 65 and over - Free

Non-Resident:

Age 16 and over - $15.00

Combination sporting licenses are also available.

Reciprocity

Connecticut recognizes saltwater fishing licenses from Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York. However, Connecticut residents must obtain a Connecticut Marine Waters Fishing License.

Recreational Gears

Any species not otherwise prohibited may be taken by hook and line, or spear fishing (except spears not permitted to take striped bass). In the marine district only, the following gears may be used exclusively to take menhaden, hickory shad, Atlantic herring, eels, lampreys, and "bait species" as defined in state regulations: Cast nets, minnow traps (not more than 20" long by 15" diameter), scoop/scap nets (not more than 36" diameter), umbrella nets (not more than 4' in length by 4' in width), seines (not more than 30' long), and eel pots (two maximum).

Sharks

No person shall take from Connecticut waters any of the following species of shark: Atlantic angel; Basking; Bigeye sand tiger; Bigeye sixgill; Bigeye thresher; Bignose; Caribbean reef; Caribbean sharpnose; Dusky; Galapagos; Longfin mako; Narrowtooth; Night; Sand tiger; Sandbar; Sevengill; Sixgill; Smalltail; Whale; and White shark. The commercial and recreational take of smooth dogfish is temporally prohibited. If any of the species listed above are caught they shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which it was taken.

Tunas and Billfish

Atlantic highly migratory species including tunas, swordfish, sharks, and billfish are managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service. For updates on Atlantic tunas visit: www.hmspermits.gov or call the Atlantic Tunas Information Line at (888) 872-8862. For updates on Atlantic sharks, swordfish, or billfish call HMS Management Division (301) 427-8503.

For regulations concerning lobsters or commercial fishing in the marine district, contact the Marine Fisheries Division.

PO Box 719,
Old Lyme, CT 06371
(860-434-6043)

For regulations in the inland district refer to the Connecticut Angler's Guide or contact the Inland Fisheries Division.

79 Elm Street,
Hartford, CT 06106
(860-424-3474)

For information about shellfish (oysters, clams, scallops, etc) contact your local town shellfish commission or the Aquaculture Division (DOA).

190 Rogers Ave
Milford, CT 06460
(203-874-0696)

For information about inland and marine demarcations refer to the Connecticut Angler's Guide or for a complete listing consult section 26-108-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, found at: www.ct.gov/dep/laws-regs.

- Please report fishing violations -
Call the Tip Line at 1-800-842-HELP (4357)

2012

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