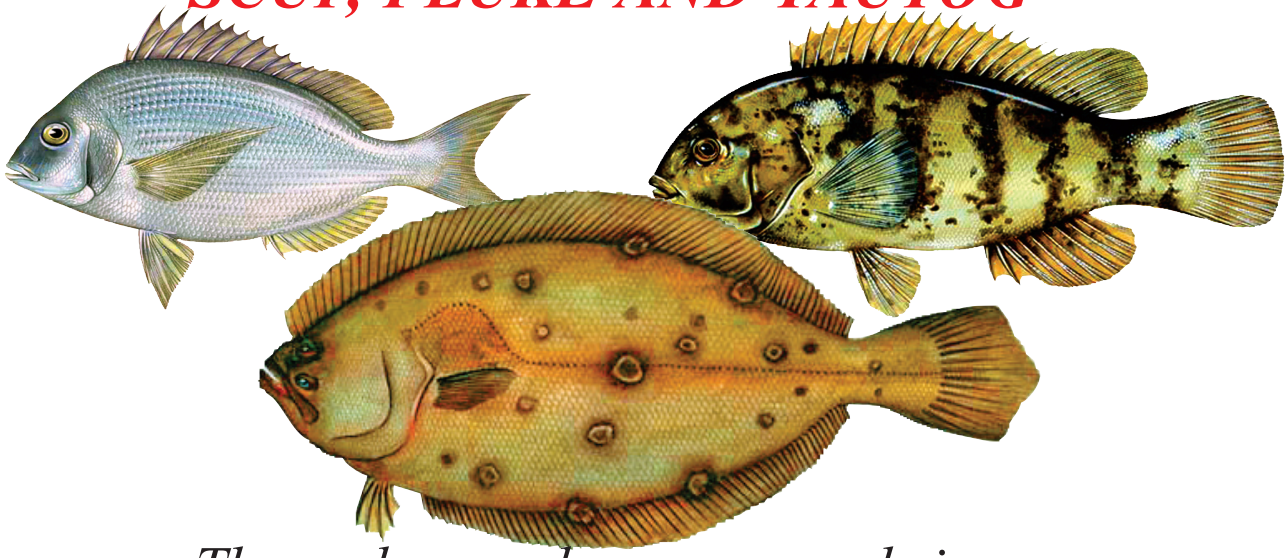
2008 CONNECTICUT
MARINE FISHING REGULATIONS

Includes ***Regulation Changes*** *for:*

SCUP, FLUKE AND TAUTOG



These changes have occurred since publication of the 2008 Angler's Guide

Fishing Violations - 1.800.842.4357

State of Connecticut
Department of
Environmental Protection
Bureau of Natural Resources

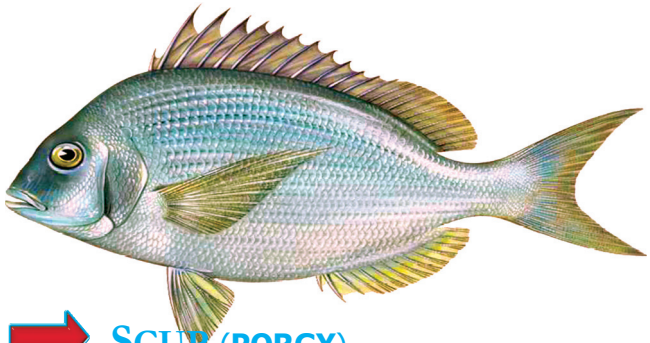
Marine Fisheries Division

Marine Recreational Fishing Regulations

Regulations for certain species have changed in 2008!

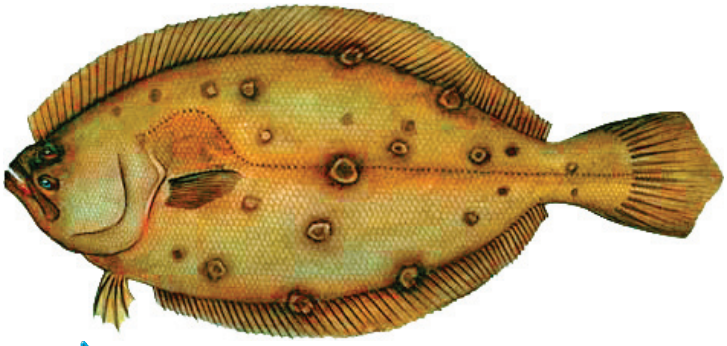
Striped Bass

Minimum Size: 28 inches.
Daily Creel Limit: 2 fish per angler.
Open Season: Year Round.
Special Note: No spearing or gaffing. Head and tail have to remain intact and fish must not be made unidentifiable.



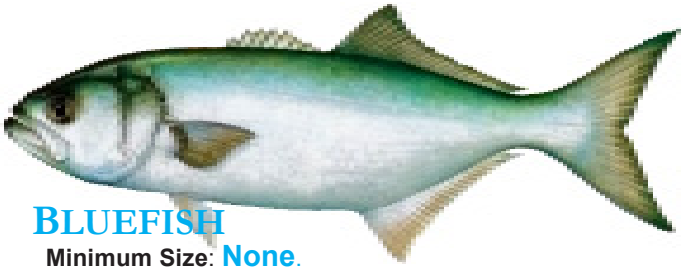
Scup (Porgy)

Minimum Size: 10-1/2 inches.
Daily Creel Limit: 10 fish per angler.
Open Season: May 24 - September 26.
***Party/Charter*:**
Minimum Size: 11 inches.
Open Season: June 12 - October 15.
Daily Creel Limit:
10 fish per Angler, June 12 - Aug. 31 and
45 fish per Angler, Sept. 1 - Oct. 15.



Summer Flounder (Fluke)

Minimum Size: 19.5 inches.
Daily Creel Limit: 5 fish per angler.
Open Season: May 24 - Sept. 1.
Closed: Sept. 2 - May 23.
Special Note: On the water, fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).



Bluefish

Minimum Size: None.
Daily Creel Limit: 10 fish per angler.
(including snapper bluefish).
Open Season: Year Round.

Tautog (Blackfish)

Minimum Size: 14 inches.
Daily Creel Limit: 4 fish per angler.
Open Season: Jan. 1 - April 30 and Oct.1 - Dec. 6
Daily Creel Limit: 2 fish per angler.
Open Season: July 1 - August 31.

Winter Flounder

Minimum Size: 12 inches.
Daily Creel Limit: 10 fish per angler.
Open Season: April 1 - May 30.
Closed: May 31 - March 31.

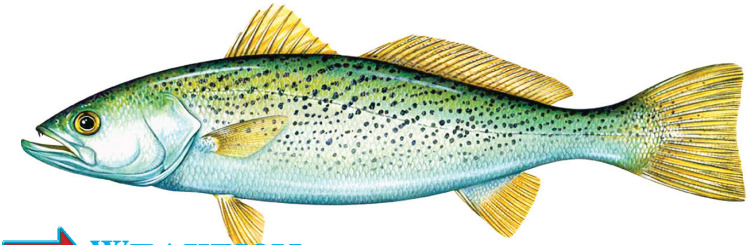
Black Sea Bass

Minimum Size: 12 inches.
Daily Creel Limit: 25 fish per angler.
Open Season: Year Round.

All fish are measured from tip of snout to end of tail (total length).

Species, Minimum Sizes, Daily Limits, and Fishing Seasons

Marine Fisheries Division 860.434.6043



Weakfish

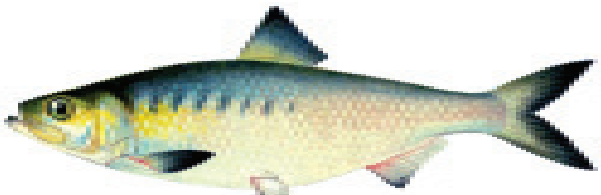
Minimum Size: 16 inches.
Daily Creel Limit: 6 fish per angler.
Open Season: Year Round.

Alewife / Blueback Herring

The Taking of Alewife and Blueback Herring is Prohibited!

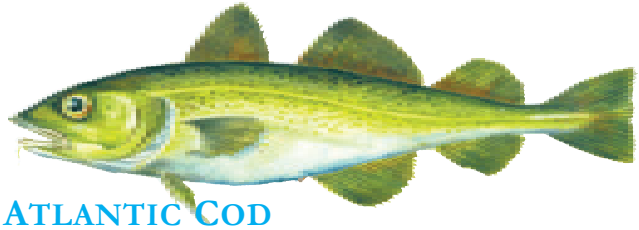
American Eel

Minimum Size: 6 inches.
Daily Creel Limit: 50 fish per angler.
Open Season: Year Round.
Special Note: Use of Eel Pots is limited to 2 pots per person, personal use only.



Hickory Shad / American Shad

Minimum Size: None.
Daily Creel Limit: 6 fish per angler, (both species in aggregate).
Open Season: Year Round.
Special Note: In the Pawcatuck River, the open season for American Shad follows Rhode Island regulations and the daily limit is 1 fish.

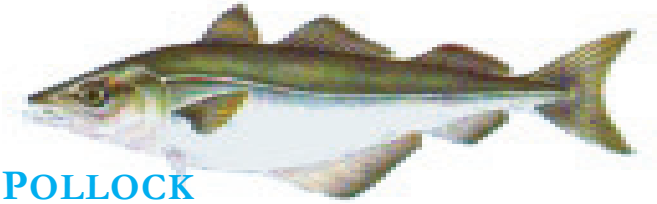


Atlantic Cod

Minimum Size: 22 inches.
Daily Creel Limit: 10 per angler.
Party/Charter: No Creel Limit
Open Season: Year Round.

Haddock

Minimum Size: 19 inches.
Daily Creel Limit: None.
Open Season: Year Round.



Pollock

Minimum Size: 19 inches.
Daily Creel Limit: None.
Open Season: Year Round.

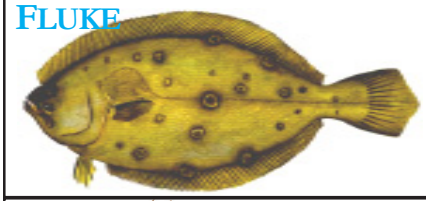
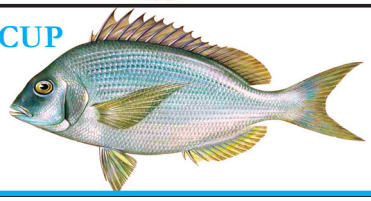
Sea-Run Trout (Brown, Brook, Rainbow)

Minimum Size: 15 inches.
Daily Creel Limit: 2 fish per angler, (all species in aggregate).
Open Season: Year Round.

White Perch

Minimum Size: 7 inches.
Daily Creel Limit: 30 fish per angler.
Open Season: Year Round.

FISHING IS FAMILY FUN

SPECIES	HABITAT	FISHING METHOD	BAITS and LURES
STRIPED BASS	Large Rivers In Spring and Fall Estuaries and Bays in Summer	Drifting with Live Bait Jigging and Trolling Bottom Fishing with Live or Dead Bait Casting to Fish	Live Bait; Menhaden, Eels, Shiners and Sand Worms All Types of Swimming & Diving Lures, Bucktail Jigs, Plastic Swimming Baits
HICKORY SHAD	Estuaries, Bays and Lower Sections of Rivers and Coves	Casting to Fish Drifting with the Tide Anchored Over Structure and Channels	Willowleaf, Shad Dart, Kastmaster and Small Jigs with Plastic Bodies
FLUKE 	Estuaries, Bays and Lower Sections of Rivers Hard Bottom and Channels Preferred	Bottom Fishing Drifting with Bait Jigging up and Down Casting to Fish and Slowly Retrieving Bait/Lure	Live/Dead Bait (Bunker, Mummichogs, Shiners and Silversides), Cut Squid, Baited Jigs, Rubber Worms, and Plastic Baits
SCUP 	Estuaries and Bays Rock Piles / Reefs Oyster & Mussel Beds Pilings and Jettties	Anchored over Structure Bottom Fishing Fishing with Live or Dead Bait	Squid, Conch, Sand Worms, Shrimp, Night Crawlers Mussels and Clams

Reduce Hooking Mortality - Please Use Circle Hooks!

MARINE VOLUNTEER ANGLER SURVEY PROGRAM

The Marine Fisheries Division is seeking marine recreational anglers who will volunteer to participate in the Connecticut **Volunteer Angler Survey (VAS)**. The **VAS** Program is designed to collect fishing trip and catch information from marine recreational (hook and line) anglers who volunteer to record their angling activities via a logbook. **VAS** anglers contribute valuable fisheries-specific information concerning striped bass, fluke, bluefish, and other important finfish species used in monitoring and assessing fish populations inhabiting Connecticut marine waters.

The **survey logbook is easy to fill out**. Each participating angler is assigned a personal code number for confidentiality. Recording instructions are provided on the inside cover of the logbook. Upon completion, simply tape the pre-postage paid logbook shut and drop it off in the mail. Anglers that send in logbooks are rewarded with a **VAS magnet** and updated results of the program. After all the logbooks are computer entered and error checked, the logbooks are returned to each participant for their own records.

Interested in participating in the survey?

Please contact: Rod MacLeod at 860.434.6043
Marine Fisheries Division
P.O. Box 719
Old Lyme, CT 06371
Email: **rod.macleod@ct.gov**

Check your local bait & tackle shop or **www.ct.gov/dep/fishing** for updated fishing information.