

Notice to Recreational Anglers

NEW BLACK SEA BASS AND BLUEFISH RECREATIONAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR 2026

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (MAFMC) have taken action to liberalize the coastwide recreational harvest of black sea bass and bluefish in 2026. Accordingly, CT recreational fishing regulations for these species will change for 2026 (new regulations for 2026 in bold font):

CT black sea bass recreational regulations for 2026:

Minimum length: **15.5 inches**

Open season: **May 16 – November 25**

Bag limit: **4 fish**

For paying passengers on Party / Charter vessels:

Minimum length: **15.5 inches**

Open season: **May 16** – December 31

Bag limit: **4 fish** from **May 16** – August 31

6 fish from September 1 – December 31

CT bluefish recreational regulations:

Open season: year round

Length limit: none

Bag limit: **5 fish** including "snappers"

For paying passengers on Party / Charter vessels: **7 fish**

Recreational regulations for all other species remain the same as 2025.

2026 Connecticut marine recreational fishing regulations are available at:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/Saltwater-Fishing-Guide/Species-Regulations>

For further information, contact the DEEP Marine Fisheries Program by email at

deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov, by mail at P.O. Box 719, Old Lyme, CT 06371 or by telephone at 860.434.6043.

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