

New York Marine Recreational Angler Records Program



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

New York's marine waters offer exciting and world-class saltwater fishing opportunities. The DEC Marine Recreational Angler Records Programs recognizes the exceptional marine fish and blue crabs that anglers bring ashore. If you've caught a big fish or blue crab, DEC wants to hear from you!

Follow the instructions below to submit your catch to us for certification:

General Rules of Entry

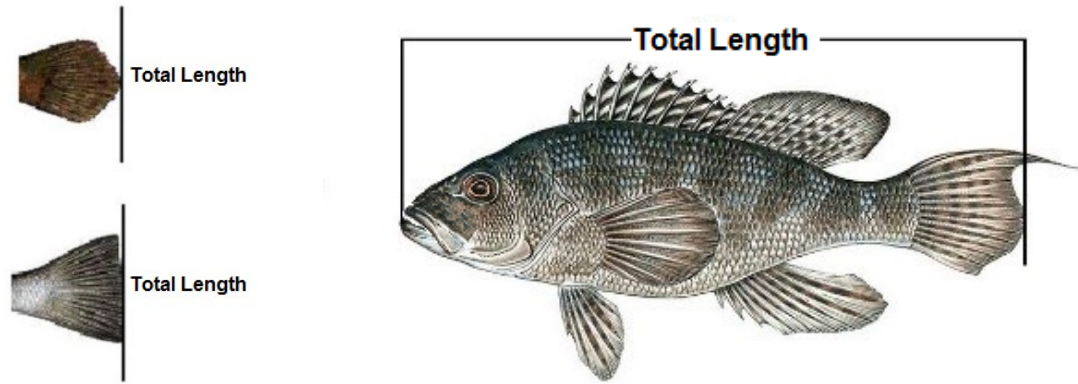
1. Fish must be caught during their respective open season by angling in the waters of the New York Marine and Coastal District and the Atlantic Ocean outside 3 miles in accordance with all New York State and Federal Regulations.
 - The Marine and Coastal district includes those tidal waters south of the Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, the Atlantic Ocean within three miles from shore, Long Island Sound, and coastal embayments.
 - Highly migratory species such as tuna, sharks, and swordfish that are kept in federal waters must be taken in accordance with all federal regulations.
 - All fish must be landed (i.e., brought back to port) in the state of New York to qualify.
2. Angling does not include any method by which the fish are foul hooked or speared. Fish will be disqualified if they show signs of foul hooking, snagging, being speared, gill netted, have foreign objects inserted to artificially increase weight, or are tampered with in any way.
3. Entry into any of the Record Programs (Annual Marine Angler Award, New York State Record Marine Fish, and New York State Record Blue Crab), must be completed using an official entry form. All required portions of the entry form must be completed for your entry to be considered. The form is available [online](#) or a PDF can be downloaded on on.ny.gov/marinerecords.
4. Entry forms and pictures must be received by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Division of Marine Resources **within 30 days** of the catch.
5. See specific photo requirements under each category below. Photos that do not allow for a clear identification of the fish will disqualify the entry. If possible, also include a photo of the angler with the fish. All photos may be used on the Department's website and promotional materials. Photographs cannot be returned.
6. All entries must be reviewed and verified by NYSDEC staff prior to acceptance. Review may take up to 30 days from receipt of the completed application.
7. Certificates for the longest fish of each species will be sent to the angler within 30 days of the end of the yearly contest. Certificates for new State Records will be sent to the angler within 30 days after verification and acceptance of the new record. The name and catch information of all anglers receiving a certificate will be posted on the [DEC webpage](#).

Annual Marine Angler Awards

To enter a fish in the **ANNUAL LONGEST FISH** category:

- The fish must be caught within the calendar year to be considered for an Annual Award in that year and must be one of the 23 species designated under the Annual Marine Angler Award category. (see table below)

- The fish must meet or exceed the minimum qualifying length for its species. Only the total length of the whole fish will be accepted. Fish that are mutilated, cut in half, or filleted will not be accepted.
- Total length is the longest straight line measurement from the tip of the snout, with the mouth closed, to the longest lobe of the tail, with the lobes squeezed together, and the fish laid flat on the measuring device. For black sea bass, the total length is measured from the tip of the snout with the mouth closed, to the longest extremity of the tail, but the tail filament is not included (see image below).



- Make sure a clear, side-view photograph of the entire fish and full length of the measuring board or tape clearly showing an accurate measurement of the fish is included with the entry form.
- Fish do not have to be harvested in order to qualify. Use discretion when bringing a fish on board a boat or on the shore to measure. If the fish may be injured in the process, or environmental conditions may cause significant stress to the animal, please do not measure the fish and release it without unnecessary harm. When practicing catch and release, follow [these techniques](#) to minimize stress and injury to the fish.
- Fish must exceed the length of the previous entry by $\frac{1}{4}$ th (0.25) inch in order to take the lead.

Annual Marine Angler Award for Longest Fish

Species	Minimum Length to Qualify
Atlantic Bonito	20"
Atlantic Cod	28"
Black Drum	45"
Black Sea Bass	20"
Blackfish (Tautog)	24"
Bluefish	30"
Cobia	45"
Cunner (Bergall)	13"
False Albacore	25"
Northern Kingfish	15"
Northern Puffer	8.5"
Pollock	28"

Species	Minimum Length to Qualify
Red Hake (Ling)	22"
Scup (Porgy)	17"
Sheepshead	18"
Spanish Mackerel	24"
Striped Bass	40"
Striped Sea Robin	18"
Summer Flounder (Fluke)	27"
Triggerfish	14"
Weakfish	20"
White Perch	15"
Winter Flounder	16"

Before heading out to fish, make sure to check the current **Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations**.

New York State Record Marine Fish

To enter a fish for a **NEW YORK STATE RECORD**:

1. The fish must be one of the 33 fish species designated for State Record consideration. The 33 fish species that are eligible for the program includes all fish listed on the current State Record list that are not on the retired list, and new fish species with records to be established. (see tables below)
2. The fish must be weighed on a certified scale by the owner or an employee of the business where the scale is located. Certified scales can be found at post offices, supermarkets, bait and tackle shops, and marinas. The department does not have a comprehensive list of all establishments with certified scales at this time. **Fish weighed on personal handheld scales will not be accepted.**
3. For verification purposes, the name and phone number of the business where the fish was weighed and the name of the employee of the business who weighed the fish must be entered on the entry form.
4. Fish must exceed the previous record by a minimum of 0.05 pounds in order to qualify as a new State Record.
5. Make sure a side-view photograph of the fish that allows for a definitive identification of the species is included with the entry form. In addition, please include a photograph showing the record weight of the fish on the certified scale.
6. Fish fed or otherwise grown with the intention of breaking a State Record will be disqualified.

Current New York State Marine Recreational Records

Species	Weight (lbs.)	Angler	Date
Atlantic Bonito	13.45	Matthew P. Kessinger, Oceanside, NY	11/8/2020
Atlantic Cod	85.00	Fred Shay, Jr., Montauk, NY	2/25/1984
Blackfish (Tautog)	22.53	Bill Taylor, Amityville, NY	11/14/2014
Black Sea Bass	9.00	Sal Vicari, Bronx, NY	10/10/1993
Bluefish	25.00	Peter Weber, Jr., Montauk, NY	10/30/1998
Dolphinfish (Mahi-Mahi)	56.50	Joe Mole, Massapequa Park, NY	7/26/2015
False Albacore	18.05	Jason Fassino, Lindenhurst, NY	6/15/2021
Golden Tilefish	68.25	Robert Foley, Cortlandt Manor, NY	7/11/2021
Northern Puffer	1.34	Matt Warshaw, New York, NY	10/3/2020
Marlin (Blue) *	1,174.00	Bill Sweedler, Westport, CT	7/20/1986
Marlin (White) *	130.00	Mrs. P. Dater, East Hampton, NY	8/13/1951
Pollock	45.94	Bruce Morabito, West Islip, NY	8/26/1988
Porgy (Scup)	6.25	Samuel Warren, District Hgts, MD	10/1/1978
Shark (Blue)**	528.00	Joe Seidel, Bayside, NY	8/9/2001
Shark (Mako) *	1,080.00	James Melanson, Haverhill, MD	8/26/1979
Shark (Porbeagle)	393.00	Robert Bruno, Staten Island, NY	8/23/2014
Shark (Thresher)	707.00	William Dittenhoefer Jr., Baldwin, NY	6/16/2023
Shark (Tiger)	1,087.00	Ken Rafferty, Massapequa, NY	7/23/1986
Shark (White) *	3,450.00	Don Braddick, Montauk, NY	8/6/1986

Current New York State Marine Recreational Records (cont'd)

Species	Weight (lbs.)	Angler	Date
Sheepshead	13.90	James Torborg, Atlantic Beach, NY	9/22/2020
Striped Bass *	76.00	Bob Rocchetta, East Setauket, NY	7/17/1981
Striped Sea Robin	3.17	Shawn Viniotis, Lindenhurst, NY	8/12/2023
Summer Flounder (Fluke)**	22.44	Charles Nappi, Hicksville, NY	9/15/1975
Swordfish	540.00	Dean Delle Donne, Moriches, NY	9/8/2006
Triggerfish	7.63	Steven Newman, Montauk, NY	10/3/1999
Tuna (Albacore)	81.15	Billy Turnbull, Key Colony Beach, FL	10/8/2011
Tuna (Bigeye)	355.00	Richard Buechmann, Oakdale, NY	9/27/1981
Tuna (Bluefin) *	1,071.00	Larry Thompson, Montauk, NY	8/21/1977
Tuna (Yellowfin)	248.50	Bruce Weisinger, East Hills, NY	9/9/2002
Wahoo	117.00	Jonathan Stabe, Brewster, NY	8/17/2013
Weakfish	19.13	Dennis Rooney, Seaford, NY	10/11/1984
White Perch	3.06	Jeffrey Butta, Ronkonkoma, NY	2/11/2023
Winter Flounder	7.22	Jack Cohen, Staten Island, NY	6/29/1997

*Due to regulations, and/or conservation or population status of these species, new State Records will not be accepted. Additionally, white sharks are a **prohibited species** and they may not be targeted or retained (6 CRR-NY 40.7 (C) (1)).

***All Tackle World Record*

New Record Categories to Establish

DEC is seeking State Records for the following fish species. If you think your catch can be the next State Record, send us your submission using the instructions provided above.

Species	Minimum Weight to Establish the Record	Recreational Size Limit
Black Drum	50 lbs.	None
Cobia	50 lbs.	37"
Cunner (Bergall)	2 lbs. 8 oz	None
Northern Kingfish	2 lbs.	None
Red Hake (Ling)	5 lbs.	None
Spanish Mackerel	5 lbs.	14"

Retired Marine Records

New York State Records that have been retired may be reinstated when regulations change, and/or the population or conservation status of the species improves.

Species	Weight (lbs.)	Angler	Date
Marlin (Blue)	1,174.00	Bill Sweedler, Westport, CT	7/20/1986
Marlin (White)	130.00	Mrs. P. Dater, East Hampton, NY	8/13/1951
Shark (Mako)	1,080.00	James Melanson, Haverhill, MD	8/26/1979
Shark (White)	3,450.00	Don Braddick, Montauk, NY	8/6/1986
Striped Bass	76.00	Bob Rocchetta, East Setauket, NY	7/17/1981
Tuna (Bluefin)	1,071.00	Larry Thompson, Montauk, NY	8/21/1977

New York State Record Blue Crab

To enter a blue crab for a **NEW YORK STATE RECORD BLUE CRAB** :

1. Blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*) is the only qualifying species for this record. Other species of crab will not be accepted.
2. Blue crab must be captured from the waters of the New York Marine and Coastal District while recreationally crabbing. The Marine and Coastal district includes those tidal waters south of the Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, the Atlantic Ocean within three miles from shore, Long Island Sound, and coastal embayments. Holders of a commercial crab permit will not be eligible for the record.
3. The record will be determined by measuring the carapace width (CW) of the crab. Carapace width is measured from the tip of one lateral spine across the top of the body shell to the tip of the other lateral spine, not including claws, legs, other appendages, or encrustations.
4. Qualifying crabs must be measured by staff at a tackle shop. For verification purposes, the name and phone number of the business where the crab was measured and the name of the employee of the business who measured the crab must be entered on the entry form.
5. The crab must be whole, having the majority of its body parts intact at time of measurement. The crab may be live or dead at the time of measurement.
6. Crabs must exceed the previous record by a minimum of $\frac{1}{8}$ th (0.125) inch in order to qualify as a new State Record.
7. At least one photo clearly showing the official measurement of the catch, which includes both lateral spines and the full length of the measuring device, must be submitted along with the entry form.

Blue Crab Record

Species	Length (in)	Crabber	Date
Blue Crab	8.1875"	Marc Zaluski, Water Mill, NY	5/25/2024

CONTACT INFORMATION

Marine Recreational Angler Records Program

Division of Marine Resources

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