



## FISHING SEASONS AND LIMITS

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY CREEL LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH <sup>1</sup>
<b>Trout</b> <sup>2</sup>			
Lakes, ponds, major rivers <sup>3,5,6</sup>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	3	—
Housatonic River <sup>4</sup>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	1	20"
All other rivers and brooks	Apr. 1 – Sept. 10 Sept. 11 – Mar. 31, 2025	8 3	—
<b>Lake Trout</b>			
Wachusett Reservoir <sup>6</sup>	(see note 6)	3	—
Quabbin Reservoir <sup>6</sup>	(see note 6)	2	18"
<b>Landlocked Salmon</b> <sup>6</sup>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	2	15"
<b>American Shad</b> <sup>7</sup> (Connecticut and Merrimack rivers only, including their tributaries.)	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	3	—
<b>Chain Pickerel</b>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	5	15"
<b>Black Bass</b> (Largemouth and Smallmouth, singly or combined):	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	5	12"
<b>Northern Pike</b>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	1	28"
<b>Tiger Muskellunge</b>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	1	28"
<b>Walleye</b>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	5	14"
<b>Smelt</b> <sup>8</sup>	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28 May 16 – Dec. 31	—	—
<b>All Other Freshwater Species</b> <sup>9</sup>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	—	—
<b>Striped Bass and Herring:</b> For season, size, and possession limits call the Division of Marine Fisheries at (617) 626-1520, or visit <a href="http://mass.gov/marinefisheries">mass.gov/marinefisheries</a> .			
<b>Possession of:</b> Sturgeon (all species), American Brook Lamprey, Atlantic (sea-run) Salmon, Bridle Shiner, Burbot, Eastern Silvery Minnow, Lake Chub, Longnose Sucker, and Northern Redbelly Dace is illegal! <b>If caught, release immediately.</b> This means remove hook or cut line and return fish to water <b>immediately</b> — do not pose for photographs, place on a stringer, hold in a net, or delay in any way the immediate return and release of these rare fish to the water!			

**1 Minimum length** is measured as the straight line (not curved over the body) from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. The tips of any forked tail may be squeezed together for the final measurement.

**2 Trout** applies to Brook, Brown, Rainbow, and Tiger Trout (a cross between a female Brown and a male Brook Trout). From Apr. 1 to Sept. 10, no more than 8 trout (as defined) may be taken daily, and only 3 of those trout may be from lakes, ponds, or major rivers. From Sept. 11 to Mar. 31, no more than 3 trout (as defined) may be taken daily.

**3 Major Rivers:** Childs, Coonamessett, Deerfield, Farmington, Green (Colrain), Green (Great Barrington), Ipswich, Jones, Mashpee, Millers, Nissitissit, North (Colrain), North (West Branch), Parker, Quaboag, Quinapoxet, Quinebaug, Seven Mile, Santuit, Scorton Creek, Shawsheen, Squannacook, Stillwater (Sterling, Princeton), Swift (East Branch), Swift (Winsor Dam to Ware River, except as posted), Tully (East and West Branches), Ware, Ware (East Branch), Westfield (all branches).

**4 Mainstem Housatonic only,** from the confluence of the East and West Branches to the MA-CT line, exclusive of the catch-and-release areas where no trout may be kept.

**5 Special Brown Trout water:** South Pond (Quacumquasit), Brookfield. Total daily creel is 3 trout but only 1 may be a Brown Trout and it must be at least 15".

**6 Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs:** Opening and closing dates are set by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The Quabbin Reservoir Fishing Season generally opens on the third Saturday in Apr. and runs through the third Saturday in Oct., but these dates may be adjusted due to weather and other factors. Quabbin Reservoir and its tributary streams within the Quabbin Reservation are closed to all fishing except during the open season as set by DCR. The Quabbin Fishing Guide is available at: [mass.gov/dcr/quabbinfish](http://mass.gov/dcr/quabbinfish) or by calling (413) 323-7221. The Wachusett Reservoir fishing season normally opens the first Saturday in Apr., and, beginning in 2023, closes on Dec. 31. The Sudbury Reservoir and West Wausahacum Pond fishing seasons normally open

the first Saturday in Apr. and close on Nov. 30. The DCR/DWSP may alter those dates depending on ice conditions. At Wachusett Reservoir, shoreline fishing only is allowed from Gate 6 on Route 70 to Gate 36 on Route 110. A Wachusett and Sudbury Reservoir Fishing Guide is available at: [mass.gov/dcr/wachusettfish](http://mass.gov/dcr/wachusettfish) or by calling (508) 792-7806.

**7 American Shad** are Catch-and-Release ONLY on all waters except the Connecticut and Merrimack rivers, including their tributaries.

**8 Smelt** may be taken by hook and line only.

**9** Excluding the state- and federally-listed species listed after the "Possession of:" heading in the bottom row of the table shown above.

**FREE FISHING  
WEEKEND**  
June 1–2, 2024  
No freshwater  
license needed!



Photo by Troy Gipps/MassWildlife



# HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

NO HUNTING ON SUNDAY		OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	ANNUAL LIMIT
<b>DEER</b>					
	Youth Deer Hunt Day	Sept. 28, 2024	See full regulations for more information.	1 deer (antlered or antlerless), additional antlerless deer may be taken with valid antlerless deer permits for the specified permitted zones.	
Deer (Big Game)	Archery	Zones 1–14: Oct. 7 – Nov. 30, 2024	See full regulations for more information.	2 antlered deer + antlerless deer by permit	
	Paralegic	Oct. 31 – Nov. 2, 2024			
	Shotgun	Dec. 2 – Dec. 14, 2024			
	Primitive Firearms	Dec. 16 – Dec. 31, 2024			

<b>BLACK BEAR</b>					
Black Bear (Big Game)	Zones 1–14	First season: Sept. 3 – Sept. 21, 2024 Second season: Nov. 4 – Nov. 23, 2024 Shotgun season: Dec. 2 – Dec. 14, 2024	See full regulations for more information.		1

<b>UPLAND GAME BIRDS*</b>					
Crow	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – April 10, 2024 and July 1, 2024 – April 10, 2025 (M, F, Sat only)	—	—	—
Pheasant	Youth Hunt	Sept. 7, 14, 21, and Oct. 5, 12, 2024	2	4	No limit
	Zones 1–14	Oct. 19 – Dec. 31, 2024			
Quail	Zones 11–14	Oct. 19 – Dec. 31, 2024	4	8	No limit
Ruffed Grouse	Zones 1–14	Oct. 19 – Nov. 30, 2024	3	6	15
Wild Turkey (Big Game)	Youth Hunt: Zones 1–13	Apr. 27, 2024 (special restrictions apply**)	See full regulations for more information.		
	Spring: Zones 1–13	Apr. 29 – May 25, 2024			
	Fall: Zones 1–13***	Oct. 7 – Nov. 30, 2024			

\* Crow, pheasant, and quail hunting are closed during shotgun deer season. Migratory game birds (includes waterfowl, woodcock, snipe, rails): Seasons and bag limits set annually. For Migratory Game Bird Regulations visit [mass.gov/migratory-game-bird](http://mass.gov/migratory-game-bird).

\*\* Must have completed the Youth Turkey Hunt program.

\*\*\* Shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, and archery from Oct. 21 – Nov. 2, 2024.

<b>RABBIT, HARE &amp; SQUIRREL</b>					
Cottontail Rabbit	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1, 2024 – Feb. 29, 2024	5	10	—
		Oct. 19, 2024 – Feb. 28, 2025			
Snowshoe Hare	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1, 2024 – Feb. 29, 2024	2	4	—
		Oct. 19, 2024 – Feb. 28, 2025			
Gray Squirrel	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1, 2024 – Feb. 29, 2024	5	10	—
		Sept. 3, 2024 – Feb. 28, 2025			

Rabbit, hare, and squirrel hunting are closed during shotgun deer season.

<b>FURBEARERS</b>					
Bobcat	Zones 1–8	Jan. 1 – Mar. 8, 2024 and Dec. 20, 2024 – Mar. 8, 2025	—	—	—
Coyote	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – Mar. 8, 2024 and Oct. 19, 2024 – Mar. 8, 2025	—	—	—
Fox (red or gray)	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – Feb. 29, 2024 and Nov. 1, 2024 – Feb. 28, 2025	—	—	—
Opossum	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – Jan. 31, 2024 and Oct. 1, 2024 – Jan. 31, 2025	—	—	—
Raccoon	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – Jan. 31, 2024 and Oct. 1, 2024 – Jan. 31, 2025	3	See full regulations for more information.	—

All furbearer hunting seasons are closed during shotgun deer season, except for coyotes. Special restrictions apply.

The following species may be taken year-round (except during shotgun deer season) by licensed hunters with no daily or seasonal bag limit: English sparrow, flying squirrel, red squirrel, chipmunk, porcupine, skunk, starling, weasel, woodchuck.

Falconers may hunt pheasant, bobwhite quail, ruffed grouse, cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, and gray squirrel from the respective opening day through March 15th, and crow during the regular crow season.

## FURBEARER TRAPPING

	OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)
Beaver <sup>1</sup>	Jan. 1 – April 15, 2024 and Nov. 1, 2024 – April 15, 2025
Bobcat <sup>1,2</sup> , Coyote <sup>1</sup> , Fox <sup>1</sup> , Weasel	Nov. 1 – Nov. 30, 2024
Fisher <sup>1</sup>	Nov. 1 – Nov. 22, 2024
Mink <sup>1</sup> , River Otter <sup>1</sup>	Nov. 1 – Dec. 15, 2024
Muskrat, Opossum, Raccoon, Skunk	Jan. 1 – Feb. 29, 2024 and Nov. 1, 2024 – Feb. 28, 2025

1 – Pelt checking/reporting required; see below.

2 – Bobcats may only be trapped or salvaged in Wildlife Management Zones 1–8.



**TO REPORT VIOLATIONS  
(800) 632-8075**

[www.mass.gov/ole](http://www.mass.gov/ole)