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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Notice of Administrative Change  
Marine Fisheries  
Modification of Recreational Winter Flounder Season  
N.J.A.C. 7:25-18.1

**Take Notice** that, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:25-18.1(p), the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, with the approval of the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council (Council) at its March 6, 2014 meeting, has modified the recreational winter flounder season. These actions have been taken to comply with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Management Plan for winter flounder.

The ASMFC's Winter Flounder Board met on February 4, 2014 to approve a change to the recreational season for the Southern New England/Mid Atlantic stock of winter flounder. The recreational season for winter flounder had been a 60 day season, which in New Jersey ran from March 23 to May 21. The new season is from March 1 to December 31 with the same two fish creel limit and 12 inch minimum size limit. This expansion of the previous 60-day recreational open season is intended to increase fishing opportunities in the southern range, including New Jersey, where other fish species' availability may be limited later in the year.

This change will be reflected in the Division of Fish and Wildlife rules at N.J.A.C. 7:25-18.1(c). As required in N.J.A.C. 7:25-18.1(p), changes to 7:25-18.1(c) will be published in the

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New Jersey Register, the New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Digest and via a news release submitted to individuals on the Division of Fish and Wildlife's outdoor writers mailing list.

**Full text** of the changed rule follows (additions indicated in boldface **thus**, deletions indicated in brackets [thus]):

7:25-18.1 Size, season and possession limits

(a) - (b) (No change.)

(c) A person angling with a hand line or with a rod and line or using a bait net or spearfishing shall not have in his or her possession any species listed below less than the minimum length, nor shall such person take in any one day or possess more than the possession limits as provided below, nor shall such person possess any species listed below during the closed season for that species. Exceptions to this section as may be provided elsewhere in this subchapter shall be subject to the specific provisions of any such section. Fish length shall be measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail (total length), except as noted below:

Species	Minimum Size	Open Season	Possession
	In Inches		Limit

• • •

Winter Flounder	12	[March 23] <b>Mar. 1</b> – [May 21] <b>Dec. 31</b>	2
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1. – 4. (No change.)

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(d) – (r) (No change.)