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Black Bear in Maine, 1964

Maine Inland Fisheries and Game Department

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

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BLACK BEAR IN MAINE

The black bear is widely distributed in Maine, with the exception of the southern-coastal agricultural region. Best areas to hunt the black bear include the mountainous regions of Oxford, Franklin, Somerset, Piscataquis, Penobscot, and Aroostook Counties; the blueberry barrens of Washington and Hancock Counties; and the grain fields of Aroostook County.

Experienced hunters recognize the black bear as an elusive and extremely difficult animal to hunt. While dogs are used effectively in some states, limited success has resulted from this method in Maine because of the dense cover and rough terrain. The so-called "still hunting" method in areas such as berry fields or in places where specially prepared baits have been placed prove the most productive. During the regular deer season in the fall, bear are taken by hunters, but the success ratio of bear hunters who take their chances in the woods is understandably low.

It is recommended that the services of an experience guide be utilized in order to increase the possibility of a successful bear hunt. And since only a small number of experienced guides and sporting camps are actively engaged in organized bear hunts, it is important to plan well in advance.

The black bear is not classified as a game animal in Maine, and may be hunted at any time except nights and Sundays. The summer months are most productive, particularly when the berry season is on. A hunting license is necessary, and non-residents will need to purchase at least the small game license (\$10.25), which covers them

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for all species except the whitetail deer (regular big game license is needed for deer - \$25.25). The Small Game License is not exchangeable under Maine law for the Big Game License.

Many Maine sporting camps will provide competent guides for bear hunting. The Maine Publicity Bureau, Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine, will furnish information on Sporting Camps Accommodations.

Following is an incomplete list of some of the better known bear hunting guides:

John Baker	Fort Kent, Maine
John Baker	Ashland, Maine
Camille Beaulieu	Clayton Lake, Maine
Lyman Botting	Patten, Maine
Philip Copp	Cumberland Center, Maine
Georges Damone	Bethel, Maine
David Detours	Patten, Maine
Oliver Grant	Springfield, Maine
Ray Grass	Oxbow, Maine
Joseph Gregoire	Winterville, Maine
Sam Hafford	Allagash, P. O., St. Francis, Maine
James Holmes	Portage, Maine
Preston Holmes	Portage, Maine
Rolland Jackson	Allagash, P.O., St. Francis, Maine
Samuel Jalbert	Clayton Lake, Maine
William Jalbert, Sr.	Clayton Lake, Maine
Clarence Johnson	Rockwood, Maine
Vance Lincoln	Rockwood, Maine
Harris McLean	Jackman Station, Maine
Emile Pelletier	Winterville, Maine
Henry Schmidt	Patten, Maine
Arthur Sharpe	Patten, Maine
Lynn Tanner	Jackman Station, Maine
William Whipple	Oxbow, Maine