

1998

Maine Guide to Hunting & Fishing 1998

Maine Publicity Bureau

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Maine

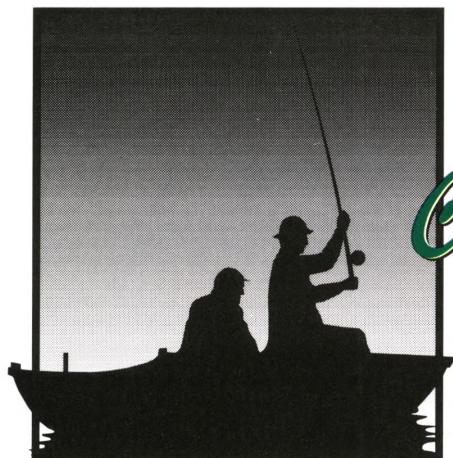
GUIDE TO HUNTING & FISHING

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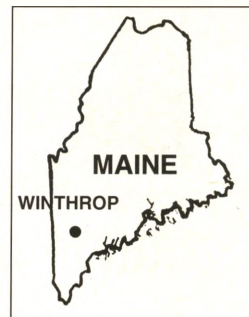
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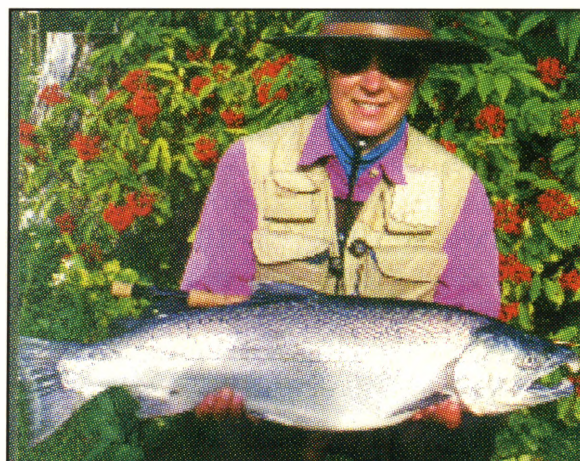
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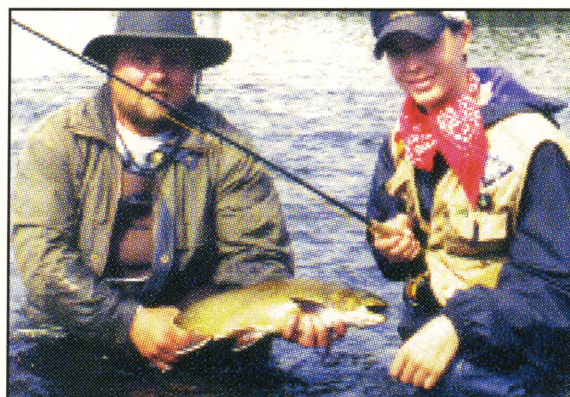
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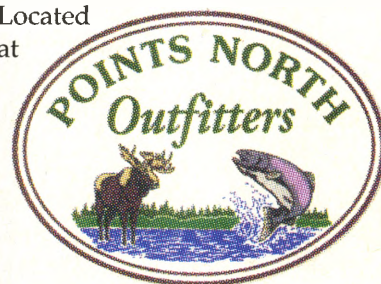
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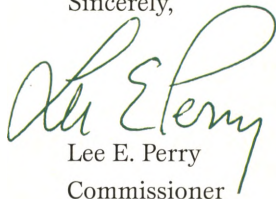
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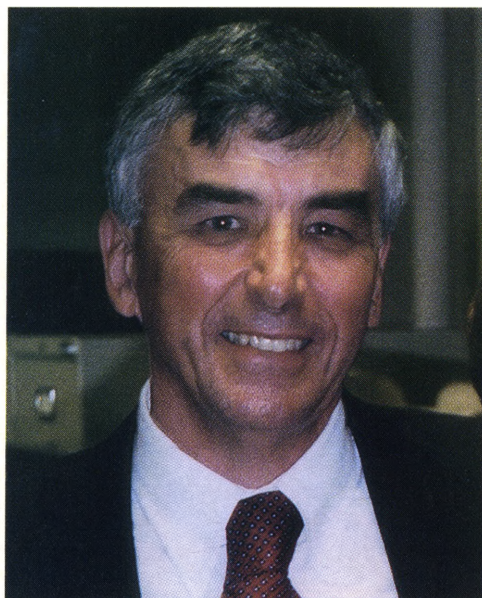
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I hope you enjoy the *Maine Guide to Hunting and Fishing*—and visit us soon.

Sincerely,


Lee E. Perry
Commissioner



1998
Maine
**GUIDE TO
HUNTING & FISHING**

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Cover photo by Richard V. Procopio
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1998

BILL CROSS



Maine

Guide to Hunting and Fishing

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RICHARD V. PROCOPIO

THE MAINE SPORTING

Maine is tucked off by itself in relation to other states in the union, and has thus managed to retain unspoiled hunting and fishing territory of high quality. But while wildlife and fish are plentiful here, timing is the real key to success.

For example, freshwater fishing for cold-water species like brook trout and landlocked salmon is best in May, June, and September. Bass, pickerel, and perch, the warm-water species, are active during the summer months. And while big game (deer, bear, and moose) hunting is strictly an autumn sport, the seasons for some small game, birds, and ducks extend into the winter or year round.

This guide will provide you with answers to many of your questions about hunting and fishing in the state, but the details and rules involved are best gleaned from the official rules and regulations pamphlets provided by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, 284 State Street, Station #41, Augusta, Maine 04333. Our advice is: Don't hunt or fish at all without first checking the rulebook.



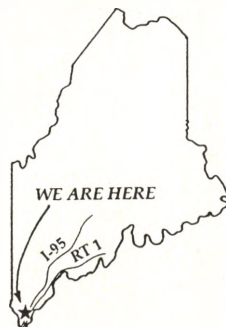
Newcomers to Maine can speed their success by chatting with knowledgeable sporting camp owners, innkeepers, and the personnel at outdoor sporting shops, or by hiring a Registered Maine Guide. Some guides work directly with the various sporting camps, so be sure to ask about hiring one when you make your lodging reservations. You can also hire a guide directly. Most will

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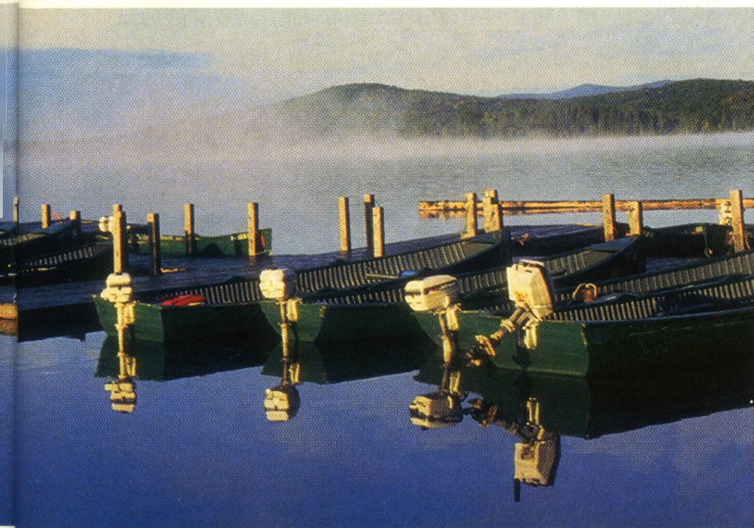
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provide a boat and motor, and basic camping gear, as well as extensive knowledge bred of years of exploration in their region. For more information, contact the Maine Professional Guides Association, P.O. Box 847, Augusta, ME 04332-0847.

If you want to camp during your stay, there are dozens of private campgrounds, several state parks, and

scores of free campsites maintained by the Maine Forest Service on the state's lakes and ponds.

If you plan a trip to northern Maine, be advised that the great roadless "wilderness" that appears on road maps is neither roadless nor a real wilderness. Rather, it is a vast, privately-owned industrial forest, laced with gravel roads, lumber camps, and road gates. Much of this country is available for public use, but be prepared for questions about your travel plans and to pay modest gate fees at check-points throughout this domain. For further information, write North Maine Woods, P.O. Box 421, Ashland, ME 04732.

Elsewhere in the state, most shoreland and woods are also privately owned, but by small individual landowners. Though some of this land is posted against trespassing, much is not. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife advises: "It is unlawful to trespass on private property after having been advised not to do so by the property owner either by word of mouth or by conspicuously posted signs. The department encourages sportsmen to seek owner permission before entering upon private property." Good advice for all of us to follow, if we want Maine's extensive private lands to remain open to the public for hunting and fishing. ➤

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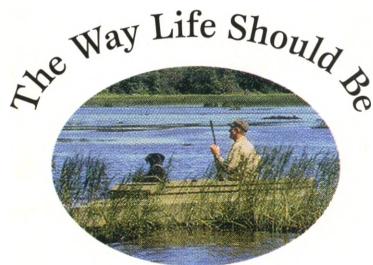
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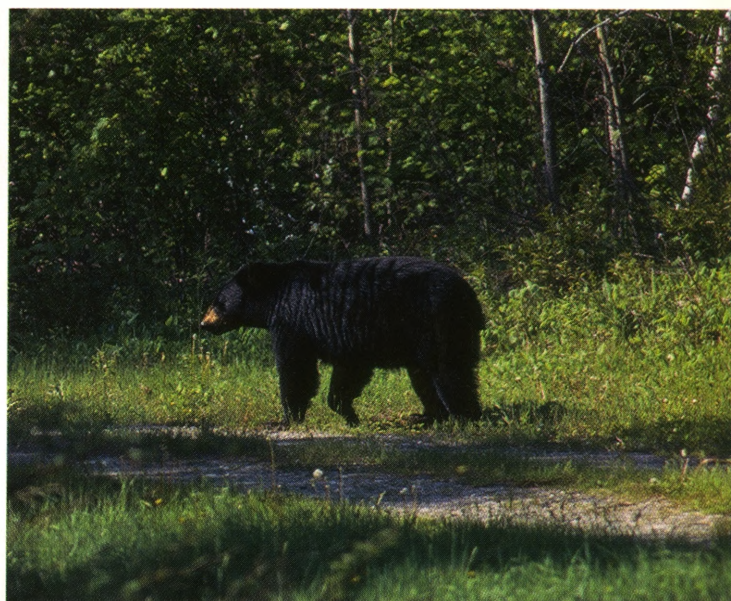
Varied and Exciting

The word *Maine* conjures up images galore for hunters, beginning with the state's big three: white-tailed deer, black bear and moose. Upland birds, waterfowl, turkeys, gray squirrels, rabbits, coyotes, bobcats and woodchucks attract hunters who enjoy varied terrain, friendly natives and a spectacular foliage display. It's little wonder this state has a reputation as a destination for sports folks looking for adventure at a reasonable cost. In fact, many hunting lodges in Maine offer the least expensive hunting packages in the world, some in the \$300 range for a week of lodging and meals.

Each fall, more than 200,000 residents and non-residents spend more than 2 million days in the Maine woods, pursuing America's favorite big game animal, the white-tailed deer. The size of the Pine Tree State's deer excites hunters because our north-country subspecies (*Odocoileus virginianus borealis*) is much larger-bodied than subspecies from other parts of the country. Each season, hunters shoot approximately 1,000 bucks that field-dress 200 pounds or more, and a few of these bucks approach 300 pounds. These sizes are unheard in most of the United States. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIF&W) has recently extended the season for muzzle-loaders and bow hunters, adding five more weeks to the fall season in parts of the state, so hunters have more opportunities than ever before. This season extension comes when the deer herd has risen to an all-time high in many areas. The good old days are here and now for deer hunters.

Maine has more black bears than any other state east of the Mississippi River, a herd numbering 22,000 to 23,000. MDIF&W strictly regulates the season so the bear population remains stable, promising topnotch sport into the distant future. Over 60 percent of Maine's bear harvest

DAVID A. MURRAY



falls to non-residents, who usually hire guides and hunt over bait. If black bears interest hunters, this state is the place to go, a truth recognized by hunters from around the world who know they can find a world-class hunting experience here. In fact, this state's bear hunting may be more well-known to non-residents than to some people living in Maine.

Parts of Maine have more moose per square mile than any other place in North America, according to figures from MDIF&W. Indeed, the population has increased so much that the world's largest deer has become a menace to careless motorists. Maine's moose management program has taken this huge mammal from near extinction in the mid-1930s to its present abundance. Since the first modern moose season began in 1980, the hunting success ratio has averaged around 90 percent. In recent years, the success ratio has climbed over 90 percent to as high as 96 percent in 1991. Indeed, since 1991, over 93 percent of hunters shoot a moose.

Upland birds attract a huge following, and in fact, ruffed grouse takes second place behind deer as the favorite

quarry of Maine hunters. Abandoned farms and clear-cuts have created ample habitat for grouse and woodcock, often in a setting that looks like a William J. Schaldach artwork. Sea-duck hunting off the rugged Maine coast offers a world-class experience, and guides specializing in this sport insure a safe experience off island ledges in the icy Atlantic. Waterfowlers after puddle ducks and Canada geese find birds in abundance, often in classic settings such as marsh-lined estuaries or backwoods beaver ponds. The hunting success ratio for turkey hunters is over 20 percent, one of the highest in the country. Rabbits and hares thrive in parts of Maine, and gray squirrels have a small following of dedicated enthusiasts.

BIG GAME

Where to hunt for white-tailed deer in Maine begins and ends with each hunter's whim, and choices vary as much as the state's diverse terrain. Deer are everywhere from Kittery to Fort Kent and from Rangeley to Eastport. Nearly everyone lives within a few miles of whitetail habitat, ranging from small wood lots to immense forests and from mountain tops to bottom lands.

Deer densities are more concentrated in southern and central Maine, and this part of the state produces huge bucks. Officials at MDIF&W used to say 80 percent of the state's big bucks came from north of Bangor, but a quick look on the map puts that statistic in perspective. Eighty percent of the *state* lies north of Bangor.

The north country offers solitude in big woods, which makes up for its sparser deer population. Pockets exist in northern Maine where whitetail numbers are high, and in some of these remote areas, deer live and die without encountering a hunter. The northern half of the state has far more hunting lodges and working guides than the southern regions.

Bear hunters interested in a Maine hunt should concentrate on northern Maine, particularly Aroostook County, which annually produces the most harvested bears. Hunters in "The County" shoot between 600 and 800-plus bruins each season, approaching one-third of the state's entire bear kill. (MDIF&W wants the harvest to stay between 1,500 to 2,500 bears each fall and has managed to achieve that goal most seasons.) Piscataquis County takes second place, producing about half as many bears as Aroostook each season. Penobscot, Somerset, Washington, Oxford, Franklin and Hancock counties also hold strong bear populations, and all the above counties have bear-guiding operations. The terrain varies from big woods to

agricultural areas such as oat and corn fields, apple orchards and blueberry barrens.

Hunters sitting over man-placed bait account for most of the harvest, but hunters with dogs have a high success ratio. Hunters sitting over natural baits or still-hunting do shoot Maine bears, particularly in November. In years when warm weather keeps bears from denning early, deer hunters relish the opportunity of shooting a bonus bear for the game pole.

Maine's bear-hunting-season structure appears complicated at first, but MDIF&W designed it to minimize conflicts between hunters who use man-placed bait and those who run dogs. Bait hunters have the first crack for

Maine Hunting and Fishing License Fees

(Prices do not include \$1.00 agent fee)

RESIDENT

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Hunting (16 and older) | 19.00 |
| Fishing (16 and older) | 19.00 |
| Combination Hunting & Fishing (16 and older) | 36.00 |
| Supersport * | 15.00 |
| Small Game Hunting | 12.00 |
| Junior Hunting (10 to 15 years inclusive) | 5.00 |
| Combination Fishing and Archery Hunting (16 and older) | 36.00 |
| Serviceman (resident) Combination Hunting and Fishing | 20.00 |
| Archery Hunting (16 and older) | 19.00 |
| Muzzle-loading (10 and older) | 11.00 |
| Bear Permit | 5.00 |

NONRESIDENT CITIZEN

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Big Game Hunting (10 and older) | 85.00 |
| Season Fishing (16 and older) | 50.00 |
| Junior Season Fishing (12 to 15 inclusive) | 7.00 |
| 15-day Fishing | 38.00 |
| 7-day Fishing | 34.00 |
| 3-day Fishing | 21.00 |
| 1-day Fishing | 9.00 |
| Combination Hunting and Fishing (16 and older) | 123.00 |
| Small Game Hunting (16 and older) | 55.00 |
| Junior Small Game Hunting (10 to 15 years inclusive) | 25.00 |
| Archery Hunting (16 and older) | 55.00 |
| Muzzle-loading (10 and older) | 33.00 |
| Bear Permit | 15.00 |
| 3-day Small Game Hunting (valid 3 consecutive hunting days) | 30.00 |

NONRESIDENT ALIEN

| | |
|------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Big Game Hunting (16 and older) | 125.00 |
| Season Fishing (16 and older) | 70.00 |
| Combination Hunting and Fishing (10 and older) | 176.00 |
| Small Game Hunting (16 and older) | 70.00 |
| Archery Hunting (16 and older) | 70.00 |
| Muzzle-loading (10 and older) | 58.00 |
| Junior Hunt (10-15 years inclusive) | 25.00 |

NOTES

- Applicants for adult hunting license must show either a previous adult hunting license or proof of completion of an approved hunter safety course.
- A small game license allows the hunting of all species except deer, bear, turkey, moose, raccoon, and bobcat.
- A hunting license and a special permit are required during early bear season; federal and state stamps are required for waterfowl hunting; hunting of antlerless deer, moose and wild turkey also requires special permits.
- Nonresident licenses are available locally or may be obtained from Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Department. For information: 207-287-8000.
- *Supersport license is a voluntary add-on which allows an individual to make a financial contribution toward enhancing Maine landowner relations.

four weeks and then folks with dogs can hunt for seven weeks. The two seasons overlap a little.

Maine offers sports folks fabulous moose hunting. The population is so dense in most of the north country that over nine out of 10 hunters are successful. This leads people to think the sport lacks challenge; however, the sheer numbers of moose insure a high success rate. If a hunter misses a chance on one moose, another will be along shortly, usually before the day ends. Indeed, most of the harvest comes in the first two days of the week-long season, and three-quarters of the moose are bulls. Hunters are chosen in a lottery, and the odds of winning are slim, about one in 80. Once someone gets a moose-hunting permit, though, the chances of success are fantastic.

BILL CROSS



BIRDS AND DUCKS

Ruffed grouse and woodcock inhabit nearly all of Maine, particularly grouse. Indeed, these two wonderful game birds are accessible to hunters across the state. Each season over 100,000 people hunt for grouse and harvest approximately 500,000 birds. Known as “partridge” to many residents, this bird has a cyclical population. In 1995 hunters reported an excellent year, but in 1996, it was fair. Last year was slightly better than fair. The numbers depend on whether June is wet or not. Grouse chicks succumb to exposure during prolonged rains. Maine’s woodcock populations remain at below average numbers, but according to MDIF&W, a banner production year can replenish this game bird.

In the 1950s, new regulations on dairy farms put many farmers out of business, which created wonderful upland bird habitat in the southern half of the state as fields reverted to mixed poplar, alders and rubus bushes.

In the north country, forest-cutting practices favored grouse and woodcock, and these two species have done well in northern Maine. MDIF&W wildlife biologists think the north country offers one bright spot in the woodcock’s future because small clear-cuts create breeding grounds where none existed before. Although woodcock populations have steadily declined because of mass habitat destruction from southern New England to northern Florida, a fair to good native population exists in the Pine Tree State, a bonus to a grouse hunter’s game bag.

Maine has a ring-necked pheasant season, mostly for stocked birds released in late summer or early fall. This exotic species usually doesn’t survive winter except

in limited areas where these birds have milder weather conditions and ample winter food. In 1997, MDIF&W stocked 2,540 pheasant for hunters, a small number for a state that covers 33,040 square miles.

In the late 1970s, wildlife biologists from the MDIF&W took 41 wild turkeys from Vermont and stocked them in York County, and from the initial planting, this species has spread up the coast to Penobscot Bay. Biologists have helped introduce turkeys in mid-coast Maine by capturing birds and releasing them in suitable habitat, beginning with a stocking of York County birds in Waldo County. This program has become so successful that Maine now has excellent turkey hunting in this bird’s present range. Hunters need to be drawn in a lottery before they can pursue turkeys, and in 1997 about one in three applicants received a permit.

In recent years, 10,000 or fewer hunters pursued ducks and geese, down from the 1970s when 17,500 waterfowl enthusiasts hunted Maine’s marshes and coastal ledges. This decrease has helped some native waterfowl populations increase, and also provides more solitude because fewer hunters are spread out across the state. Harvest figures for some species, such as black ducks, have dropped, but other species such as mallards have risen from less than 1,000 mallards in the early 1960s to 10,000 in 1995. The green-winged teal, blue-winged teal and wood duck harvests have also increased from the early 1960s.

In the years between 1966 and 1990, the average season bag limit for waterfowlers had declined from nearly seven ducks to about five. In the 1990s, that figure rose significantly, and in 1995 each hunter took over nine ducks

per season, thanks to stricter regulations and attempts at habitat improvement. Maine also has a strong native Canada-goose population.

Maine sea-duck hunting is second to none, and species such as the common eider have shown a steady and dramatic harvest increase each season, according to MDIF&W. Few hunting sports on this continent offer faster shooting than sea ducks do, and solitude is a virtual guarantee. Few people dare venture into the Atlantic Ocean in late fall and winter.

Rails inhabit Maine's coastal marshes and offer a liberal bag limit to hunters who don't mind poling a canoe or skiff through wild rice or marsh grass at high tide. At the turn of the century, rail hunting was popular. These days, virtually no one bothers with rails, so places like Merrymeeting Bay offer solitude and fast shooting to hunters after this small, coastal bird. Snipe, a similar species, also inhabits marshy areas and attracts a small following who enjoy fast shooting action for a twisting, feathered rocket.

SMALL GAME

Wherever oak forests thrive in Maine, gray squirrels provide exciting and fast sport. Interestingly, few natives bother with squirrels, probably because the squirrel season begins in October and coincides with grouse. Gray squirrels are an underutilized species in the Pine Tree State, a good thing for folks who want the sport to themselves. People after Maine squirrels concentrate on oak forests that have an abundance of "squirrel nests" in the upper branches of hardwoods. These round-shaped masses of small branches and twigs can be easily seen from great distances once leaves fall.

Varying hare inhabit most of Maine, and cottontail rabbits live in southern Maine near the coast. These species interest hunters, particularly folks who run hounds. Maine's rabbit and hare season runs six months, the longest for any game animal. Hare populations run in cycles, and some regions will seem barren one season, while a county away, this swamp-edge speedster will be abundant.

The price of raccoon fur dictates hunting pressure for this little masked bandit. In the early 1990s, a raccoon pelt averaged \$6 on the fur market, so hunting pressure had dropped significantly. Because of that, raccoon populations across the state have risen, offering fast action to folks with coon hounds, a flashlight and a .22 rimfire handgun or rifle. The season lasts three months and presently, there is no bag limit.

PREDATORS

This wary, intelligent predator offers a challenge unmatched by Maine game animals, so interest in coyote hunting has grown in Maine. A common tactic for coyotes begins on the edge of a field, frozen water, clear-cut, burn or power line where the hunter sits in a concealed position and uses a calling device, often simulating the cries of a dying rabbit. Other hunters use bait or a coyote decoy to attract this predator. A handful of hunters team up with dogs that chase coyotes, and this method proves highly successful. At the moment, coyote season runs all year, and from January 1 to April 30, it is legal to hunt this animal after dark within certain guidelines. North Americans called the coyote "God's dog." Modern outdoorsmen are slowly gaining this same respect for a remarkable animal.

Fox hunters also sit on the edge of openings and use a calling device to attract this wary predator, the smaller cousin of the coyote. Often, folks after coyotes know fox will also come, a welcome addition to the hunt. People also use fox hounds to chase this intelligent animal. Fur prices dictate hunting pressure, and fox-pelt prices have been down for years. There is no shortage of foxes in this state.

Bobcat hunters in Maine are few and far between, but a handful of guides do have 'cat dogs and chase this exciting predator. The sport often takes place in deep snow and half-impenetrable thickets and requires stamina to follow the hound, hot on a bobcat track.

Woodchucks attract varmint hunters who practice their shooting eye with flat-shooting, high-velocity rifles. Farmers welcome people onto their land to shoot this large rodent because it digs holes, a danger for livestock. It also makes mounds of dirt in hayfields. Woodchucks are found across Maine, even in forests, but Aroostook County's farmlands offers the best woodchuck hunting in the country. It is remote, has lots of woodchucks and virtually no posting signs, a varmint-hunter's paradise. Most hunters discard woodchucks after shooting them, a mistake. This animal can be excellent eating, a vegetarian that eats the same foods as steers.

Crows have a split season in Maine, one running from March 14 to April 30 and the second season from July 16 to September 29. Most serious crow hunters hide in a blind and use a crow call and shotgun, but some crow hunters are primarily after woodchucks and shoot a crow as a bonus. 🦉

DEER HARVEST HIGHLIGHTS



DAVID A. MURRAY

Over all, 28,375 deer were registered during 1996, of which 774; 27,278 and 323 were taken during the archery, regular firearm, and muzzleloader seasons, respectively. Relative to 1995 (27,384 deer), Maine's deer take increased by nearly 4% (991 deer) in 1996, and it ranks 37th highest among the 78 years for which records are available (1919 to 1996). Among seasons, deer harvest increased slightly (1,568 deer, mostly adult bucks) during the regular firearm season (+6%) in 1996 compared to the previous year (25,710). In contrast, deer harvest declined markedly during the archery (-33%) and muzzleloader (-38%) seasons in 1996 relative to 1995 (1,151 and 523 deer, respectively). The drop in harvest during these two primitive-weapon deer seasons is not attributable to decreases in hunter effort or deer population. Rather, between year differences in hunting conditions are a more likely explanation. During 1995, dry weather, and a lack of mast, concentrated deer in October, while early snows afforded excellent tracking conditions in late November-early December. Both factors led to harvests which were well above norms for the archery and black powder seasons, respectively. Deer harvests during these special seasons actually returned to normal levels during 1996.

BUCK HARVEST

Given stable season length, and average or normal levels of hunting pressure and hunting conditions, the size of

the antlered buck harvest reflects the size of the deer herd as a whole. Because of this, trends in the buck harvest tell us much about regional and annual differences in deer populations. Based on buck harvest trends, deer populations have been increasing in Maine, particularly during the past two years. Conservative harvests of does since 1983, combined with recent favorable winters, have enabled us to achieve significant gains in deer numbers wherever adequate wintering habitat exists.

The 19,611 antlered bucks taken in 1996 set an all-time record for Maine. Maine's two previous highest buck harvests occurred in 1956 (18,655) and 1958 (18,239). During the recent two years, buck harvests have increased by 13%

and 9% annually. As the deer herd has grown during the past 15 years, so too has the buck harvest. Hunters now tag more than one-third more bucks than they were able to tag back in the either-sex hunting era. For example, the average buck harvest for 1992-96 tallied 17,431 antlered bucks, while the buck take for the final five years of either-sex hunting (1978-82) averaged only 12,813 bucks. Since the late 1970s, hunter numbers have not changed appreciably, but the autumn population of deer has increased by more than 75% (more on this later).

Among the 19,611 antlered bucks taken statewide, roughly 8,050 (41%) were yearlings sporting their first set of antlers, while more than 4,100 (20%) were mature bucks four to 15 years of age. Button bucks (male fawns) are not included here. They are reported as antlerless deer since their velvet-covered nubbins (pedicles) never attain legal length (3 inches). Incidentally, the trend in motor vehicle collisions with deer has paralleled trends in buck harvest, providing additional evidence that Maine's deer herd increased since the early 1980s.

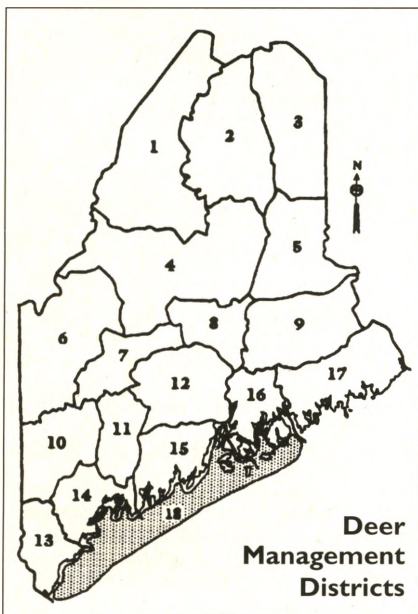
Maine is nationally known for producing trophy bucks (age four and older). This is possible because, unlike the situation in many other states, Maine's bucks are subjected to relatively light hunting pressure. In our state, a healthy number of buck annually survive to the older (mature) age classes. In more heavily hunted states, yearling bucks comprise as much as 70% to 90% of the

bucks available, and in those states, bucks rarely survive beyond 3 years! A cautionary note: Maine's bucks also are vulnerable to increasing hunting effort. There is already a substantial difference in availability of trophy bucks in heavily hunted southern Maine versus lightly hunted northern Maine. Increases in any combination of hunter numbers, season length, or effort per hunter (which increases total hunting pressure on the herd) anywhere in Maine will inevitably reduce the numbers of older bucks in the herd.

MAINE'S DEER HERD

The Deer Strategic Plan, implemented in 1986, called for increasing deer populations to between 50 % and 60 % of the maximum biological carrying capacity in each DMD (Deer Management District). Based on current data, we believe this would amount to a wintering herd of 260,000 to 310,000 deer in Maine (nine to 11 deer per square mile). If anything, however, this population estimate may be an underestimate of biological carrying capacity, particularly for central and southern sections of Maine.

Since 1980, we have been striving to increase the deer population in Maine. Our objective was to reverse a statewide decline in deer numbers which began in the



early 1960s. Our primary strategy was to balance doe losses from all causes with available fawn production, by more efficiently regulating the legal harvest of does. We suspected that we would be more successful in achieving herd

increases in those DMDs in which 1) hunting was a major mortality factor, 2) wintering habitat was adequate to accommodate higher deer populations, and 3) severe winters were infrequent.

During the past 15 years, Maine's wintering herd has increased from a mean of 160,000 to more than 255,000 deer. During the past three years alone, our wintering herd has increased from roughly 208,000 to its

current maximum of 255,000 deer. During the past three years, we restricted availability of Any-Deer permits in most central and southern Maine DMDs to a much greater degree than we had done during the 10 previous years. These harvest restrictions, combined with high deer survival during recent very mild winters, provided the impetus for a very strong herd growth (averaging 15 % per year) during 1995 and 1996.

Within individual DMDs, wintering populations now range from as low as two deer per square mile in DMD 3 to about 25 per square mile in DMD 12. Generally, northern and eastern DMDs currently average fewer than eight deer per square mile, while central and southern DMDs range between 15 and 25 deer per square mile. Several locations within DMDs 13, 14 and 18, in which hunting access is severely restricted or denied, currently carry populations of 50 to more than 100 deer per square mile. These populations are far in excess of 60 % of biological carrying capacity, and we more frequently receive complaints of excessive browsing, road kills, and Lyme Disease risk in these areas than elsewhere.

For central and southern Maine DMDs, a density of 25 deer per square mile may not yet represent 50 % of maximum biological carrying capacity. Browsing pressure and landowner conflicts with deer do increase dramatically at densities higher than 25 deer per square mile. Therefore, when the Deer Strategic Plan is updated this year, we will explore other options in addition to managing for 50–60 % of biological carrying capacity in central and southern Maine DMDs.

Within northern and eastern DMDs, the harvest restrictions we implemented during the past 15 years have helped to stabilize a declining herd, but we have made little progress toward significantly increasing these deer populations. In these DMDs, the summer range far exceeds the ability of the winter range to support deer. The long-term prescription here is to increase the quantity and quality of wintering habitat available to local deer herds. We are actively pursuing that approach, as noted earlier. In the interim, doe harvest opportunity may remain limited, as we strive to balance what are typically large and frequent winter losses, against the variable fawn production which annually must replace losses among deer in northern and eastern Maine. Over time, as the winter range situation improves, deer populations and harvest opportunities should both increase above current levels in Maine's industrial timberland. 🐾

BIGGEST BUCKS

Top 20 Maine Bucks for 1997

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>ADDRESS</u> | <u>DATE KILLED</u> | <u>WHERE KILLED</u> | <u>WEIGHT</u> |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Egbert H. Smith | Manchester | 11/18/97 | Bingham | 274.5 |
| Brian Roy | Madawaska | 11/1/97 | T18R11 | 272 |
| Michael Harrington | Bethel | 11/7/97 | Bethel | 264 |
| Allen Lawrence | Reading MA | 11/5/97 | Oxford | 260 |
| Joseph A. Vaillancourt | Otisfield | 11/10/97 | Newcastle | 260 |
| Jim Labbe | Chelsea | 11/13/97 | Bowmantown | 260 |
| Richard Bernier | Standish | 11/18/97 | T7R18 | 255 |
| Ronald Ernewein | Shrewsbury MA | 11/12/97 | T8R18 | 251 |
| Marvin Stump | Weriversville PA | 11/3/97 | Allagash | 250 |
| Rodney Bemis | Jacksonville VT | 11/7/97 | Squaw Pan Lake | 250 |
| Ivan Arsenault | Rumford | 11/1/97 | Oxford | 244 |
| Jeff Cote | Stockholm | 11/1/97 | Westmanland | 242 |
| John Cyr | Millinocket | 11/18/97 | T2R8 | 240 |
| Lendall Bickford | Farmington | 11/13/97 | Starks | 240 |
| Joseph Basso | Ashland | 11/22/97 | Ashland | 240 |
| Dwayne Lord | Patten | 11/28/97 | T6R8 | 240 |
| Taylor Bunting | Crosswicks NJ | 11/10/97 | Kokadjo | 235 |
| Andre LaCasse | Augusta | 11/8/97 | T8R10 | 235 |
| Paul Kutcha | Freehold NJ | 11/20/97 | T13R8 | 234 |
| Casey Hafford | Allagash | 11/1/97 | T16R10 | 232 |

Maine enjoys a healthy, invigorating climate. Its overall weather conditions are a valuable asset to the state in that good air quality and moderate temperatures are highly conducive to productive labor and a principal factor in Maine's four-season vacation-travel industry.

Climatological Division. The State is divided into three climatological divisions: Coastal, Southern Interior, and Northern Interior. The Coastal Division, which extends for about twenty miles inland along the length of the coast, is tempered by the ocean, resulting in lower summer and higher winter temperatures than are typical of interior zones. The Southern Interior Division extends in a longitudinal belt across the southern portion of the State, and encompasses about 30% of Maine's total area. The Northern Interior Division occupies nearly 60% of the State's area and has a continental climate. It is furthest from the ocean and contains the highest elevations.

Temperatures. Maine has one of the most comfortable state-wide summer climates in the continental United States. Peak temperatures, normally occurring in July, average about 70°F throughout the State. In the Southern Interior Division during a very warm summer, temperatures may reach 90° for as many as 25 days, and in the Coastal Division, two to seven days. Summer nights are usually cool and comfortable. Winters are generally cold, but very prolonged cold spells

are rare. Northern Interior weather stations may record as many as 40 to 60 days of sub-zero temperatures annually, while coastal stations report 10 to 20 sub-zero days.

Precipitation. Annual precipitation in Maine averages 40 inches in the Northern Division, about 42 inches in the South and 46 inches in the Coastal Division. Although Maine is rarely subjected to ice storms, hurricanes, and tornadoes, 10 to 20 thunderstorms occur annually in the Coastal Division and 15 to 30 elsewhere. Heavy ground fogs often appear in low-lying inland areas, but

CLIMATE



occur most frequently along the coast, for 25 to 60 days annually. The southern portion has 80 to 120 clear days annually when there is no fog or other precipitation, and northern regions somewhat less. The percentage of possible sunshine varies from 50% in Eastport to about 60% in Portland.

Average annual snowfall in Maine is 50 to 70 inches in the Coastal Division, 60 to 90 inches in the Southern Interior and 90 to 110 inches in the Northern Interior. The Coastal Division rarely has more than 15 to 20 days annually with one inch or more snowfall, although a "Northeaster" may occasionally drop 10 or more inches of snow in a single day. The Northern Interior may have up to 30 days a year with a minimum of one inch. January is normally the snowiest month with an average of about 20 inches.

Visitor Information Centers

Administrative Office

(Location: 325B Water Street)
P.O. Box 2300, Hallowell 04347
(207) 623-0363

Maine Information Center - Bethel

in partnership with White Mtn. Nat'l. Forest
18 Mayville Road, Route 2
(207) 824-4582

Maine Information Center - Calais

7 Union Street
(207) 454-2211

Maine Information Center - Fryeburg

US Route 302
(207) 935-3639
(Late May-Late October)

Maine Information Centers - Hampden

I-95 (North) - Mile 169
(207) 862-6628
I-95 (South) - Mile 172
(207) 862-6638

Maine Information Center - Houlton

Ludlow Rd.
(207) 532-6346

Maine Information Center - Kittery

I-95 and Route 1
(207) 439-1319

Maine Information Center - Yarmouth

U.S. Route 1/Exit 17, I-95
(207) 846-0833

Open year round except as noted.

1998 MAINE HUNTING SEASONS

(Not a legal presentation. See hunting law booklet for full details and to confirm dates.)

| | | First Day | Last Day | Basic Limits | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| | | | | Daily | Possession |
| Deer | Firearms season | Nov. 2 | Nov. 28 | ONE DEER PER YEAR♦ regardless of season or method. Only deer with antlers at least three inches long may be taken from Nov. 1–Dec. 13 , except that any deer may be taken in designated deer management districts by hunters with any-deer permits. Permit application period: mid-June to Aug. 15 annually. | |
| | Maine-residents-only day | Oct. 31 | | | |
| | Archery. | Oct. 1 | Oct. 30 | | |
| | Expanded Archery Season — Limited Area # | Sept. 8 | Sept. 30 | | |
| | Muzzleloader | Nov. 30 | Dec. 5 | | |
| | Muzzleloader in specific WMDs (check lawbook) | Nov. 30 | Dec. 13 | | |
| Bear* | General hunting seasons | Aug. 31 | Nov. 28 | ONE BEAR PER YEAR | |
| | Hunting with dogs | Sept. 14 | Oct. 30 | | |
| | Hunting with bait ** | Aug. 31 | Sept. 26 | | |
| Moose (by permit only) | | Oct. 5 | Oct. 10 | Permit application period: mid-Jan. to Apr. 30. | |
| Ruffed Grouse & Bobwhite Quail | (Wildlife Management Units 1 & 2). . . . | Oct. 1 | Nov. 30 | 4 | 8 |
| | (Wildlife Management Units 3–8). | Oct. 1 | Dec. 10 | | |
| Pheasant | (Wildlife Management Units 1 & 2). | Oct. 1 | Nov. 30 | 2 | 4 |
| | (Wildlife Management Units 3–8) | Oct. 1 | Dec. 10 | | |
| | (York & Cumberland Counties). | Oct. 1 | Dec. 31 | | |
| Wild Turkey (by permit only). | | May 1 | May 30 | Permit application period: mid-Dec. to Feb. 3. | |
| Woodcock* | | Oct. 6 | Nov. 15 | 3 | 6 |
| Common Snipe* | | Sept. 2 | Dec. 16 | 8 | 16 |
| Ducks, Geese, Sea Ducks (scoter, eider, old squaw) | | Seasons set early in September. Regulations available mid-September from license agents, game wardens and Fish and Wildlife Department offices. | | | |
| Sora & Virginia Rails (and Gallinules)*. | | Sept. 2 | Nov. 9 | 25 (15) | 25 (30) |
| Crow | | Mar. 14 | Apr. 30 | - | - |
| | | July 16 | Sept. 29 | | |
| Gray Squirrel | | Oct. 1 | Nov. 30 | 4 | 8 |
| Rabbit (cottontail) and Hare (snowshoe)*** | | Oct. 1 | Mar. 31 | 4 | 8 |
| Bobcat | | Dec. 1 | Jan. 31 | - | - |
| Fox | | Oct. 19 | Feb. 28 | - | - |
| Raccoon. | | Oct. 1 | Dec. 31 | - | - |
| Skunk, Opossum | | Oct. 19 | Dec. 31 | - | - |
| Coyote, Woodchuck, Porcupine, Red Squirrel | | NO CLOSED SEASON FOR HUNTING | | | |
| Any species not listed above. | | NO OPEN SEASON FOR HUNTING | | | |

* Seasons are subject to change; the regulations will be available mid-September.

♦ Archers who bag a deer during the expanded September archery hunt are still eligible to purchase other big game licenses and to harvest one additional deer during those traditional archery or firearm seasons.

* Bear permit required (resident, \$6; nonresident, \$16) in addition to hunting license between Aug. 25 and Oct. 31. See law booklet for other recent changes.

** Applies to so-called "set-bait" hunting from stand, blind, etc. overlooking bait or food; does not apply to hunting over standing crops, food left from normal agricultural operations, or from natural occurrence, which may be done at any time during the bear hunting season.

*** Oct. 1–Feb. 28 on Vinalhaven Island, Knox County.

Sunday Hunting: Illegal in Maine.

Hunter Orange: Two items of hunter orange clothing must be worn while hunting with a firearm during any firearms season on deer. See law booklet for details.

Legal Hunting Hours: Animals, 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset except during any firearms season on deer, when hunting closes at sunset for all species except raccoon. **Birds:** 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset. See law booklet for details on night hunting for coyotes.

Licenses: Hunting license is required. Archery license allows hunting with bow and arrow only during any open season on that species; it is **required** to hunt **any species** of animal or bird with bow and arrow **during special archery season on deer**. Special license-stamp required to hunt during muzzleloader season on deer. **#NEW: Special license required for the extended archery season on deer.**

Stamps: State and federal duck stamps required for waterfowl hunters age 16 and over. Pheasant stamp required in York and Cumberland counties.

Please be sure to confirm laws and limits before you go hunting.

Operation Game Thief: Call 1-800-ALERT US (253-7887) to report game law violations.

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MAINE SPORTING CAMPS

BY RICK & JUDY GIVENS

In fact, the sporting camp is unique to Maine, and the correct answer is found in more than a century of tradition.

In the late 1800s, sporting camps first began to attract city-weary “sports” to Maine’s thousands of acres of prime hunting and fishing territory. The sporting camp enjoyed its heyday during the railroad era of the late 1800s and early 1900s, when rail lines probed deeply into Maine’s big woods, giving easier access to urbanites from as far south as Washington, D.C. Where the rails ended, though, the work began for the city sportsman, who often had traveled for more than a day to his wilderness point of departure. For another day, or longer, he would have to continue by steamer, bone-jolting tote wagon, horseback, canoe, or even shank’s mare. Anyone hardy and enthusiastic enough to endure such punishment most likely stayed for well over a week in his chosen camp to make the most of his labors—and often repeated the adventure yearly, for it was worth the effort.

When he arrived, the sportsman would find a group of cabins, or camps, usually constructed of logs cut and peeled on the spot, and located on a remote and pristine lake or “pond,” as Mainers call their small lakes.

Ask anyone new to Maine’s woods, “What is a sporting camp?” and you will hear some interesting (but incorrect) guesses. A private cottage in the pine woods? A plush resort for well-heeled hunters or fishermen? Or could it be a summer camp for aspiring athletes?

Most cabins were situated to provide a fine view of the water, with a roofed porch and simple chairs for evening meditation. While the amenities were as comfortable as wilderness provisions would allow, plumbing consisted of water pail and back-

house, and lighting was by the warm glow of kerosene lamps. The cabins were satellites of one grand main lodge, where guests gathered at tables before plates heaped with hearty, home-cooked food prepared on the wood range by the proprietor’s wife. The lodge was also the social center for the swapping of tall tales.

Fishing and hunting in this untapped wilderness were the big attractions, and many well-known names were registered in camp guest books. Vital to the success of camp operations was the famous Maine Guide. Many

sports relied on his knowledge and skill to lead them to fish or game. When action was slow, a good guide would boost morale with his clever outdoor cookery, his wry humor, and some mighty good stories. If the guest’s interests were more in nature observation—bird-watching, moose-stalking, or exploring—the knowledgeable guide was a top-notch, home-grown naturalist, as well.



Most camps also provided canoes or boats for their guests, for the water was not only a fishing ground, but a high-way for hunters.

In camp, city folk found the proprietor, his wife, and their employees to be a hard-working, helpful, and self-sufficient little community, whose primary goal was to provide all the comforts of home in the woods. Provisions were brought in over the same arduous route traveled by visitors; ingenuity and efficiency were the name of the game. Many camps had a kitchen garden to provide fresh vegetables for the table, and homemade bread and pastries were a staple of every meal. Often ice cut from the lake in winter was stored between layers of sawdust in the ice-house for use throughout the summer. The grocery store was a distant vision; indeed, the very distance from easy urban living, the simpler, unpressured pace and peaceful solitude created a haven for recharging the spirit.

More than a century after the earliest enterprising Maine woodsman laid down his first sill log, the sporting camp is still providing fond memories for guests, and a step back to a simpler day. In fact, some camps have been operating continuously for a century, through five generations. Many of today's camps have existed since the '20s and '30s, and a few have been built on wilderness lakes within the last twenty years. Still, there are far fewer camps today than the several hundred which flourished during the heyday of the rail era. Age-weathered or with the scent of new lumber, sporting camps strive mightily to uphold the old traditions, which are the soul of the industry. The kitchen garden still produces vegetables for some camp tables, and camp cooks are proud of their homemade breads and pastries. In a few camps, drinks are still chilled with ice cut and stored the previous winter. The registered Maine Guide is often available to help his sports find fish or game.

Although much has remained the same, inevitably there have been some changes. Float planes, motor boats, and well-constructed logging roads provide much easier access to Maine's interior. Most remote camps have installed generators, and many now provide lighting and plumbing, although some still adhere to the

rustic style of earlier years. While a number of camps still offer the American Plan with excellent home-cooking, others now provide fully-equipped housekeeping cabins for guests who prefer to do their own cooking.

The guests themselves have brought about some of the changes in sporting camps. Many wish to explore on their own without the services of a guide, but with some good advice from their host. Guests of the '90s are often families whose interests may extend beyond hunting and fishing to include hiking, boating, canoeing, photography, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, or simply relaxing. Camp owners are happy to accommodate these interests as much as their facilities and location will allow, and to the extent that no harm occurs to the environment.

The Maine sporting camp of today continues in the custom of a century ago. Guests with traditional outdoor interests structure their own vacations, and the camp hosts and employees are there to help them gain a maximum appreciation and enjoyment of their surroundings, through fishing, hunting, hiking, canoeing, or photography. For the sportsman or family, that comfortable little cabin becomes, for a few days, a week, or more, a one-of-a-kind vacation home from which to experience the freedom of the deep woods and big waters of Maine. ➤



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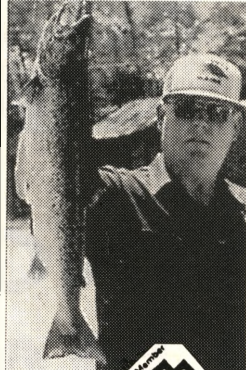




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WETTING A LINE IN MAINE

The key to successful fishing here is the same as it would be anywhere—a basic knowledge of when, where and how to go after the species in question.

Maine has basically two kinds of fish: those that survive best in waters that are cold all year, and those that prefer the warmer, often more shallow waters of the southern lakes. There is some overlap where warm-water and cold-water species

intermingle, but generally there's a sharp division between the two. As a rule, you'll find warm-water lakes and their particular species in a band reaching

from the coast back about 100 miles. Both warm- and cold-water lakes are in the next 50-mile-wide band, while the northern half of the state has mainly cold-water lakes. The lakes that harbor both warm- and cold-water species will have the cold-water fish near their surface in spring and fall, and in the cold depths during summer. In the warm months, the warm-water species can be found in the shallows and medium depths.

A warm September means that the fish will stay in the depths throughout the month, and fishing for cold-water species closes on September 30, with a few exceptions. Under a new change in the law, a large number of lakes are now open to fishing through November for

RICHARD V. PROCOPIO



Blessed with a wealth of lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers of high quality and productivity, Maine offers a myriad of angling opportunities for fishermen of all skills.

species other than trout, salmon, togue, and bass. Check the rule books for specifics.

Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife manages the state's fisheries. They can supply information on where to find particular species, and their excellent Lake Survey sheets detail the presence and amount of game fish in a lake, as well as bait fish types, water depths, and the location of boat ramps. A catalog is available from the department at 284 State Street, Station #41, Augusta, ME 04333.

Following is a list of Maine's principal fresh-

water species. The letter in parentheses indicates how difficult each is to catch, but is only a guide; as any fisherman knows, sometimes you catch 'em, sometimes you don't: Easy (E), Difficult (D), and Hard (H).

COLD-WATER SPECIES

Brook Trout (D): Brook trout are abundant in clean, cold brooks and streams, and grow to large sizes in some ponds and lakes (where they are called squaretails). They have dark, wavy-green backs, red spots on their sides, white or silver bellies, and pink or reddish lower fins with white leading edges. The legal minimum size is six inches (longer in some water); most run between six and 12

inches long. Wet and dry flies, tiny metal lures, and angleworms are common baits, as are streamer flies with red and/or yellow (Barnes Special, Miss Sharon, and Mickey Finn streamers are good examples), used when trolling. Brookies are most abundant from the middle of the state north, and run to large sizes in the Rangeley lakes, Moosehead Lake, Pierce Pond, and the Roach River.

Brown Trout (H): Tougher to catch than brook or rainbow trout, browns are the choice for those experienced anglers seeking a challenge. Occasional to common in some of the colder lakes and streams, this fish runs a few inches longer than the brook trout. In lakes like Branch, Hancock, and Androscoggin, the brown trout can be pounds heavier than the average brookie. Smelt-like streamers—Grey Ghost and Black Ghost—copper or silver Mooselook Wobblers, and minnow lures such as the Rebel and the Rapala are effective.

Landlocked Salmon (D): This close relative to the Atlantic salmon runs smaller than its ocean brother, but is otherwise the same fish. It is common in most large lakes. Taken mostly in spring by surface trollers using streamer flies like the Grey Ghost, Nine-Three, and Supervisor, lures like the Super Duper, Mooselook Wobbler, or Rapala, or live smelts, landlocks are sleek silvery fish with black spots and a preference for jumping when hooked. Big fish are common in eastern Maine's East Grand Lake, the Fish River lakes in Aroostook County, Sebago Lake, the Rangeley lakes, and Grand Lake Stream. Legal minimum length is 14 inches, average weight is between one and three pounds.

Atlantic Salmon (H): Fishing on the Penobscot River was once confined to the famous Bangor Salmon Pool, but is now carried on successfully over several miles of the river. Maine's other traditional salmon rivers—the Dennys, Pleasant Machias and East Machias, Narraguagus, Ducktrap, and Sheepscot—produce fish each year. A special license is needed in addition to the regular state fishing license, and only fly fishing is allowed.

Togue (H): Known also as lake trout, this fish is usually brownish on the back with pale white spots on the sides and a silver or silvery yellow belly. Its sharply forked tail helps anglers differentiate between it and salmon and brown trout. Partial to deep water (though occasionally taken near the surface in spring), togue run larger than most Maine game fish—as large as 20 pounds. Successful togue fishermen are masters of deep trolling techniques, and use streamer flies, lures, and live bait like suckers and smelt. Common in deep, cold lakes (Tunk, East Grand,

Moosehead, Chamberlain), togue are one of the most popular targets of ice fishermen. Minimum length is 18 inches, and three pounds is an average size.

WARM-WATER SPECIES

Smallmouth Bass (D): Maine is famous for its small-mouth waters, especially in lakes and ponds “Down East” in Washington County. The fish is common in hundreds of ponds in the southern part of the state, reaching its northern limit in Grand Lake Sebouis in northern Penobscot County. This hard fighter is brownish or bronze backed with dark vertical bars on its sides and a yellowish belly. While it can be taken trolling streamers or lures, the smallmouth is best cast to with flies or lures. It spends much of its time in the shallows until midsummer, when warm temperatures drive it to cooler surroundings near rock piles. At night, bass often move into the shallows, however, and will strike surface lures after dark. The types of bass lures are legion, but those resembling minnows and frogs are reliable here.

Largemouth Bass (D): Now common in many southern lakes, the largemouth is best distinguished from its cousin by its upper lip (which extends behind the eye), its dark lateral line, and the greenish cast to its scales. Caught using the same methods and baits as the smallmouth, an average fish will run two to four pounds. The Kennebec River, North Pond, and Cobbosseecontee and Winnegance lakes all produce big fish.

Pickrel (E): These long, lean battlers with the “alligator” mouths are common to most warm-water ponds, inhabiting the shallows nearly all year round. They are caught with live bait, bits of red cloth skittered across the lily pads, lures and artificial flies. Surface plugs used for bass (Flatfish and Jitterbug) are equally effective on pickerel. There are no length restrictions on pickerel; the average fish is around one to two pounds.

White Perch (E): The world-record white perch came from Maine waters, and big humpies are common in scores of warm-waters lakes. A fish weighing over a pound is big, with trophy fish being two pounds or more. These little fish more than make up in scrap for what they lack in size, however. They will hit worms, flies, tiny jigs, little lures, and other small baits with abandon. China Lake, Panther Pond, and other waters in central and southern Maine have some of the biggest specimens. There is no limit on white perch.

Yellow Perch and Sunfish (E): Angleworms and tiny spinning lures are best for these plentiful fish. ➤

THE ONE THAT DIDN'T GET AWAY CLUB



1996



Outstanding freshwater fish caught in Maine last year and entered in The One That Didn't Get Away Club, run by The Maine Sportsman, PO Box 910, Yarmouth, ME 04096-0910. Entries must be certified by a game warden or fisheries biologist of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

| The Fish | The Angler | Lbs. Oz. | Length (In.) | Date | Where Caught | Lure |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Brook Trout (Qualifying Weight 4 pounds) 3 entries in 1996 | Bob Dumais, Vassalboro Philip Myers, Jr., Rockland Alan Varnum, Dresden | 5.03 4-9 4-6 | 23 20 21 1/2 | 5/20 1/12 4/9 | Grass Pond, Pierce Pond Twp Moosehead Lake Long Pond, Belgrade | Light Edison Tiger (fly) live smelt Swedish Pimple |
| Brown Trout (Qualifying Weight 6 pounds) 14 entries in 1996 | Robert L. Hodson, Sanford Butch DeSanctis, Durham Tom LeBlanc, Sanford Bruce Hilton, Kennebunk Rory B. Trudeau, So Portland Deborah Gagnon, Shapleigh John Charles, Gray Bob Reynolds, Yarmouth Luke Dionne, Acton Allan Hill, Gray Peter Windrush, Casco Kendell Libby, Gray David Gagne, Wells Harry T. Parsons, Brunswick | 23.8 10.665 9-4 9 8 7-3 7-29 7-2 6-8 6-7 6-49 6-4 6 --- | 35 1/4 31 27 — 27 1/2 25 25 25 27 25 3/4 24 3/4 26 24 1/2 30 | 3/6 4/29 7/7 6/15 5/20 5/28 5/2 7/1 5/9 8/9 5/5 1/21 3/1 5/23 | Square Pond, Acton Upper Range Pond Square Pond —, Acton Square Pond, Shapleigh Square Pond, Shapleigh Little Sebago Lake Upper Range Pond, Poland Spring Mousam Lake, Acton Little Sebago Lake Range Pond, Poland Crystal Lake Mousam Lake, Acton Rangeley Lake | shiner Gray Ghost live bait — live bait live bait Weeping Willow Rapala w/fly rod Warbler Gray Ghost sewn shiner shiner live bait - shiner F6 Black Ghost |
| Lake Trout (Qualifying Weight 15 pounds) 7 entries in 1996 | William Day, Kezar Falls Paul Tardiff, Litchfield Joe Kitchen, Ellsworth Noelle Barth, Milford, MA Adam Silvestri, Kensington, NH Lane Perkins, Saco Stephen Nappi, So Portland | 27.05 20 19-3 17.62 16.60 16 15-8 | 40 3/4 38 1/8 39 36 35 34 3/4 34 1/2 | 6/3 2/11 1/15 8/18 7/26 2/18 5/18 | Sebago Lake Sheepscot Lake, Palermo Green Lake, Ellsworth Sebago Lake, Standish Sebago Lake Sebago Lake Sebago Lake | Flatfish ice fish sucker flatfish flatfish Swedish Pimple w/sucker flatfish |
| Landlocked Salmon (Qualifying Weight 6 pounds) 6 entries in 1996 | Larry Gilman, Sidney Paul Pion, Belgrade Jeff W. Zimba, Fairfield Peter N. Pelletier, Brewer Bud Farwell, Bangor Jonathan Capon, Millis, MA | 7-9 7-8 7-4 6-7 6-2 6 | 26 30 1/2 24 26 1/2 25 3/8 23 1/2 | 5/3 9/19 4/9 6/6 9/18 8/22 | Long Pond Long Pond, Belgrade Long Pond, Belgrade Long Lake, Sinclair East Grand Lake, Forest City Kezar Lake, Lovell | smelt smelt pattern Weeping Willow Gray Ghost Double A Special Streamer Flashking |
| Smallmouth Bass (Qualifying Weight 5 pounds) 1 entry in 1996 | Ray Weickel, New Milford, NJ | 5-3 | 20 5/8 | 5/18 | East Grand Lake | Tube Jig |
| Largemouth Bass (Qualifying Weight 7 pounds) 6 entries in 1996 | Ivo Jelenic, So Harpswell Ken Gibb, Bath Ken Bradley, Gray Mike Cash, Saco John Corey, Waterville Rick Dussault, Biddeford | 8-11 8.02 8 8 7-9 7.26 | 24 22 1/4 24 24 1/2 23 22 | 6/19 2/11 5/8 7/21 3/17 3/13 | Upper Narrows Pond Damariscotta Lake, Newcastle Little Sebago Lake Shaker Pond, Alfred North Pond, Smithfield Bonnie Eagle Lake, Buxton | Heddon Lucky 13 shiner — Kelly Striper (plastic worm) — Giant shiner |
| White Perch (Qualifying Weight 1 1/2 pounds) 7 entries in 1996 | Eric Dube, Fairfield Dave Johnston, Monticello George V. Grover, Veazie Paula K. Phelps, Waite Arthur R. Lambert, Winslow John A. Lambert, Winslow Gregory G. Mendez, Babylon, NY | 2-2 2-2 1.94 1-15 1-11 1/2 1-10 1-8 | 14 1/2 15 16 16 13 7/8 13 3/4 14 | 3/1 1/10 9/3 6/3 2/4 2/4 8/16 | Three Mile Pond, Vassalboro Drews Lake, Linneus Pushaw Lake, Bangor Spednic Lake, Vanceboro China Lake China Lake Long Pond, Rome | live smelt live bait worm spinner & crawler smelt smelt worm |
| Pickeral (Qualifying Weight 4 pounds) 7 entries in 1996 | Vincent J. Caruso, E Rumford John Mullen, Auburn Richard F. Flood, Woodland Phil Bozenhard, Gray Roy H. Guidry, Jr., Presque Isle Felix Korn, Union David D. Duntun, Bar Harbor | 6-4 4-11 4-10 4.65 4.55 4.5 4 | 28 3/4 25 26 3/4 26 1/2 26 24 1/2 24 3/4 | 1/1 3/2 3/17 2/10 3/19 10/8 2/24 | Androscoggin Lake, Wayne Tripp Lake, Poland Meddybemps Lake, Baileyville Ingalls Pond Lower Mattawamkeag Lake, Island Falls Round Pond, Union Graham Lake, Ellsworth | live bait shiner smelt shiner live shiner Jointed Rapala Swedish Pimple |
| Northern Pike (Qualifying Weight 15 pounds) 6 entries in 1996 | Bill Swan, Belgrade Lakes Jerry Peterson, So Portland James T. Billings, Liberty Mike Gibbs, Mt. Vernon David Langlais, Scituate, RI Sherwood Juskewitch, Mercer | 26.33 24.84 21-3 18.13 17.44 16-4 | 48 44 41 3/4 41 43 41 | 5/11 7/28 2/11 6/4 8/28 5/20 | Long Pond, Belgrade North Pond, Smithfield North Pond, Smithfield Long Pond North Pond, Mercer North Pond, Mercer | fly - Lefty's Deceiver — large shiner live minnow Silver Rebel — |

There were no entries in the following categories in 1996: blueback trout (qualifying weight, two pounds), rainbow trout (qualifying weight, five pounds), splake (qualifying weight, four pounds), or black crappie (qualifying weight, two pounds).

The Way Life Should Be



MAINE'S *Fishing Waters*

I ➤ The Fish River Region (*Salmon and trout*)

This is an outstanding region not only in Maine but in the entire country. Salmon grow to remarkable size here, and are taken both in the lakes and in the connecting thoroughfares. Trout also are both large and numerous throughout the region. Several of the lakes also contain togue.

The lakes in the Fish River chain proper are Long Lake, Mud Lake, Cross Lake, Square Lake, Eagle Lake, Fish River Lake, St. Froid Lake and Portage Lake. Extending almost into the Moosehead region are countless lakes, ponds, rivers and streams that afford fishing surpassing the fondest dreams of the angler.

In August there is good stream fishing along the Fish River from Eagle Lake to Fort Kent. Both the Aroostook and Machias rivers offer good stream fishing for trout. Situated far to the north, fish strike well longer in the season than is the case further south. Fall fishing begins earlier for the same reason.

Roads to this region are excellent. Accommodations are comparable to the best in the state. (*For location, see section 1 of fishing map.*)

2 ➤ The Allagash Region (*Trout, togue and salmon*)

This is a region beloved by many anglers as it entails canoe trips into the wildlands.

It taps the Allagash, St. John, and East and West Branch of the Penobscot, waters all known as canoeing waters *par excellence* throughout the world.

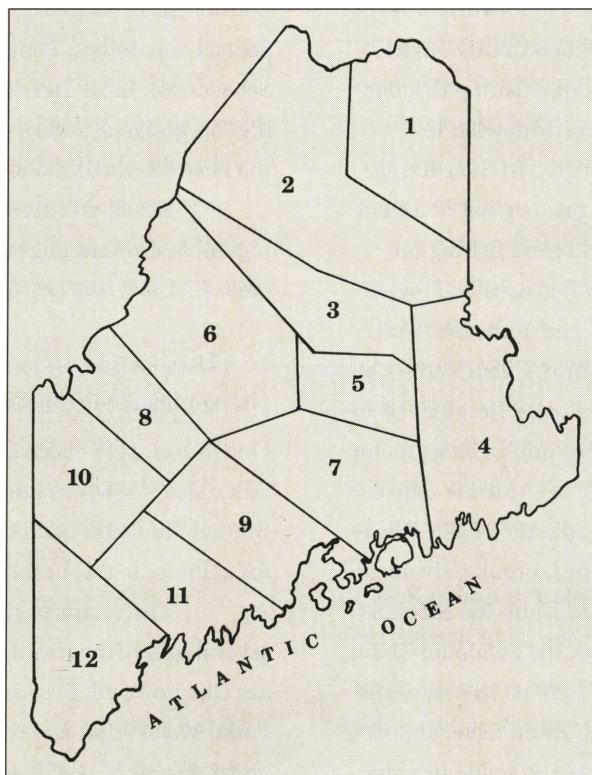
Some of the better known fishing spots in the region are at Canada Falls Deadwater on the West Branch; along the West Branch from Seboomook Dam to Pine Stream near Chesuncook Lake; in the streams leading into Allagash Lake, Eagle Lake, Chamberlain Lake, Churchill Lake, Umsaskis Lake, Chemquasabamticook (Ross) Lake and Long Lake.

There are literally hundreds of streams flowing into the fifty-mile stretch of the Allagash from Long Pond to its mouth, and also along the seventy miles of the St.

John from the mouth of the Northwest Branch to the point where it joins the Allagash.

The fact that this territory is more remote than any area in the eastern United States calls for special planning before visiting. You may want to think seriously about hiring a guide. At the very least, you must plan on bringing with you all the supplies you will need during your stay here.

There are a few sporting camps in the region, and tenting out may be done at authorized campsites within the Allagash Wilderness Waterway or under the jurisdiction of the North Maine



Woods, an organization of paper companies and other landowners headquartered in Ashland. (*For location, see section 2 of fishing map.*)

3 ➡ Mount Katahdin Region (*Trout and salmon*)

This magnificent region, dominated by Mount Katahdin, is one of the most ruggedly beautiful areas in the entire country. Here are some of the best trout waters in the United States—larger waters that are easily reached, and smaller ones that are out of the way and have a charm of their own. A great part of this region is Baxter State Park, given to Maine in 1930 by former Governor Percival Baxter, to be maintained forever in its natural state as a rendezvous for anglers and other outdoor lovers.

Some of the larger waters in this region are Nesowadnehunk Lake and Stream, Chesuncook Lake, Kidney Pond, Daicy Pond, Millinocket Lake, Shin Pond, Togue Pond, and Katahdin Lake.

Central points in this area are easily reached on good roads. Available accommodations include several sporting camps and campgrounds in and around Baxter State Park. (*For location, see section 3 of fishing map.*)

4 ➡ Grand Lakes and Schoodic Region

(*Salmon, trout, togue, smallmouth bass, pickerel, white perch*)

A sporting kingdom in itself, this region defies description in anything short of an entire volume. It covers Washington County. Parts of this region are easily accessible, while the rest is composed of wild lands that are a network of lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and brooks. Much of this territory is not fished extensively as yet, although fishing throughout the region is magnificent. Anglers who wish to “discover” new waters will find this area to their liking.

West Grand Lake is one of the original homes of the landlocked salmon and still offers good fishing for this species, as well as for smallmouthed bass and togue. Big Lake, the lake it empties into, is one of the best smallmouthed black bass waters in the world. Other waters in the area are Junior Lake, Sysladobsis Lake, East and West Musquash Lakes, and a host of brooks and streams including Grand Lake Stream in the village of the same name. To the south are the Meddybemps, Cathance Lake, Rocky Pond and numerous other lakes, ponds, brooks, rivers and streams. To the west are Niatous Lake and the Machias Lakes. To the north, Spednic Lake, in the Schoodic Chain, is a 23-mile-long body of water that is rated as one of the best bass lakes in existence. Eastern Grand Lake, almost as long, is famed for its splendid salmon and togue fishing.

Fine hard-surfaced roads lead to this region. Accommodations are of the usual fine type found in the state, and plentifully distributed. (*For location, see section 4 of fishing map.*)

5 ➡ Milo-Enfield-Lincoln Region (*Salmon, trout, bass*)

This region lies between the Moosehead region and the Grand Lake region. Near Enfield, the angler will find Cold Stream Pond, an excellent salmon and togue fishing center. A little over twenty miles away is Lake Niatous, a fine salmon and bass lake. This region is dotted with numerous smaller ponds as well as many excellent streams. From Milo, the angler is just a few miles from Schoodic Lake (a famed togue lake), Seboeis Lake, Endless Lake and other lakes and streams that afford very good trout fishing.

Good accommodations are available here; roads also are good. Guides are available throughout the region. (*For location, see section 5 of fishing map.*)

6 ➡ Moosehead-Jackman Region (*Salmon, trout, togue*)

This whole region occupies almost as much territory as the state of Massachusetts. It is almost entirely salmon, trout and togue country. Moosehead Lake, the largest lake in Maine, is also one of the largest bodies of fresh water wholly within one state in the country.

Some of the more familiar waters in the far-flung area are: Brassua Lake, Long Pond, Big Wood Pond, Attean, Holeb Pond, Misery Pond, Moxie Pond, Lake Parlin, Lobster Lake, Ragged Lake, the Roach ponds, Lake Onawa, Sebec Lake, Indian Pond, Jo-Mary Lake, Seboeis Lake, and Sebacicook Lake. In addition, it contains hundreds of brooks, streams, and rivers, including the Moose River and the headwaters of the Kennebec and Penobscot rivers.

Excellent roads lead to the central points in this region, and numerous accommodations are located in the area. (*For location, see section 6 of the fishing map.*)

7 ➡ Bangor Region

(*Salmon, brook trout, brown trout, togue, bass, pickerel*)

On US Rte. 1, between Bangor and Ellsworth, are Phillips Lake, also known as Lucerne-in-Maine, Greene Lake, Branch Pond and Graham Lake. All afford excellent fishing for salmon, togue, brook trout, brown trout and pickerel.

Thirty miles from Ellsworth are Tunk Lake and several other fine fishing waters. On Rte. 9 from Bangor are Chemo Pond, Floods Pond, Beech Hill Pond, Molasses Pond, Webb Pond and numerous other smaller bodies of water affording excellent fishing for salmon, trout and bass.



On Rte. 15 near Bucksport is another group of lakes including Toddy Pond and Lake Alamoosook, which afford excellent salmon, togue and trout fishing.

Finally, visitors to Mt. Desert Island and Acadia National Park will find good fishing for the common game fish species in the island's 20-odd lakes and ponds.

Excellent accommodations may be had at the various lakes or in the small towns and cities in the area. *(For location, see section 7 of fishing map.)*

8 ➡ Dead River Region (Trout and salmon)

In the northwest corner of the state, on the line of Benedict Arnold's historic march to Quebec, can be found a perfect network of lakes and ponds joined together by numerous brooks and streams. The altitude of many of these is well over 1,500 feet above sea level, and, as they are spring fed, the water is so cold that trout strike eagerly throughout the entire season.

Some of the larger and better known lakes and ponds are Tim Pond, Chain of Ponds, Rowe Pond, Carry Pond, King and Bartlett Pond, and Flagstaff Lake.

The angler or summer visitor will find excellent roads and accommodations in this area. *(For location, see section 8 of fishing map.)*

9 ➡ Belgrade Lakes Region

(Black bass, salmon, trout, white perch)

This is one of the more compact areas in Maine. That is, the various lakes in the region are comparatively close to

one another, making it extremely easy for the angler to go from one to another.

For many years the Belgrade region has been noted for its extremely fine black bass fishing, both smallmouth and largemouth bass. Belgrade Stream, for example, produces many two- to five-pound bass and some heavier. In the Belgrade Chain are six lakes: North, East, Great, Long, Salmon and Messalonskee.

Some of the most beautiful brook trout caught anywhere are taken in the

Belgrades, and the world's record white perch was caught in Messalonskee Lake in 1949. A new addition to these waters through an unauthorized stocking is the northern pike, which are growing to a large size. There are salmon and other desirable game fish, too.

The region is easy to reach and accommodations are available. *(For location, see section 9 of fishing map.)*

10 ➡ Rangeley Region (Salmon and trout)

This region is home to unforgettable trout and salmon fishing in sparkling lakes surrounded by forest-clad mountains. Years ago this area was noted strictly for its excellent trout fishing. Later, salmon were introduced to many waters so that now it affords fishing for both popular species.

A few of the waters in the region are Rangeley Lake, Cupsuptic Lake, Quimby Pond, Dodge Pond, Big and Little Kennebago streams, Loon Lake, Richardson Lake, Mooselookmeguntic and Aziscohos. There are scores of other lakes, ponds and streams in the area.

Good roads lead to the center of the region at Rangeley village. Accommodations are plentiful. *(For location, see section 10 of fishing map.)*

11 ➡ Kennebec Lakes Region

(Bass, salmon, trout, white perch)

This is an interesting region that furnishes excellent bass fishing and, in the spring, good salmon and trout fishing.

continued on page 48

The Way Life Should Be



inset photo by Richard V. Procopio

BORED IN WINTER? TRY ICE FISHING!

BY WILMOT ROBINSON

Flag! Flag! Last trap!" yells one of the fishermen, and three figures dash for snowmobiles—not unlike Air Force pilots "scrambling" to intercept a foreign "blip" on the radar screen.

Ice fishing is one of the fastest growing winter sports in Maine. Sure, it sometimes means a cold day on the ice, but that's just an excuse to build a fire and cook some "tube steaks" (hot dogs, for the uninitiated). One good reason for ice fishing's gain in popularity is modern technology: Power ice-augers have replaced manually-powered ice chisels; fast, sleek snowmobiles have all but put snowshoes out of business; and the clothing of the '90s would appear like something from Mars to ice fishermen of old.

I really enjoy ice fishing! My favorite day might find me up at 6 AM, and loading my equipment (old-timers called it "wangen") into my pick-up truck by seven. Next I hook up my trailer, which contains my snowmobile and a tote sled.

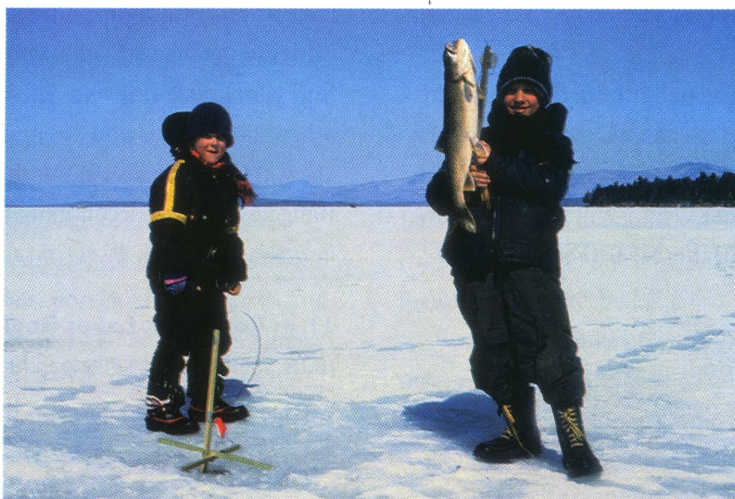
Tote sled—now there's a piece of equipment seen in various shapes and sizes on lakes open to ice fishing. Probably one of the most often seen

folds into a flat sled, if need be. It's a very useful feature, too, should a snowmobile break down and need to be towed by another machine. Most snowmobiles are equipped with a hitch for towing, and tote sleds are usually spacious enough to accommodate all the equipment necessary to enjoy a day's outing.

Our destination today is a large lake in northern Maine. Easily reached by traveling privately-owned paper company roads also accessible to the public, this body of water offers a chance to catch many species of fish, notably landlocked salmon, trout, togue, cusk, smelts, white perch, whitefish, yellow perch, and chubs.

Traveling paper company roads, which criss-cross much of the northern part of the state, calls for constant alertness, as huge logging trucks may be encountered, especially on weekdays. The best advice I can offer is to

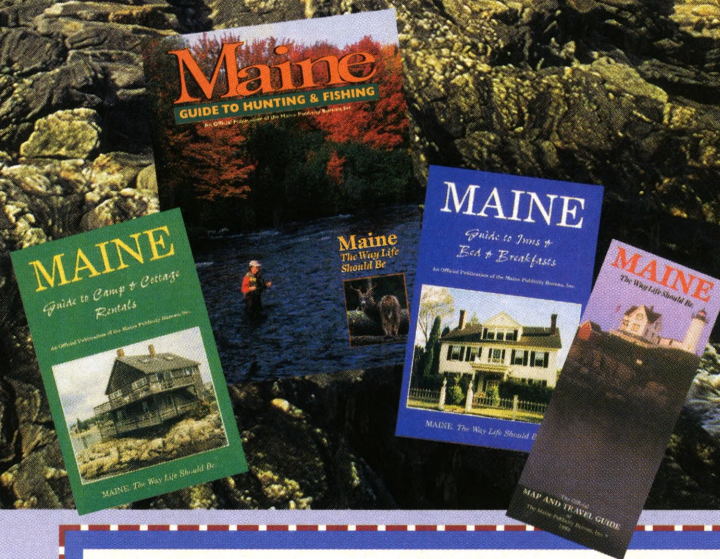
continued on page 42



MARTIN E. HARWOOD

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FREE guides answer
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Hallowell, ME 04347-2300*

Please allow 10 business days for delivery.

YES! Please send me:

- ☐ Maine Guide to Hunting and Fishing
- ☐ Maine Map and Guide
- ☐ Maine Guide to Inns and Bed & Breakfasts
- ☐ Maine Guide to Camp & Cottage Rentals

NAME _____

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|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 299 | 75 | 163 | 191 | 123 | 92 | 14 | 89 | 66 | 56 | 151 | 287 | 119 | 273 | 171 | 108 | 348 | 74 | 189 | 283 | 197 | 96 | 6 | 20 | 70 | 229 | 233 | 136 | 85 | 5 | 30 | 326 | 152 | 111 | 107 | 15 | 124 | 360 | 108 |
| 190 | 21 | 54 | 97 | 39 | 86 | 94 | 57 | 90 | 52 | 57 | 152 | 82 | 179 | 77 | 36 | 239 | 106 | 81 | 174 | 89 | 50 | 107 | 128 | 51 | 135 | 100 | 38 | 72 | 113 | 78 | 217 | 78 | 63 | 73 | 111 | 16 | 251 | |
| 155 | 273 | 197 | 243 | 231 | 324 | 346 | 286 | 336 | 305 | 216 | 169 | 251 | 197 | 223 | 270 | 45 | 352 | 232 | 78 | 165 | 284 | 359 | 360 | 302 | 202 | 145 | 223 | 384 | 365 | 330 | 35 | 310 | 259 | 305 | 364 | 249 | | |
| 187 | 37 | 51 | 97 | 49 | 81 | 110 | 73 | 94 | 66 | 70 | 149 | 78 | 177 | 77 | 27 | 236 | 110 | 62 | 171 | 73 | 41 | 123 | 144 | 67 | 135 | 99 | 25 | 76 | 120 | 94 | 214 | 88 | 79 | 37 | 128 | | | |
| 303 | 81 | 197 | 195 | 136 | 91 | 83 | 83 | 61 | 60 | 155 | 291 | 119 | 277 | 174 | 114 | 362 | 54 | 193 | 281 | 203 | 100 | 18 | 30 | 68 | 233 | 337 | 140 | 21 | 20 | 34 | 330 | 148 | 115 | 106 | | | | |
| 344 | 55 | 106 | 164 | 96 | 24 | 93 | 91 | 53 | 61 | 127 | 206 | 96 | 234 | 34 | 31 | 293 | 61 | 116 | 226 | 121 | 26 | 108 | 127 | 43 | 182 | 156 | 82 | 36 | 112 | 75 | 222 | 43 | 37 | | | | | |
| 197 | 42 | 61 | 85 | 27 | 118 | 97 | 41 | 112 | 55 | 45 | 181 | 8 | 167 | 85 | 80 | 246 | 129 | 115 | 181 | 152 | 66 | 110 | 131 | 72 | 123 | 131 | 62 | 93 | 116 | 61 | 224 | 120 | | | | | | |
| 254 | 79 | 120 | 166 | 115 | 67 | 136 | 115 | 97 | 106 | 139 | 218 | 119 | 346 | 146 | 42 | 303 | 104 | 122 | 232 | 24 | 56 | 144 | 173 | 85 | 204 | 166 | 94 | 79 | 157 | 122 | 275 | | | | | | | |
| 20 | 239 | 63 | 209 | 186 | 293 | 312 | 264 | 302 | 270 | 118 | 134 | 116 | 162 | 189 | 236 | 50 | 318 | 197 | 43 | 250 | 250 | 325 | 346 | 269 | 168 | 111 | 108 | 284 | 331 | 286 | | | | | | | | |
| 269 | 57 | 133 | 161 | 104 | 63 | 16 | 59 | 38 | 26 | 121 | 281 | 85 | 241 | 141 | 90 | 318 | 54 | 158 | 253 | 167 | 66 | 29 | 50 | 34 | 199 | 203 | 106 | 45 | 35 | | | | | | | | | |
| 304 | 80 | 168 | 196 | 126 | 97 | 19 | 94 | 73 | 61 | 156 | 292 | 120 | 278 | 176 | 113 | 353 | 79 | 184 | 286 | 192 | 101 | 11 | 15 | 75 | 254 | 236 | 141 | 90 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 263 | 51 | 127 | 156 | 97 | 25 | 71 | 72 | 18 | 38 | 116 | 234 | 87 | 238 | 136 | 53 | 311 | 34 | 139 | 277 | 183 | 89 | 188 | 21 | 104 | 75 | 100 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 162 | 49 | 26 | 72 | 86 | 104 | 122 | 85 | 118 | 80 | 45 | 124 | 54 | 152 | 52 | 211 | 134 | 54 | 146 | 96 | 65 | 135 | 158 | 78 | 110 | 82 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 86 | 146 | 70 | 116 | 110 | 179 | 219 | 171 | 107 | 177 | 99 | 115 | 123 | 143 | 186 | 124 | 137 | 213 | 88 | 66 | 141 | 136 | 232 | 236 | 158 | 154 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 198 | 143 | 84 | 78 | 94 | 217 | 215 | 163 | 212 | 173 | 78 | 45 | 115 | 44 | 58 | 163 | 223 | 228 | 163 | 125 | 200 | 177 | 228 | 249 | 173 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 242 | 30 | 106 | 135 | 79 | 46 | 50 | 51 | 39 | 10 | 95 | 204 | 76 | 217 | 115 | 46 | 291 | 55 | 131 | 226 | 138 | 32 | 69 | 84 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 319 | 107 | 163 | 211 | 155 | 111 | 34 | 109 | 82 | 76 | 171 | 281 | 135 | 283 | 191 | 130 | 366 | 83 | 205 | 303 | 217 | 116 | 26 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 298 | 74 | 162 | 187 | 121 | 91 | 34 | 86 | 67 | 55 | 150 | 286 | 118 | 272 | 170 | 107 | 347 | 73 | 186 | 262 | 197 | 95 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 228 | 30 | 92 | 109 | 76 | 51 | 82 | 90 | 57 | 50 | 79 | 190 | 86 | 218 | 119 | 14 | 277 | 73 | 104 | 207 | 106 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 227 | 110 | 124 | 170 | 130 | 144 | 183 | 146 | 163 | 147 | 143 | 222 | 130 | 280 | 150 | 92 | 276 | 179 | 30 | 207 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 62 | 196 | 120 | 168 | 152 | 253 | 269 | 221 | 263 | 227 | 139 | 91 | 73 | 119 | 146 | 193 | 149 | 279 | 154 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 175 | 101 | 71 | 125 | 90 | 143 | 178 | 138 | 153 | 132 | 90 | 169 | 107 | 197 | 98 | 90 | 223 | 169 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 195 | 85 | 159 | 190 | 131 | 37 | 81 | 106 | 16 | 73 | 150 | 187 | 136 | 273 | 170 | 87 | 244 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 49 | 261 | 185 | 231 | 222 | 318 | 334 | 386 | 330 | 292 | 204 | 189 | 236 | 217 | 211 | 263 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 214 | 38 | 78 | 135 | 75 | 53 | 81 | 74 | 71 | 64 | 93 | 176 | 88 | 204 | 105 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 182 | 85 | 26 | 20 | 39 | 159 | 197 | 106 | 154 | 115 | 20 | 116 | 57 | 102 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 181 | 168 | 136 | 122 | 137 | 269 | 269 | 207 | 257 | 217 | 122 | 28 | 159 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 182 | 38 | 53 | 77 | 19 | 180 | 197 | 32 | 120 | 59 | 34 | 173 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 153 | 174 | 88 | 136 | 146 | 221 | 273 | 221 | 231 | 231 | 136 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 158 | 65 | 19 | 40 | 18 | 152 | 137 | 85 | 134 | 95 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 243 | 31 | 107 | 138 | 78 | 64 | 42 | 33 | 57 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 179 | 89 | 143 | 174 | 115 | 29 | 54 | 90 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 237 | 36 | 101 | 125 | 86 | 96 | 75 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 285 | 73 | 149 | 177 | 119 | 122 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 269 | 76 | 133 | 179 | 122 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 170 | 48 | 34 | 58 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 185 | 104 | 46 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 136 | 76 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 212 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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Ellsworth

Eastport

Camden

Calais

Bucksport

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Bethel

Belfast

Bar Harbor

Bangor

Augusta

Ashland

Fort Kent

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ARROSTOCK

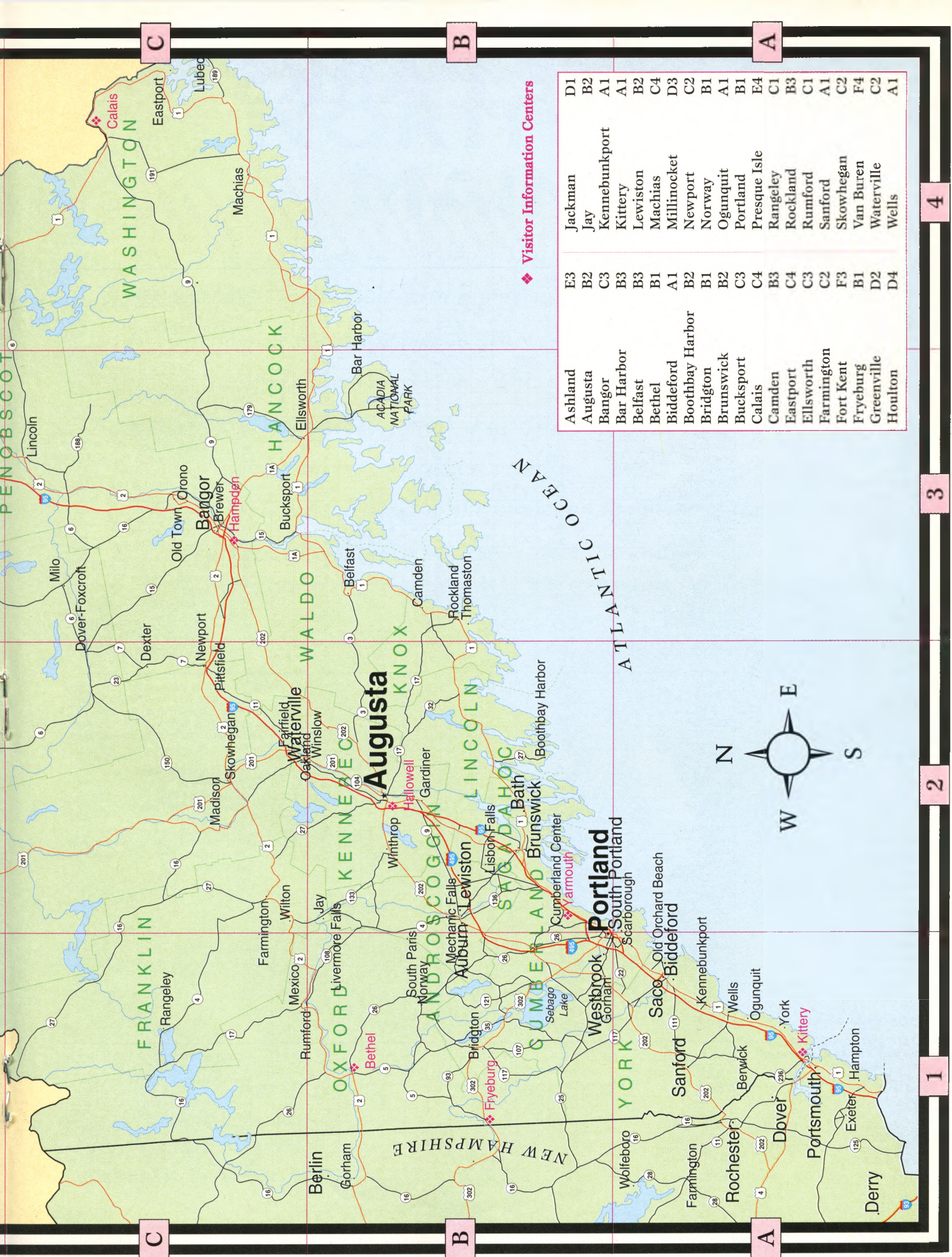
ASHLASH WILDERNESS WATERWAY

Ashland

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STATE PARKS

| Location | Acreage | Camping | Historic | Snack Bar | Scenic Road | Picnicking | Swimming | Boat Launching | Fishing | Snowmobiling | Fee Charged | Dumping Station | Trails* | Approximate Opening and Closing Dates |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|----------|-----------|-------------|------------|----------|----------------|---------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| State Parks | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Allagash Wilderness Waterway | Aroostook & Piscataquis | 22840 | • | • | | | • | • | • | • | | | | May 15 through October 15 |
| Aroostook | Presque Isle | 577 | • | | | • | • | • | • | • | | • | | Memorial Day through Labor Day |
| Birch Point | Owls Head | 56 | | | | • | • | | • | | | | | Open All Year |
| Bradbury Mountain | Pownal | 440 | • | | | • | | | | • | | • | | May 15 through October 15 |
| Camden Hills | Camden | 5474 | | | • | | | | • | • | • | • | • | May 15 through October 15 |
| Cobscook Bay | Dennysville | 888 | • | | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | • | May 15 through October 15 |
| Crescent Beach | Cape Elizabeth | 243 | | • | | • | • | | • | • | | | | Memorial Day through Columbus Day |
| Damariscotta Lake | Jefferson | 17 | | | | • | • | | • | • | | | | Memorial Day through Labor Day |
| Ferry Beach | Saco | 117 | | | | • | • | | • | • | | • | | Memorial Day through September 30 |
| Fort Point (Fort Pownall) | Stockton Springs | 154 | | • | | • | | | • | • | | | | Memorial Day through Labor Day |
| Grafton Notch | Grafton Township | 3192 | | | • | • | | | • | • | | • | | May 15 through October 15 |
| Holbrook Island Sanctuary | Brooksville | 1365 | | | • | | • | | • | | | | | Open All Year |
| Lake St. George | Liberty | 360 | • | | | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | May 15 through September 30 |
| Lamoine | Lamoine | 55 | • | • | | • | • | | • | • | | | | May 15 through October 15 |
| Lily Bay | Beaver Cove | 924 | | | | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | May 1 through October 15 |
| Moose Point | Searsport | 183 | | | | • | | | • | • | | • | | Memorial Day through September 30 |
| Mt. Blue | Weld | 5021 | • | | | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | May 15 through October 1 |
| Peacock Beach | Richmond | 100 | | | | • | • | | | | | | | Memorial Day through Labor Day |
| Peaks-Kenny | Dover-Foxcroft | 839 | • | | | • | • | | • | | • | • | | May 15 through September 30 |
| Popham Beach | Phippsburg | 529 | | | | • | • | | • | • | | | | April 15 through October 30 |
| Quoddy Head | Lubec | 481 | | | | • | | | • | • | | • | | May 15 through October 15 |
| Range Ponds | Poland | 750 | | | | • | • | • | • | • | | | | May 15 through October 15 |
| Rangeley Lake | Rangeley | 691 | • | | | • | • | • | • | • | | | | May 15 through September 30 |
| Reid | Georgetown | 766 | | | • | | • | | • | • | | | | Open All Year |
| Roque Bluffs | Roque Bluffs | 274 | | | | • | • | | • | • | | | | May 15 through September 30 |
| Sebago Lake | Naples | 1300 | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | | | May 1 through October 15 |
| Shackford Head | Eastport | 90 | | | | • | • | | • | | | • | | Open All Year |
| Swan Lake | Swanville | 67 | | | | • | • | | • | • | | | | Memorial Day through Labor Day |
| Two Lights | Cape Elizabeth | 40 | | • | | • | | | • | • | | | | Open All Year |
| Vaughan Woods | South Berwick | 250 | | • | | • | | | • | • | | • | | Memorial Day through Labor Day |
| Warren Island | Islesboro | 70 | • | | | • | | • | • | • | | • | | Memorial Day through September 15 |
| Wolfe's Neck Woods | Freeport | 233 | | | | • | | | • | • | | • | | Memorial Day through Labor Day |
| Public Reserved Lands | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bald Mountain | Franklin | 1873 | | | | | | | • | | | | • | *All trails at state parks and public reserved lands have hiking opportunities. Depending on the time of year, some trails in selected areas also have shared use opportunities for: • cross-country skiing • riding ATVs • horseback riding • riding mountain bikes |
| Bigelow Preserve | Somerset & Franklin | 35027 | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | |
| Chain of Ponds | Franklin | 1141 | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | |
| Chamberlain Lake | Piscataquis | 9557 | | | | | | | | • | | • | | Call individual parks or public reserved land units for information about specific trail uses allowed in each area. |
| Cutler Coast | Washington | 12170 | • | | | | | | | | | • | • | |
| Dead River | Somerset | 4771 | • | | | | • | • | • | • | | | • | |
| Deboullie | Aroostook | 21871 | • | | | | • | • | • | • | • | | • | |
| Dodge Point | Lincoln | 506 | | | | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | |
| Donnell Pond | Hancock | 14162 | • | | • | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | |
| Duck Lake | Hancock | 25220 | • | | | • | • | • | • | • | | | • | |
| Eagle Lake | Aroostook | 23882 | • | | | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | |
| Four Ponds | Franklin | 6015 | • | | | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | |
| Gero Island | Piscataquis | 3845 | • | • | | • | | | • | • | | | • | |
| Great Heath | Washington | 6067 | | | | | • | • | • | • | | | • | |
| Holeb | Somerset | 19651 | • | | | • | • | • | • | • | | | • | |
| Little Squaw | Piscataquis | 15047 | • | | | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | |
| Mackworth Island | Cumberland | 100 | | | | | | | • | • | | • | • | |
| Mahoosucs | Oxford | 27253 | • | | | • | | | • | • | | | • | |
| Moosehead Lake | Piscataquis | 11176 | • | | | | • | • | • | • | | • | • | |
| Nahmakanta | Piscataquis | 42818 | • | | | | • | • | • | • | | • | • | |
| Pineland | Cumberland | 1090 | | | | | | | • | • | | | • | |
| Richardson | Oxford | 17757 | • | | | • | • | • | • | • | • | | • | |
| Rocky Lake | Washington | 10904 | • | | | • | • | • | • | • | | | • | |
| Round Pond | Aroostook | 20349 | • | | | • | • | • | • | • | • | | • | |
| Scraggly Lake | Penobscot | 9057 | • | | | • | • | • | • | • | | | • | |
| Seboeis | Piscataquis & Penobscot | 12902 | • | | | • | • | • | • | • | | | • | |
| Squa Pan | Aroostook | 17985 | • | | • | • | • | • | • | • | | | • | |
| Telos | Aroostook | 22806 | • | | | • | | | • | • | • | | | |
| Wassataquoik | Penobscot | 2340 | • | | | | • | • | • | • | | | • | |
| State Historic Sites | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonial Pemaquid (Ft. Wm. Henry) | Bristol | 19 | | • | • | | • | • | | • | | | | Memorial Day through Labor Day |
| Eagle Island | S. Harpswell | 17 | | • | | | • | | | • | | | | June 15 through Labor Day |
| Fort Edgecomb | Edgecomb | 3 | | • | | | • | | • | • | | | | Memorial Day through Labor Day |
| Fort Halifax | Winslow | 0.75 | | • | | | • | | | • | | | | Memorial Day through Labor Day |
| Fort Kent | Fort Kent | 3 | | • | | | • | | | • | | | | Memorial Day through Labor Day |
| Fort Knox | Prospect | 124 | | • | | | • | | | • | | | | May 1 through October 30 |
| Fort McClary | Kittery Point | 27 | | • | | | • | | | • | | | | Memorial Day through September 30 |
| Fort O'Brien | Machiasport | 2 | | • | | | • | | | • | | | | Memorial Day through Labor Day |
| Fort Popham | Popham Beach | 7 | | • | | | • | | • | | | | | Memorial Day through September 30 |
| John Paul Jones | Kittery | 2 | | • | | | • | | • | • | | | | Open All Year |
| Katahdin Iron Works | T6R9 | 17 | | • | | | • | | | • | | | | Memorial Day through Labor Day |

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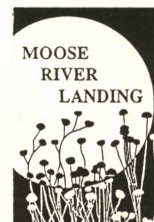
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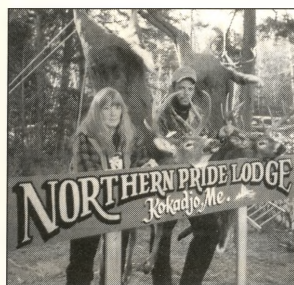
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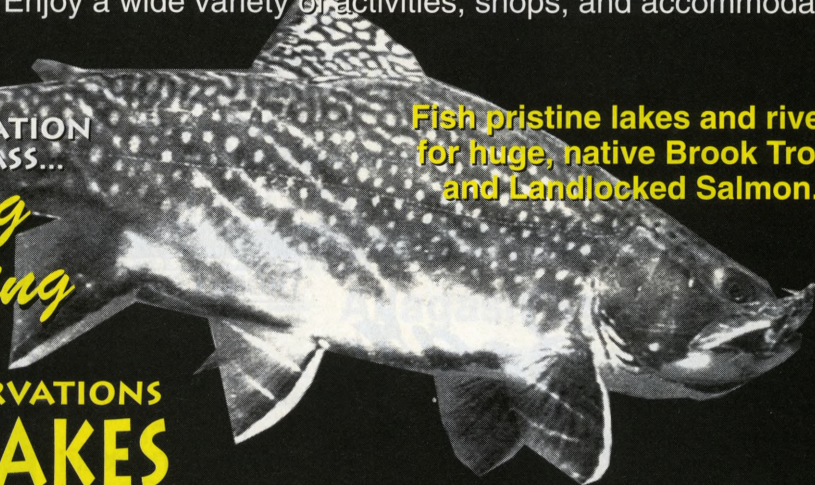
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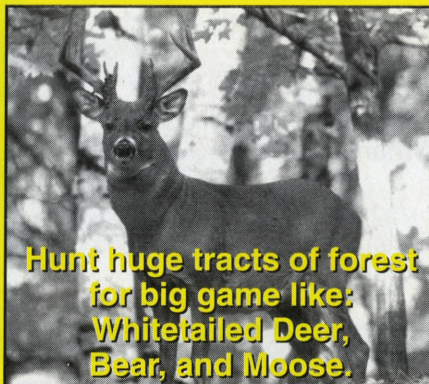
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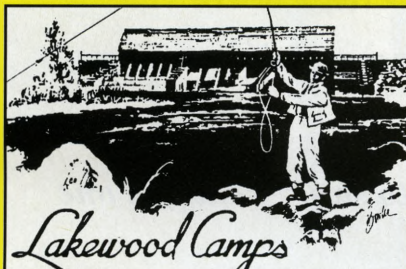
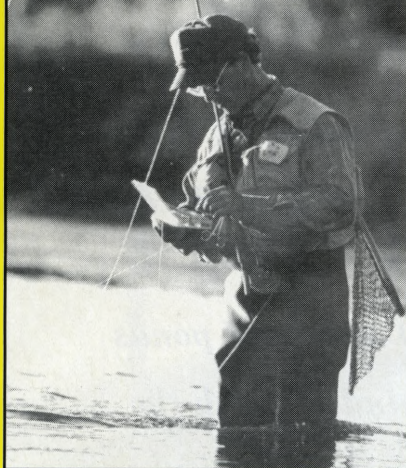
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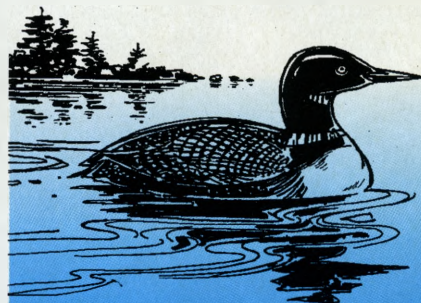
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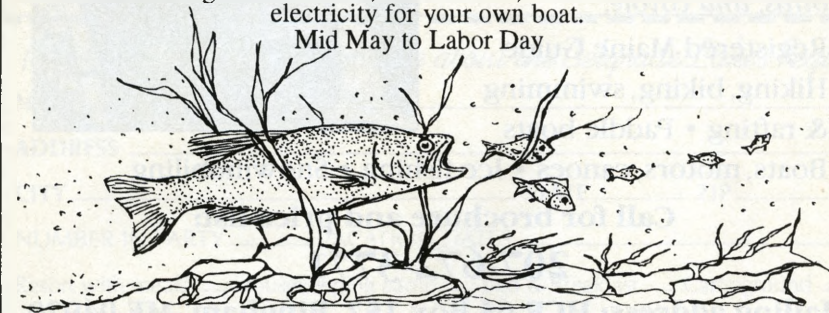
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Mid May to Labor Day



Ice Fishing *continued from page 26*

give these trucks all the room you can, even pulling over to the shoulder and stopping, if necessary. I keep my C.B. radio tuned to Channel 19, as drivers announce their locations frequently to alert other trucks.

At the lake, unloading sleds and tote sleds and stowing the gear doesn't take long, and soon we're heading out across the frozen lake. There are three of us on this day, and that means we'll have fifteen holes drilled within half an hour of our arrival at our final destination, the mouth of a small brook that empties into the lake.

Since landlocked salmon are the predominant game species in this lake, we'll be setting most bait at depths ranging from just below the ice to about ten feet down. Experience has proven this to be best for success at catching salmon. Togue, on the other hand, are most often taken near bottom; the same applies to cusk and white perch. Fishermen hand-lining for smelts may locate schools of these silvery-sided morsels at various levels. At one spot in eastern Maine, I have often taken smelts close to the shoreline in less than three feet of water.

"Jigging" is another way to fish for togue and whitefish. This method employs a short rod or home-made "jig stick," some complete with reels and counters that keep the fisherman aware of what depth he is fishing. The terminal tackle might vary from a lure (leadfish, Swedish pimple, or daredevil) to a hook dressed with a generous piece of bait. Bait could be dead smelts or shiners, or even a chunk of cut-bait. Many successful jiggers claim a piece of cut-bait taken from suckers is best. The method of jigging is simply to lower the bait to bottom and then bring it up a few inches. By bouncing the lure up

continued on page 44



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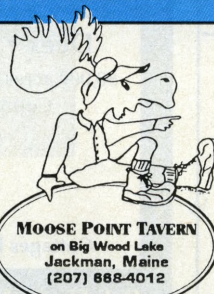


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continued from page 42

and down, bottom-feeding fish are attracted, and will hit with force. It does work, and most "wall-hangers" are taken using this method. While jigging is a proven way to catch fish, most fishermen set out "tip-ups," too. These are also called "traps," and vary in design from fancy molded

DAVID A. MURRAY



plastic types with flags that revolve as the fish swims away with the bait, to the standard four-legged wooden kind that sports a high flag on a spring steel "whip." Oldtimers may still prefer to cut a long, springy bush, setting it in such a way that cross-winds activate a piece of bough strung on a loop of line hanging from the end of the bush. A short length of running line is laid carefully on the ice near the hole, and these oldtimers will tell you this method keeps the bait moving and will result in more fish being caught. However, modern underwater traps are what most people use today.

Bait pails also vary in size and style. In past years when ice fishing was done at near-to-home flowages, mostly for pickerel, "mummy chub" was the bait. All one needed for carrying bait from home to pond was a wet woolen mitten or wool stocking. No bait pail with water slopping around in the packbasket! Upon arrival the chub would be transferred to a coffee can full of pond water.

Back at our lake, the tip-ups are all in, a fire is burning near the shoreline and it's time for a coffee break. While this is a welcome moment for the coffee drinkers, breaking for coffee or lunch invariably seems to be the time when a flag will go up. (It falls in the same category

as stepping into a nice hot tub of bath water and having the phone ring.)

We're now back to where we came into this story. "Flag! Flag! On the last set, way out!" I think we all saw the flag at the same time, and everyone yells. The blaze orange flag points skyward like a giant finger as three snowmobiles

bear down upon it. The first thing to do is look down the hole to see if the reel spool is still turning. If it is, it means the fish is still running with the bait. A game fish will often grab bait by the head and run with it, swallowing as he goes. Bait is usually hooked either just ahead of or just behind the dorsal fin. Most fishermen will agree that a fish will stop to finish swallowing the bait. Allow a few seconds for this and—now—give a slight tug to "set the hook." You'll soon know if you have a fish on, and if it's a big one you'll really know it! Once hooked, it's just a matter of pulling him in. Big fish will fight hard and must be "played" in. No horsing these babies! I have a 7¼ pound salmon mounted on a moose antler at my camp that I took one cold day in March, and I was twenty-five minutes landing him.

This time, the fish is finally iced, and measures 19 inches. We're on our way!

The cry of "Flag" is heard often on this day as salmon seem to be in a feeding frenzy. Some are sub-legal and are released by unsnapping the hook from the swivel at the end of the ten-foot leader. Biologists claim the hook will either work out or simply disintegrate, causing no

continued on page 51

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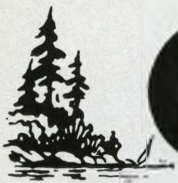
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Bass, Trout, Salmon, Northern Pike, Perch, Crappie and Pickerel fishing. Salmon and Trout fishing at its best in May & June. Bass fishing at its best in June & September.

In twelve-mile Long Pond, the angler can fish from spring until fall and throughout the season, due to careful stocking. Boats, motors, mixed gasoline, bait, fishing licenses and fishing equipment may be obtained at the camp.

Everything necessary for a fine vacation is available at the camp. The boats are all 14 ft. ALUMA-CRAFT and rent for \$20.00 per day. The late model engines are Johnson and rent as follows:

6 H.P. \$28.00 7 1/2 H.P. \$30.00 10 H.P. \$33.00 15 H.P. \$36.00 These rates include boat.

The picturesque village of Belgrade Lakes is easily accessible by car or boat. Find golf courses in Waterville and Augusta. Accommodations are for one to six persons per cottage and rates are:

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| Twin Occupancy (2 persons-2 beds) | \$60.00/person | \$413.00/person | \$59.00/person |
| Children, 1-2 yrs \$18.00; 3-5 yrs. \$26.00; 6-7 yrs. \$33.00; 8-10 yrs. \$34.00 | | | |
| 11 to and including 12 yrs. \$35.00 | | | |

All rates, plus sales tax are per person and include cottage and all meals. Reservations necessary — Deposit of \$50.00 per person when confirmed.

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WESTERN MAINE

The wild west of Maine holds adventure for both hunter and angler. Anglers can try to beat the state's record catch for landlocked salmon (20+ lbs.) or make a wager on fly-fishing. Hunters can go after the big game: whitetailed deer, bear, and moose—or small game: partridge, waterfowl and rabbit.

Either way, when the last shots are fired and the dust clears, you can take your winnings and ride into the sunset.

Western Maine—where life is still wild.



In the center, Cobbosseecontee and Maranacook lakes are among Maine's best largemouth bass waters. Near Wayne are Androscoggin and Pocasset lakes. A long chain of smaller lakes affording very fine bass fishing extends through the towns of Readfield, Fayette and Mount Vernon.

East of the Kennebec is a series of good fishing waters extending down to the coast. Some of these waters, well-known to the angler, are Webber Pond, Three Mile Pond, China Lake, Sheepscot Pond, Damariscotta Lake, Biscay Pond, St. Georges Pond, Megunticook Lake and Pemaquid Pond. These offer a variety of bass, trout, salmon, and togue fishing.

Excellent roads and a variety of campgrounds and motels dot this area. (*For location, see section 11 of fishing map.*)

12 ➔ Sebago Lake, Long Lake and Oxford County Region (*Salmon, trout, smallmouth bass, white perch*)

Sebago Lake, the second largest lake in Maine, is the central point for this region that encompasses a great part of southern Maine. Sebago is one of the original habitats of the landlocked salmon, and one of the best-known lakes

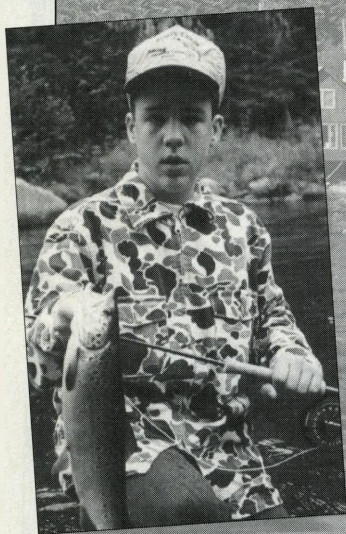
in North America. Thousands of anglers throughout the country await the word that Sebago is open, heralding a new fishing season. Salmon fishing at Sebago is truly excellent in spring and fall. During the summer fine bass fishing is to be had. Sebago also now offers good togue fishing, thanks to a recent introduction of this deep-dwelling species by the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Department.

What is true of Sebago is generally true of the many other bodies of water here. To the north, connected to Sebago by the beautiful Songo River, is Long Lake. In the same region are Brandy Pond, Highland Lake, Woods Pond, Crystal Lake, Thomas Pond, Lake Penneesseewassee and Moose Pond. A few miles to the west of Sebago are Peabody Pond and Hancock Pond. To the east are Panther Pond and Little Sebago, and to the northwest is Lake Kezar, a rare jewel of a lake, nestled in the foothills of the White Mountains. South of Sebago, in York County, lie Bunganut, Crystal, Mousam and Kennebunk Lakes.

Good roads lead from one lake to another in this region, which also offers a wealth of accommodations for the sportsman and vacationer. (*For location, see section 12 of fishing map.*) ➔

"Maine's Best Sporting Camp"

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Since 1905, we've been guiding serious fishermen — and their families — to some of the world's finest native trophy brook trout, brown trout and landlocked salmon fishing on the peaceful Kennebag River and on beautiful Lake Kennebag, the largest fly fishing only waters east of the Mississippi.

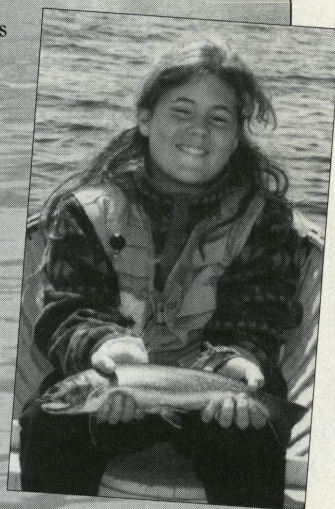
Come unwind on the screened porch of Grant's large, comfortable cabins on the lake. Enjoy three hearty meals a day, including lobster and prime rib.

There's always plenty for the whole family to do, from nature hikes and wildlife photography to your own traditional Rangeley boat docked on the lake. And pets are welcome.

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The vast and diverse terrain, along with an abundance of wildlife, provides an unforgettable experience for both the novice and skilled hunter. Enthusiasts of both small game (partridge, woodcock, waterfowl, and rabbit) and large game (whitetail deer and bear) will be challenged and rewarded for their efforts.

The Lakes Region is also home of many Registered Maine Guides who can assist you in your quest for the perfect outdoor adventure.

So, before you start hunting for the perfect fishing spot, or vice versa, call or write:

The Bridgton Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 236, Bridgton, ME 04009
(207) 647-3472 • www.mainelakeschamber.com



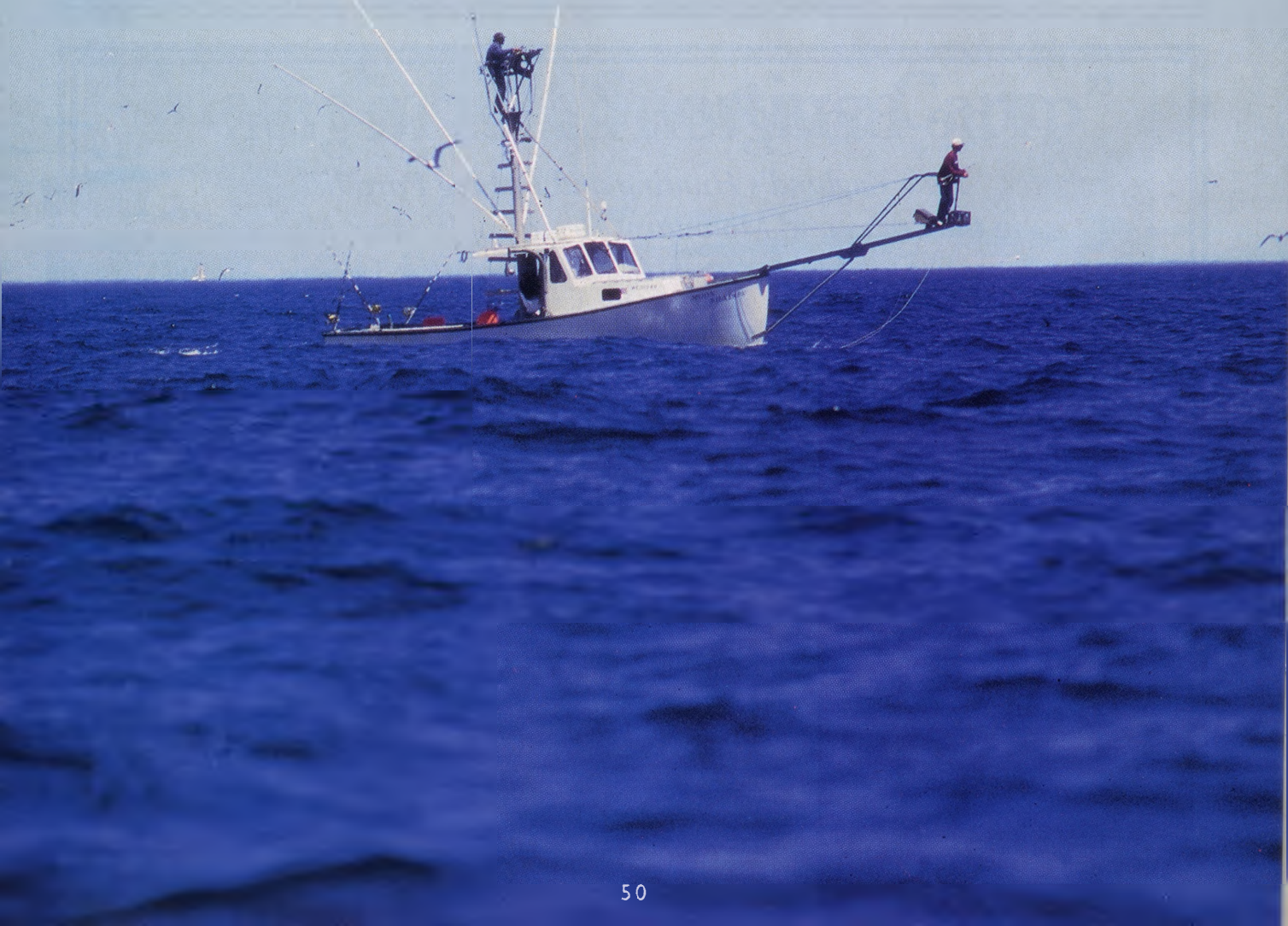
SOUTHERN MAINE

If you're a sportsman who demands the royal treatment, look no further. Southern Maine has rolled out the red carpet.

Many southern lakes remain open a month after trout and salmon fishing season is over, giving anglers more opportunities to revel in their favorite sport. Or, if you prefer the sea, you can charter a boat and spend the day on the Atlantic, deep sea fishing for tuna, cod, or mackerel.

Go ahead, indulge yourself.

Southern Maine—where the angler is king.



problems for the fish. On the other hand, trying to get the hook out of the fish's mouth could cause it to die. I never cease to marvel at how fast a fish can turn over and head for the depths beneath an eight-inch hole through 18 inches of ice.

Lunch break at noon is, as usual, the busiest time, and repeated cries of "Flag" mean we're having a great day. When we tally up, we have five fat salmon and one 4½-pound togue. I'd call it a super day on the ice.

If you haven't tried ice fishing, you should! Maine has a long list of waters open to this sport, some with special regulations, so a law booklet is a must. At some lakes ice shacks may be rented, notably on tidal rivers where fishing for salt water smelts, mainly at night, is a fast-action sport. Each year finds more and more of Maine's sporting camps offering warm housekeeping cottages as headquarters for winter recreationists who enjoy a variety of winter sports. Rental sleds are available at some camps.

In a different vein, I know at least one outfitter who offers winter camping trips, using sled dogs for transportation. Guests get to drive their own dog teams, learning the art of "mushing."

Suggested ice fishing equipment (I'm sure you can supplement this list with personal items):

- A Maine freshwater fishing license. (Write: Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Station #41, 284 State Street, Augusta, Maine 04333.)
- An auger or chisel (gas driven or manual)
- Traps or tip-ups (many to choose from)
- Bait (smelts, shiners, night crawlers)
- Bait pail (putting the bait in a plastic

bag inside the bait pail may help keep it from upsetting)

- Axe or chainsaw (for fire building)
- Snowmobile, tote sled, snowshoes
- Warm clothing, especially footwear
- Extra mittens and socks (they do get wet at times)
- Matches, food, liquids
- Fry pan, wire broiler, tea pail
- Sunglasses (bright sun on white snow is tough on the eyes)

Certainly all of this equipment isn't

always needed, but it's nice to have it along—just in case! There are mobile ice shanties on the market that can easily be towed to the fishing spot.

Wind is one of nature's forces that can be an ice fisherman's enemy. Wind chill factors must be considered! I carry some old drapery material which can quickly be converted into a makeshift windbreak, if necessary.

Have a nice day on the ice, and HIGH FLAGS to you! ➤

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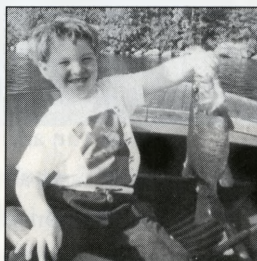
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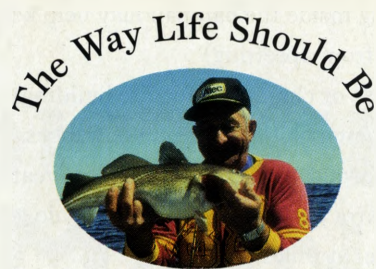
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SALT WATER FISHING

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BARRY GIBSON

Maine's 3,478 miles of coastline offer some of the best salt water fishing in the country. The rocky shoreline, interspersed with rivers and occasional beaches, combines with the rugged sea floor to provide perfect habitats for dozens of game and food species. The cold, clear water is arguably the cleanest in the U.S., and virtually all fish taken provide excellent table fare.

One of the reasons Maine's coastal angling is so productive is that fishing pressure is much lighter here than it is in many other states, mainly because you won't find many glamor species such as sailfish and marlin. Maine's best fishing, by and large, is for "meat and potatoes" varieties, although there are plenty of top-rated gamesters prowling the waters, many of record proportions.

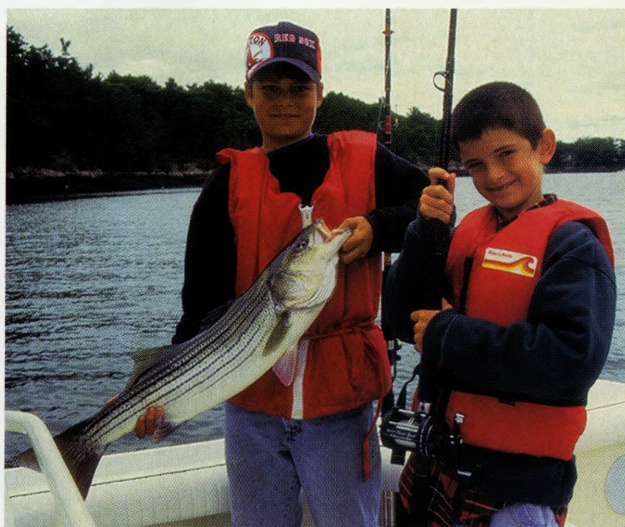
Opportunities for anglers can be broken down into three basic categories: deep-sea fishing on party or charter boats; inshore fishing on a private or rental boat; or fishing from shore. No license of any kind is needed to fish salt water.

DEEP SEA FISHING

Modern, well-equipped party and charter boats can be found in almost all the major harbors along the coast. Party boats, or "head boats" as they're sometimes called, range from about 36 to 65 feet and can carry from 12 to 50 or more passengers. These

vessels usually sail on a daily schedule (half- or full-day trips) from June to September, and some offer the newer "marathon" excursions lasting 12 hours or more for increased fishing time at productive offshore locations. Most run additional weekend trips in spring and fall. In most cases all you need to do is call ahead and make a reservation, although sometimes you can simply show up a half-hour before sailing time and buy a ticket. All Maine skippers, however, suggest advance reservations (even if it's only a day or two ahead) so that you won't be disappointed. Weekends can be particularly busy.

The main target for party boats is the wide variety of bottom fish found anywhere from a mile or two from shore out to 20 miles or so. *Cod* are the most common



Striped bass, now Maine's most sought-after salt water game fish, can be taken in near-shore waters from early June to mid-October.



Bluefish, ranging in size from two to 20 pounds, provide light-tackle thrills during the summer, especially along the state's southern coast.

pounds. Cusk makes an excellent ingredient for a good old-fashioned New England fish chowder. *Hake*, another tasty species, are occasionally taken in excess of 30 pounds. The *wolffish*, good eating despite its fierce appearance, is an incidental catch, as are *cunners*, *winter flounders*, a variety of *sculpins*, *mackerel*, and a dozen others. If you're really lucky you'll tie into a *halibut*, the ultimate deep-sea trophy. These huge members of the flounder clan can weigh upwards of 200 pounds.

Party boats furnish each customer with a rod and reel, bait or chrome-plated jig—and plenty of good advice. Deckhands will cheerfully instruct you as to how to use the tackle. You don't need to know how to fish, or to bring any equipment of your own, to enjoy a day of party boat fishing. Prices range from \$35 to \$50 and up per person for a full day, and \$30 or so for a half-day.

Charter boats are also available in most harbors. These vessels are usually 20 to 40 feet in length, and they'll accommodate up to six people, sometimes more. All are run by fully licensed captains, and in many instances will

have an extensive array of electronics and a wide selection of top-quality rods and reels, including light tackle outfits. Charter boats, besides going after all the bottom fish, also frequently pursue *giant tuna* (250 to 800-plus pounds), *sharks*, *bluefish* and *striped bass*. Many times the skipper will "mix up" the day for you, such as a morning of bottom or blue fishing and an afternoon of tuna or shark fishing, assuring customers plenty of fillets to take home. Charter boats are perfect for small groups, families, or more serious anglers, simply because there are no crowds—it's "your" boat for the day.

FISHING NEAR SHORE

Visiting anglers interested in fishing the near-shore waters for mackerel, flounder, bluefish or striped bass can rent a small outboard boat (in some areas) or trailer their own boat. Launch ramps are numerous, and local tackle stores and marinas can provide fuel, charts (a must), bait, and advice on where to try your luck.

catch, ranging from a few pounds to the occasional 70-pounder. Remember that cod must be at least 21 inches long to be legally kept, but check with the captain as regulations may change.

Pollock are among the gamest of deep-sea species in Maine, and action can be fast and furious when a school is encountered. These sleek, silver-gray battlers normally run from three to 30 pounds when taken in the open ocean and must be at least 19 inches to be retained, except if caught from shore, in which case there is no minimum size.

The *haddock*, which generally runs from two to 10 pounds, is the perennial party boat prize, primarily for its unsurpassed table qualities. They're easily identified by their single, dark lateral stripes and oversized eyes. Haddock must also be at least 21 inches long to be kept, and private-boat anglers now have a bag limit of a total of any combination of cod and pollock not to exceed 10 fish.

Other species commonly taken include the *cusk*, a muscular dweller of rocky bottoms weighing five to 20

Cod like this one are the staple of Maine's offshore party boat fleet. Besides being fun to catch, they make delicious eating.

Mackerel are extremely popular among small-boaters, and can be caught from early June through September on tiny chrome jigs or by trolling multi-hook "mackerel trees" available in most tackle and hardware stores. These fish average a pound or so in weight, are scrappy fighters, and are delicious when split and pan-fried or grilled over charcoal.

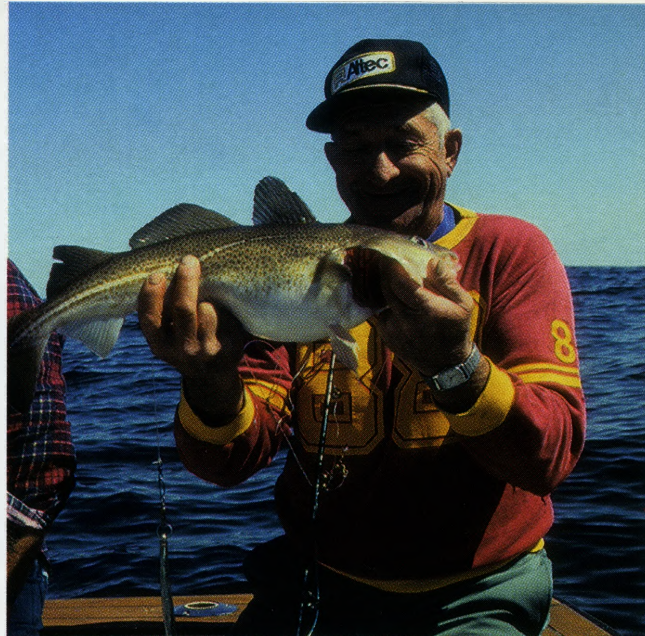
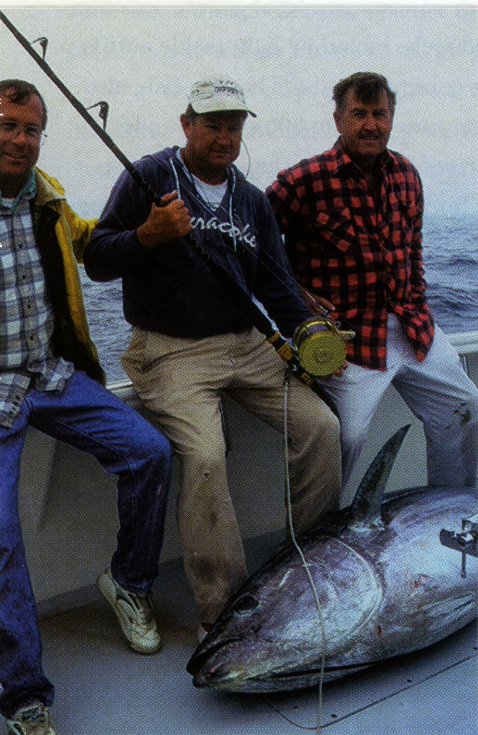
Bluefish are one of Maine's true gamesters from late June through September, and they normally run eight to 18 pounds. Most anglers troll plugs rigged on short wire leaders for these toothy critters, and when a fish hits he'll often jump repeatedly before you can work him boatside. Although there's no size limit, there is now a bag limit of ten bluefish per person per day, which may be reduced further in 1998.

The *striped bass* is another fine game fish, most often taken near river mouths or well up into the rivers themselves. These fish are wary and can be finicky feeders, but you can do well on trolled spoons, plugs, or live or cut bait. Most fish taken run five to 30 pounds, but 50-pounders are caught every year. For 1998, anglers may keep one striped bass per day that measures between 20 and 26 inches total length, and one striped bass per day that measures greater than 40 inches total length, from June 10 through October 15. Check with the Maine

Department of Marine Resources at 207-633-9500 for more details.

Due to Maine's excellent striper fishing, there are now several dozen licensed guides operating in the river systems in

Bluefin tuna like this 250-pounder are favorite targets for Maine's charter boat fleet.



18- to 25-foot boats, most of whom can take from two to four passengers for a half-day of light-tackle action. Striped bass fishing is the hottest and fastest growing segment of Maine's sport fishery, luring anglers from all corners of the U.S. and beyond.

FISHING FROM SHORE

Fishing with light spinning tackle from Maine's rocky shoreline or harbor docks and piers can be a lot of fun, and action can be brisk for a myriad of smaller species. *Cunners* (often called bergalls) up to a pound or so are plentiful, and if you take the time to fillet them and remove all the small bones, you'll find that their flesh is sweet. *Harbor pollock* (the young of the open-ocean adults) are feisty fighters and are easy to catch, but they're not very good eating so it's best to release them unharmed. Flounders (which must be at least 12 inches long to keep), sculpins, small "tinker" mackerel, and others oblige anglers of all ages. The best all-around rig is a small hook tied six inches above a light sinker, baited with a piece of seaworm, or clam, although the meat of a periwinkle or mussel will often work just as well.

Surf fishing from the beaches is popular along the southern third of the state's coastline, and some good catches are made. Striped bass are most sought after, and the majority of the big ones over 20 pounds are taken at night on live eels or chunks of mackerel or pogy (menhaden). Bluefish muscle in on the act, often in daytime, and can be taken on plugs and lures as well as bait. Bring a pair of waders and a rugged surfcasting outfit from nine to 12 feet loaded with 20-pound test line. Local tackle shops can supply bait, equipment, and up-to-the-minute information on current "hot spots." 🐟

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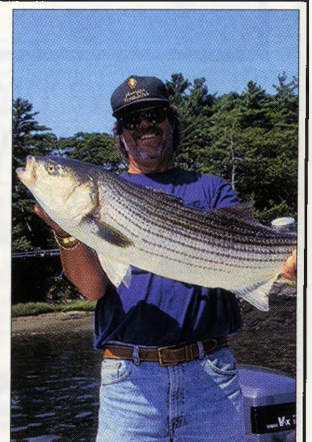
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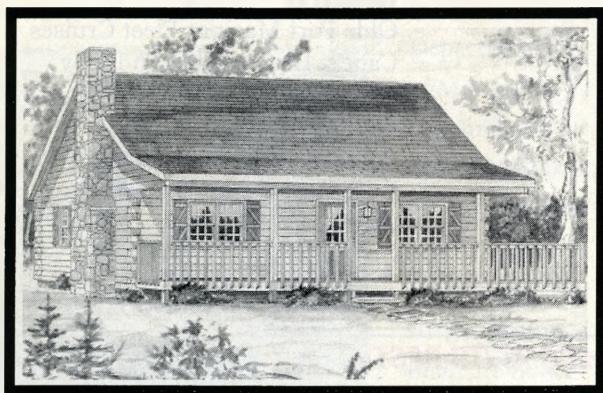
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