

2000

Maine Guide to Hunting & Fishing 2000

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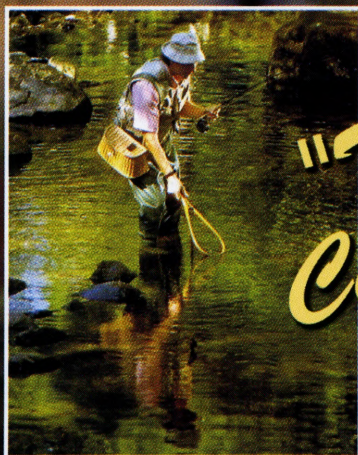
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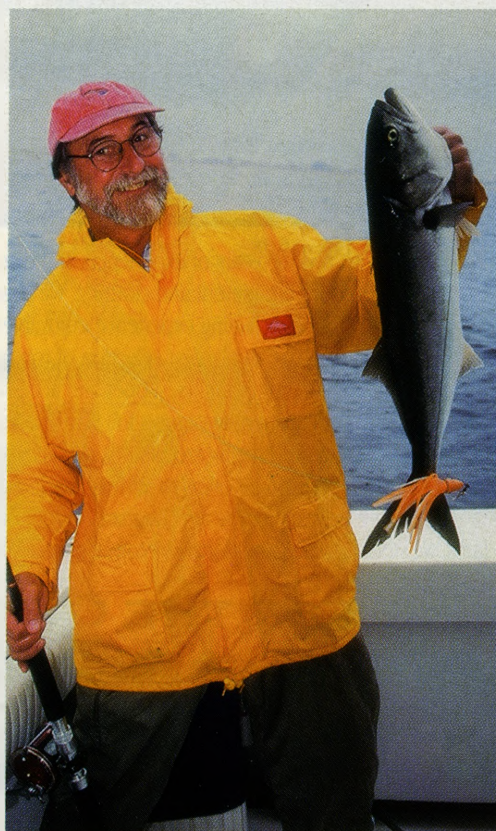
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Maine's Tourism Partnership

Email: mtainfo@mainetourism.com
Website: www.mainetourism.com
Office of Tourism: www.visitmaine.com

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Contributing Editor

V. Paul Reynolds

Design and Digital Production

Janet L. Patterson

Marketing and Sales

Don White

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Cover photo by Richard V. Procopio



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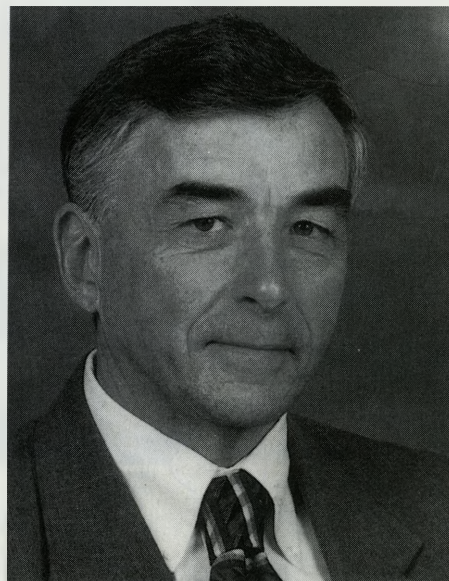
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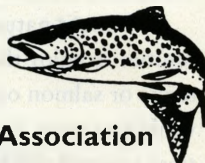
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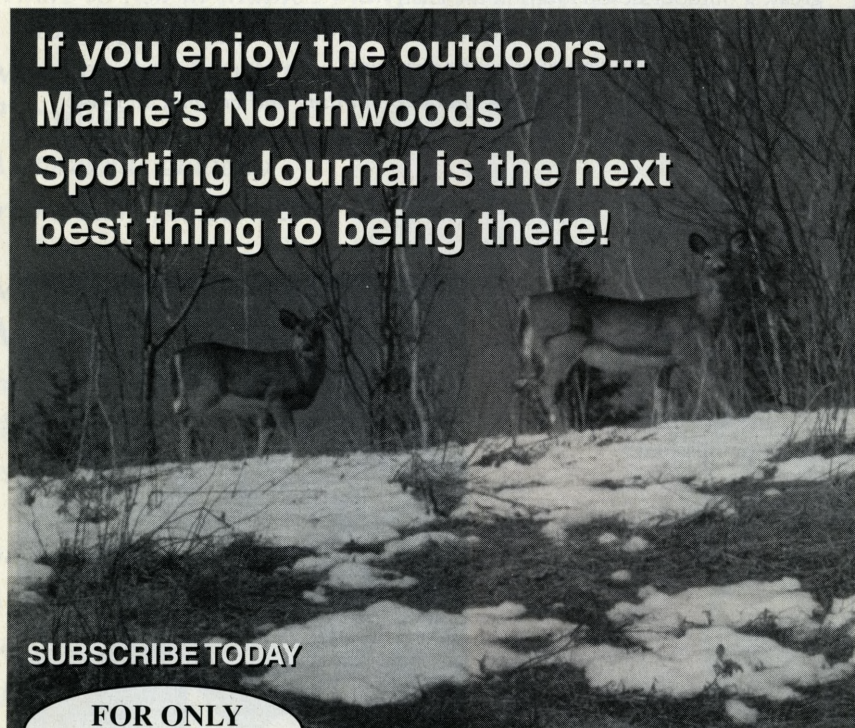
MAINE is tucked off by itself in relation to other states in the union, and has thus managed to retain unspoiled hunting and fishing territory of high quality. But while fish and wildlife are plentiful here, timing is the real key to success.

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

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SPORTING EXPERIENCE

and Wildlife, 284 State Street, Station #41, Augusta, ME 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 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, PO Box 334, Augusta, ME 04332-0847.

If you want to camp during your stay, there are dozens of private campgrounds, several state parks, and scores of 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 checkpoints throughout this domain. For further information, write to North Maine Woods, PO 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 and 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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MAINE HUNTING

THE WHITE-TAILED DEER, black bear and moose are the Big Three. Upland birds, waterfowl, turkeys, gray squirrels, rabbits, coyotes, bobcats and woodchucks also 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 hunters and anglers 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 two million days in the Maine woods, pursuing America's favorite big game animal, the white-tailed deer.

Maine's fall deer hunts excite hunters, not only because of our vast woods and solitude, but 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 U.S. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIF&W) has recently extended the season for muzzleloaders and bow hunters, adding five more weeks in parts of the state, so hunters have more opportunities than ever before. Maine's deer herd has risen to an all-time high in many areas. The good old days are here and now for deer hunters. In fact, last fall bow hunters enjoyed one of the longest bow seasons for whitetail deer in Maine history. Bow hunters pursued deer from September 11 through December 11 in special zones where deer populations were high. Permits for this expanded season entitled bow hunters to two bonus deer. (For more details, see the article on Bow Hunting, page 12.)

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 population remains stable, promising topnotch sport into the future. Over 60 percent of Maine's bear harvest falls to non-residents, who usually hire guides and hunt over bait. If black bears interest you, Maine 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.

Parts of Maine have more moose per square mile than any other place

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in North America. In fact, Maine's moose population is estimated to be 30,000 and expanding. The state'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 per-

cent. In recent years, the success ratio has climbed over 90 percent to as high as 96 percent in 1991.

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 ideal habitat for grouse and woodcock. 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. Snowshoe 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 white-tail 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.

The north country offers solitude in big woods, which makes up for its sparser deer population. Pockets exist in northern Maine where white-tail numbers are high, and in some of these remote areas, deer live and die without encountering a hunter. The north has many more hunting lodges and working guides than the southern regions. Northern Maine hunters find lots of elbow room, an occasional moose encounter and a chance at a trophy buck.

Bear hunters interested in a Maine hunt should concentrate on northern Maine, particularly Aroostook County,



DAVID A. MURRAY PHOTO

HUNTING TIPS

Deer

- Scout early and obtain landowner permission, whenever possible.
- Look for deer in wet areas along streams, swamps and lakes during hot, dry weather.
- Hunt during midday. Big bucks often move at this time.
- Look for the most nutritious foods currently available in your hunting area. Deer will be nearby.
- When you locate doe and fawn family groups, bucks will be there too, anytime in November.



PHOTO COURTESY MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

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 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 is structured to minimize conflicts between hunters who use man-placed bait and those who run dogs. Bait hunters have the first crack for two weeks and then folks with dogs can hunt for seven weeks. The two seasons overlap a little.

Maine's early October moose hunt offers those lucky enough to win a permit in the June lottery an incomparable big game opportunity. Moose are so plentiful in most of the north that over nine out of 10 hunters bag an animal within the first few days of the weeklong hunt. 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 you get a moose-hunting permit, though, the chances of success are excellent.

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. The following year was slightly better than fair. In 1998, despite cautious forecasts, grouse were plentiful. Last fall,

grouse hunters, especially those who hunted the northern sections of the state, experienced one of the best grouse hunting seasons in ten years. (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.

HUNTING TIPS

Moose

- Prior to the moose season sight in your rifle.
- Moose often appear closer than they are, because of their large size. Keep this in consideration when estimating the distance to the moose before you shoot.
- A 30-30 can be used for shooting a moose, but it doesn't have the range of larger guns. A larger caliber gun (308, 30-06, 7 or 8 mm) may improve your success and reduce the possibility of wounding a moose.
- Be prepared to get your moose out of the woods. Rope, come-alongs, pulleys, a chain saw, and waders can be indispensable on your hunt.
- Respect other hunters and the non-hunting public by keeping your distance from other hunters; not blocking roads; and not hunting on well-traveled roads, near camps, recreation areas, and popular moose watching areas.
- Remember, on most woods roads log trucks have the right of way. Don't park your vehicle where it will interfere with log hauling.
- Quartering your moose will make it easier to haul and will reduce the risk of your meat spoiling.
- Skinning your moose, or filling the chest cavity with ice, will also reduce the risk of your meat spoiling.

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 ring-necked pheasant in the southern part of the state, mostly stocked birds released in late summer or early fall. This exotic species usually doesn't survive winter except in limited areas where the birds have milder weather conditions and ample winter food.

In the late 1970s, wildlife biologists from the MDIF&W took 41 wild turkeys from Vermont and stocked them in York County, and from that initial planting this species has spread up the coast to Penobscot Bay. Biologists have helped introduce turkeys in midcoast Maine by capturing birds and releasing them in suitable habitat, beginning with a stocking of York County birds in Waldo County. This program has been 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. This year 4,000 turkey permits will be issued by drawing for the May hunt.

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 to

increase, and also provides more solitude since fewer hunters are spread out across the state. Harvest figures for some species, such as black ducks, have dropped, but other species have risen: mallards have risen from less than 1,000 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.

HUNTING TIPS

Turkey

- Pre-season scouting is the single most important part of turkey hunting. Scout several different areas to lessen your chances of conflict with other hunters.
- Practice your turkey calling diligently.
- Practice your shotgun on a life-sized target to know your effective killing range.
- Plan on hunting on weekdays, if possible, rather than Saturdays. Hunting pressure is lighter during the week, reducing chances for conflicts with other hunters.
- Be patient, with a four-week season there is plenty of time. Birds are still active at the end of May, and there is less hunting pressure at that time.
- If bow hunting, use a string-tracker to aid in retrieving crippled birds.
- Be patient when calling, give each setup 30–45 minutes, as birds sometimes come in silently, especially in areas that have heavy hunting pressure.
- Do not walk in on another hunter who is "working" a bird. Repeated gobbling is often a sign of a hunter working a bird. Attempting to stalk the "gobbler" is not only dangerous, it is also interfering with the caller.
- Do not wear any clothing with the colors red, white or blue. These are the same colors as a gobbler's head and may draw fire from a careless hunter.



STEWART J. BRISTOL PHOTO

SMALL GAME

Wherever oak forest thrives 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.

Various 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 are cyclical, and some regions will seem barren one season, while just 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 .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. Native 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 offer the best woodchuck hunting in the country. It is remote and has lots of woodchucks and virtually no posting signs, a varmint-hunter's paradise.

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 crows as a bonus. ▶

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Combination Hunting & Fishing (16 and older)	36.00
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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
Expanded Archery Hunt (Bonus Deer)	40.00
Muzzle-loading (10 and older)	11.00
Bear Permit	5.00
Coyote Permit	2.00

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.

2000 MAINE HUNTING SEASONS

(Not a legal presentation. See hunting law booklet for full details.)

Deer Firearms season
 Maine-resident-only day
 Archery
 Muzzleloader statewide (all WMDs)
 Muzzleloader WMDs 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 30
 Expanded Archery Season — Limited Area [◇]

Bear* General hunting seasons
 Hunting with dogs
 Hunting with bait **

Moose (by permit only)

Ruffed Grouse & Bobwhite Quail

Pheasant

Wild Turkey (by permit only)

Woodcock*

Common Snipe*

Ducks, Geese, Sea Ducks (scoter, eider, old squaw)

Sora & Virginia Rails (and Gallinules)*

Crow*

Gray Squirrel

Rabbit (cottontail) and Hare (snowshoe)***

Bobcat

Fox

Raccoon

Skunk, Opossum

Coyote, Woodchuck, Porcupine, Red Squirrel

Any species not listed above

First Day	Last Day	Basic Limits	
		Daily	Possession
Oct. 30 Oct. 28 Sept. 28 Nov. 27 Dec. 4 Sept. 9	Nov. 25 Oct. 27 Dec. 2 Dec. 9 Dec. 9	<div>ONE DEER PER YEAR[◇]</div> <div>regardless of season or method. Only deer with antlers at least three inches long may be taken from Oct. 28–Dec. 9, except that any deer may be taken in designated wildlife management districts by hunters with any-deer permits.</div> <div>Permit application period: mid-June to August 1 annually.</div>	
Aug. 28 Sept. 11 Aug. 28	Nov. 25 Oct. 27 Sept. 23	ONE BEAR PER YEAR	
Oct. 9	Oct. 14	Permit application period: mid-Jan. to Apr. 1.	
Oct. 1 WMI's 1–6	Nov. 30	4	Grouse & Quail 8
Oct. 1 WMD's 7–30	Dec. 31	2	Pheasant 4
May 1	May 31	Permit application period: mid-Dec. to Feb. 1.	
Seasons set early in September. Regulations available mid-September from license agents, game wardens and Fish and Wildlife Department offices.			
Mar. 14 July 16	Apr. 30 Sept. 29	-	-
Oct. 1	Dec. 31	4	8
Oct. 1	Mar. 31	4 (1 cottontail)	8 (2 cottontail)
Dec. 1	Feb. 15	-	-
Oct. 9	Feb. 28	-	-
Oct. 1	Dec. 31	-	-
Oct. 9	Dec. 31	-	-
NO CLOSED SEASON FOR HUNTING			
NO OPEN SEASON FOR HUNTING			

* Migratory waterfowl stamp not required.

* Bear permit required in addition to hunting license between Aug. 28 and Oct. 27. 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.

◇ Archers may take two deer during the expanded archery season and are still eligible to purchase other big game licenses and to harvest one additional deer during those traditional archery, firearm or muzzleloading seasons.

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 book 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 15 minutes after 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. The regular archery license allows bow and arrow hunting for all legal game (except during the muzzleloading and extended archery seasons) and is required to hunt deer during the special archery season. The expanded archery license is required to hunt deer during the expanded season in designated areas (which begins on Sept. 9). Special license-stamp required to hunt during muzzleloader 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.

Rewards paid. Caller identification protected. *Poachers are thieves — help us stop them.*

Published under Appropriation 010 09A 6010 by the Division of Public Information and Education, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

STATE RECORD GAME

WHITETAILED BUCK (*Firearms*): 355 pounds, field dressed, Horace Hinckley of Augusta, 1955, Concord.

WHITETAILED BUCK (*Bow*): 259 pounds, field dressed, Darryl Flagg of Jefferson, October 20, 1988, Waldoboro.

WHITETAILED DOE (*Firearms*): 185 pounds, field dressed, Luke Arsenault of Lisbon Falls, November 1, 1993, Seboomook Twp.

WHITETAILED DOE (*Bowhunting*): 160 pounds, field dressed, Dean Weeks of St. Albans, October 19, 1990, Corinna.

WHITETAILED DOE (*Antlered*): 210 pounds, eight-points, Jack Cross of Bethel, November 15, 1980, Bethel.

BLACK BEAR (*Firearms*): 680 pounds live weight, Richard Moore of Allentown, PA, September 13, 1993, Patten.

BLACK BEAR (*Archery*): 501 pounds, field dressed, Pete Shippee of Winthrop, August 29, 1990, Strong.

BLACK BEAR (*Sow*): 306 pounds, dressed weight, Richard J. Sprague of Auburn, October 31, 1987, Canton.

MOOSE: 1,330 pounds, field dressed, Willard and Sterling Waterman of New Gloucester, 1982, Masardis.

TURKEY: 23 Pounds, 9 ounces, Ronald Emmons, Jr. of Richmond, May 11, 1996, Dresden.



PHOTO COURTESY MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Bonus Deer and Longer Seasons for Maine Bow Hunters

BY V. PAUL REYNOLDS

A few years ago, bow hunters in the Pine Tree State tagged only about ten percent of the annual fall deer harvest. That is changing fast as markedly high deer populations in some sections of the state have allowed wildlife managers to enact more liberal bag limits and extended bow hunting seasons. Increased hunting opportunities for those who prefer to pursue whitetail deer with bow and arrow have attracted more and more traditional firearms hunters to bow hunting.

In fact, for the first time in the annals of Maine deer hunting, bow hunters last fall enjoyed not only the longest open season on whitetail deer ever in our state, but the chance to take three deer!

The Expanded Archery Season for archers—sometimes called the bonus deer hunt—started on September 11 and lasted until the end of the black powder season, December 11. During this newly expanded archery season, a special permit allowed bow hunters to take two deer. The bonus hunt took place in special zones where deer densities are high. Many of these zones are located along Maine's coastal plain and islands, and in municipalities that have local ordinances prohibiting the discharge of firearms. The special archery permits were \$40 for residents and \$80 for nonresidents. In the fall of 2000, season dates and permit fees are expected to remain the same.

Bow hunters who take advantage of the expanded archery season may also hunt during the regular archery season in October, or during the regular firearms season in November. A bow hunter who has tagged two deer using the special September permit may also take one additional deer, either during the regular archery season or during the November firearms season.

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, in an effort to provide expanded hunting opportunities, recommended the expanded hunt two years ago. Archery dealers, clubs and license clerks have seen a steady surge in statewide bow hunting sales and activity as a result of these new hunt opportunities.



DIANE REYNOLDS PHOTO

As Mike Rovella, President of the Maine Bowhunter's Association (MBA), has acknowledged, "Anyone who has been thinking about taking up bow hunting in Maine now has a big incentive."

Special archery safety courses must be taken by those who have never held a Maine bow hunting license. These courses are offered throughout the year at no charge. Additional information, as well as times and places for the safety courses, are available from the information center at the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIF&W) in Augusta, telephone 207-287-8000, or from their website: www.state.me.us/ifw.

State bow hunting organizations are an excellent source of information for anyone interested in learning more about bow hunting in Maine. The largest of these, the Maine Bowhunters Association (MBA) is located in Augusta. Their address is PO Box 5026, Augusta, ME 04330. Another active organization, the Maine Traditional Archers (MTA) represents those who hunt with the traditional longbow. There are also a number of regional archery organizations such as the Penobscot Valley Archers Association (PVAA). Contact for the PVAA is Brian Webb, PO Box 96, Levant, Maine. ➤

Archery Regulations

1999

MAINE HUNTING LAWBOOK

There are 2 archery licenses available. The regular archery license allows bow and arrow hunting for all legal game (except during the muzzleloading and expanded archery seasons) and is required to hunt during the Special Archery Season on deer. The expanded archery license is required to hunt deer (in designated areas) during the expanded season. Hunters who take deer under the expanded license are allowed to continue hunting, with the appropriate license, and may take an additional deer in any one of the remaining open seasons (Special Archery, Firearms, or Muzzleloading).

Applicants for either of the above licenses must show proof of having successfully completed an archery hunter education course or of having held an adult archery license in any year after 1979.

Junior hunters (at least 10 years of age and under 16) who hold a valid Junior Hunting License are allowed to hunt with bow and arrow when accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.

A. Hunter orange clothing is NOT required when hunting with bow and arrow. Anyone who hunts with a firearm must wear hunter orange.

B. A handgun may be carried by licensed* hunters while bowhunting but may NOT be used to dispatch deer. (*License to hunt with firearms).

C. Laws which allow you to hunt without a license on your own land under certain conditions apply to archery hunting.

D. Deer may be taken under the archery provisions only by means of hand-held bow (capable of shooting an arrow at least 150 yards), and broad-head arrow. Arrow heads must be at least 7/8 inch in width. It is unlawful to use a crossbow or set bow or to use arrows with poisonous or explosive tips.

E. All deer killed by bow and arrow during the archery seasons must be inspected and registered at the first open deer registration station.

F. It is legal to hunt until 1/2 hour after sunset during both archery seasons.

G. Deer of either sex may be taken during both archery seasons.

In addition, all other laws pertaining to deer hunting shall apply to bow hunting.

STATE BOW RECORDS

BUCK: 259 pounds, field dressed, Darryl Flagg of Jefferson, October 20, 1998.

DOE: 185 pounds, field dressed, Dean Weeks of St. Albans, October 19, 1990, Corinna.

BLACK BEAR: 501 pounds, field dressed, Pete Shippee of Winthrop, August 29, 1990, Strong.



RICHARD J. GIGUERE PHOTO

The Best Kept Secret in Maine Hunting

BY MALCOLM S. CHARLES

HUNTING PRESERVES in Maine? If you asked the average upland game bird hunter, you would most likely get the response, "Not that I know of."

The correct answer is, "Yes, we do have hunting preserves in Maine."

They are actually Commercial Shooting Areas (CSAs) licensed by the State. Three years ago there were only four permits issued for CSAs by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Today, there are 15 hunting preserves offering bird hunters the opportunity to hunt stocked and released game birds year 'round.



TOM CARBONE PHOTO, COURTESY MDIF&W



V. PAUL REYNOLDS PHOTO

Ethics are what we do when no one else is watching.

Maine is a very unique place. You can be completely alone in the wild, practicing ethical behavior and no one may be there to notice. However, the landowner, as well as the hunters and anglers that follow you, will appreciate it greatly. Your ethical behavior contributes significantly to Maine's sporting future, and it encourages landowners to keep important habitat property available for all to enjoy. So remember, always respect the rights of landowners and please...

ASK FIRST

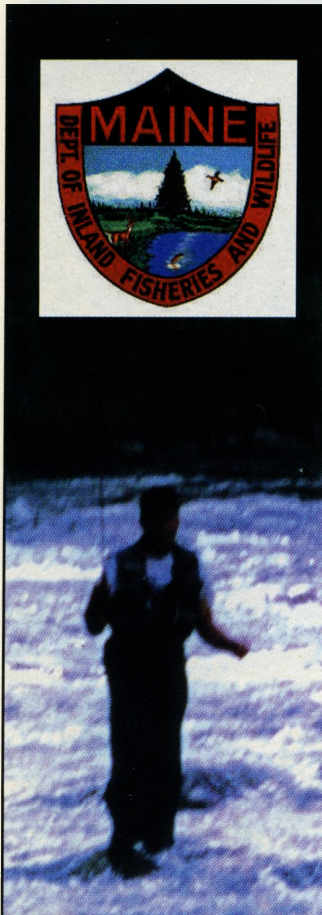
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www.state.me.us/ifw or call 207-287-8000



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What are hunting preserves? They are privately owned and operated state-licensed Commercial Shooting Areas open to the public on a reservation basis, 365 days a year. The preserves offer between 200 and 400 acres of upland cover on which four species of game birds are released for hunting: Ring-neck Pheasant, Chuckar Partridge (slightly smaller than our own native Ruffed Grouse, but as fast, if not faster), Bobwhite Quail and Mallard Ducks. CSA licenses required by the state are available for the hunter on the preserves. A traditional hunting license is not required.

There are various types of cover to be found on the preserves throughout the state, from open fields with hedge-rows to the more traditional Maine kind of upland cover—overgrown fields and woodlots with clearcuts, connected by tote roads and reclaimed by smaller hardwoods and patches of raspberry and blackberry bushes.

Due to the exodus of the urban population to rural areas, much of the old prime upland hunting areas are being posted, resulting in the need for hunting preserves. Many preserves are operated by Registered Maine Guides who have dedicated themselves to ensuring that the Maine heritage of hunting is preserved well into the new millennium.

Amenities offered range from accommodations, meals, and kennels for the dogs, to photos of the hunt. There is also the camaraderie among friends or family, new or old acquaintances or business clients enjoying the time-honored sport of hunting amid the beautiful and varied landscapes of Maine.

Bird hunters are welcome to bring their own hunting dogs. For those who enjoy bird hunting and do not have their own dogs, many preserves have trained bird dogs available for an additional fee. The dogs hunting on these preserves vary in degree of finishing from the family pet that also doubles as a loyal hunting companion, to those dogs championed in field trials.

THE BIRDS

The stocked birds used on the preserves may be bred and raised on the premises, or purchased from reputable breeders who provide high quality, attractive birds. These are birds that hopefully meet the hunter's expectations of a challenging hunt and a bag to be proud of (and ultimately served at the hunter's table or taken to the taxidermist for mounting and display). The birds are kept in flight pens where they can retain their flight activity, and can be fed during Maine's harsh winter.

For some hunters, a Pheasant hunt in the snow, whether on foot or snowshoes, is unthinkable. However, those who have tried it tend to express much exuberance in the telling of the experience. A typical foray begins with a walk down a groomed snow-covered trail during a snowfall, with the dogs casting in search of the ring-neck, when suddenly a dog goes on point. Frequently, the bird will be in cover under a fir tree or snow-covered bush. Then you hear a cackle, and

from the flurry of snow before you bursts a brilliantly colored pheasant flushing to flight. You raise your shotgun, shoot and await your dog's retrieve. It is truly an experience you will not soon forget.

The **Chuckar** is a bird that is hunted in the western high plains and is a challenge. It is a swift runner which may or may not hold tight. It will relocate itself usually uphill from where it has been released and when flushed, produces a very fast flight downhill, appearing to be even faster than its reported 35 mph.

The **Bobwhite Quail** is a tight setting bird, excellent for training pointing dogs, and may be found in coveys resulting in multiple flushes. Their tendency is not to fly far, which allows a trained dog to provide the hunter with an opportunity to relocate many birds from the covey for repeated flushes.

Mallard Ducks can be hunted from blinds on CSA ponds or waterways providing a challenging hunt for the waterfowl hunter, as well as the opportunity to sharpen skills on calling ducks and working with the retrieving dog during the off season.

All of these birds are excellent for eating. Most preserve operators or their spouses have favorite recipes that they are more than willing to share, to produce a fine dish for any table.

There are several schools of thought on when and how to release birds. Because we are dealing with wild birds that have been pen-raised, their natural instinct is to move around a great deal when released. Some preserves release the bird the night before, some the day of the hunt. They can also be planted in as easy or as difficult an area as requested by the hunter at the time of the hunt booking. Aside from hunting, there are dog-training opportunities on many of the preserves with quail coveys in specified areas or the use of flip traps and even training tips from the preserve operator or guide. Dog trainers are also welcome, as are novice and seasoned hunters.

Just as with choosing a vacation, a hunting trip, or a guide, it's all right to ask for references. Preserve operators welcome your questions and comments. Once you've hunted on a hunting preserve, you will want to tell all your friends about this great year 'round opportunity to enjoy Maine's heritage of upland game bird hunting. 🐾

*Malcolm S. Charles
and his wife Evelyn
operate Pointers Run
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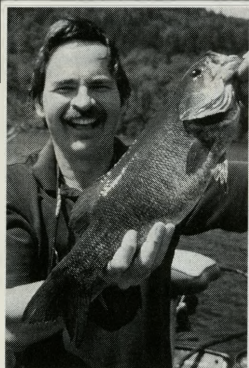
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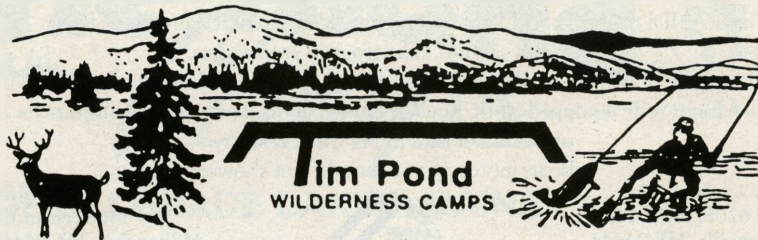
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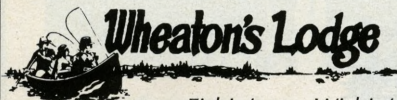
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(pages 42 and 50 of Maine Atlas and Gazetteer)



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Peace and Comfort in the Maine Woods

By SHEILA POLSON

S EVEN AM AND YOU'RE sitting by the mirror-smooth lake, pondering your schedule for the coming day. Should you go fishing, or canoeing? Take a cool dip, or read a book on the dock? Maybe you'll take a nap.

Sound too lazy to be true? Not if you're staying at one of the more than 50 sporting camps which dot the forests and lakes of Maine. Rustic yet comfortable, and often remote, wilderness sporting camps have been a uniquely Maine tradition for more than 130 years. Long popular with hunters and fishermen, these retreats are also ideal vacation spots for families and individuals who enjoy swimming, canoeing, kayaking, hiking and wildlife watching.

Some provide cozy cabins with maid service and hot showers, and meals in a homey lodge. Others also have housekeeping cabins where you can cook yourself. About half are connected to the power grid, and the other half generate their own electricity, says Betty

RIGHT AND BELOW, COURTESY TIM POND CAMPS



Calden, a former president of the Maine Sporting Camp Association, and a few rely on gas lights and "outdoor plumbing." Most of them can be reached by automobile, although not always on well-paved highways, and a few are reachable only by float plane or boat. Some are open all four seasons; many close in the winter.

But they all offer one thing in common: the opportunity for peaceful relaxation in some of Maine's most beautiful natural areas.

New York City filmmaker John Walsh, who has been spending part of each year at a Maine sporting camp since he was fourteen, says it is "like taking a step back in time. There's no TV, no ringing telephone, no one telling you to go anywhere quickly." Walsh remembers the thrill of catching bass and perch as a young boy with his father and brothers. Now, he and his wife, Mary Harron, and their daughter spend their time swimming, boating and simply relaxing in the "beauty and tranquility" of their favorite sporting camp and its proprietors' "warm, low-key hospitality."

With a Franklin stove or fireplace to keep his log cabin cozy (he also appreciates the full bath, the gas backup heat and the rocking chair on the porch overlooking the lake) and "fabulous" meals served in the camp's main lodge, Walsh finds the North Woods the perfect antidote to New York.

Hospitality is a big part of what keeps people like Benjamin Morrill of Beverly Farms, Massachusetts, returning to sporting camps year after year. Morrill's first visit was more than thirty years ago with a group led by his father-in-law. Morrill tells of great fishing for salmon, bass, and lake trout in West Grand Lake and nearby Grand Lake Stream, and hunting in miles of remote forest. But what he remembers most fondly are his good times at the camp with family and friends. Today, Morrill continues annual get-togethers at camp with some of his same friends of thirty years ago. "We don't shoot as much as we used to," says Morrill, "but we still have lots of fun."

What attracts people like Morrill and Walsh are places like Tim Pond Camps, two hours from Portland or Bangor, near the Rangeley Lakes Region, Rideout's Lodge up on East Grand Lake, and Frost Pond Camps in the heart of Maine's North Woods.

Part of the allure is the food. At Tim Pond Camps, for example, breakfast usually consists of eggs, pan-fried trout, home fries, toast, bacon, sausage, coffee and juice; dinner might be prime rib, roast pork loin, baked stuffed haddock, or turkey with all the fixings. At Rideout's Lodge, dinner entrees can include roast beef, roast pork, baked ham, home-

HUNTING CAMP RUSTICITY PAMPERS THE SOUL

baked beans, Sunday turkey dinner, and premium quality “black Angus” ribeye steaks.

Known as the oldest sporting camp in New England, **Tim Pond Camps** have been hosting registered guests since the mid-1800s. “We have people who return year after year, not only for the fishing and other outdoor activities but because of the food and hospitality,” says Betty Calden, who, along with her husband Harvey, owns and operates the camp.



RIDEOUT'S LODGE / ROGER L. STEVENS, JR.

“Thoughts of the working world are quickly discarded when your line suddenly tightens under the weight of a freshly hooked trout,” observes Harvey Calden. A pilot, he often flies guests around the area for some unparalleled sightseeing.

◆ **Tim Pond Camps**, 243-2947 (camp), 897-4056 (winter); www.timpondcamps.com.

Rideout's Lodge, in operation for more than half a century, stakes a claim to being “nationally recognized for exceptional angling for both landlocked salmon and small-mouth bass.”

Operated by Bob and Annie Lorigan and their family, Rideout's is situated in a quiet, sheltered cove on the shores of 22-mile-long East Grand Lake on the Canada border.

The lake's 400 miles of forested shoreline include natural sand beaches and moss-covered granite boulders. The facility consists of a main lodge and 25 cabins on over 1200 feet of lake shore. The dining room extends partly out over the water, affording panoramic views of the Canada shore four miles across the lake, as well as the occasional moose or loon paddling across the cove.

Although Rideout's is rustic, its cabins offer more modern amenities than most other Maine sporting camps:

automatic heat, full bathrooms with showers or tubs, flush toilets, electricity, hot and cold running water.

◆ **Rideout's Lodge**, 800-594-5391; www.rideouts.com.

If you prefer to get even farther “away from it all,” in time and simplicity if not distance, you'll want to choose a retreat like **Frost Pond Camps**, owned by Rick and Judy Givens and in operation for more than 60 years. Hidden in the woods 35 miles from the nearest town of Millinocket,

the camps offer eight housekeeping cabins and ten campsites, all on the shore of 198-acre Frost Pond. Each cabin has gas lights, a refrigerator, and a cookstove, as well as a wood stove, bedding, and cooking utensils. One cabin has hot running water and indoor plumbing; the other seven get water from a nearby tap and have “clean outdoor plumbing.” The camp also has coin-operated showers.

Like most other Maine sporting camps, Frost Pond has boats for rent throughout the season, and offers great fishing, especially in May and June. In addition to the wide variety of activities available at the camp, including relaxing with spectacular views of Mount Katahdin, you

may enjoy hiking in nearby Baxter State Park, fishing and boating in numerous area waterways, and watching for moose, deer, black bear, and other abundant wildlife. The Givens also run an outfitting business and will provide you with everything you need for extended canoe trips over a wide area, including the Allagash and the Penobscot River.

◆ **Frost Pond Camps**, 695-2821 (radio phone, summer), 723-6622 (winter); www.frostpondcamps.com.

Tim Pond Camps, Rideout's Lodge and Frost Pond Camps are just three of more than fifty members of the Maine Sporting

Camp Association. A useful forum for exchanging information and setting high quality standards, the association was founded in 1987 to help preserve the sporting camp tradition. This can be challenging, particularly in light of changing environmental conditions, encroaching commercial development, and increasing demands on Maine's fish and wildlife. But to camp owners, as well as the devoted guests who count on them, there's little question that it's worth it. The Maine sporting camp is “so tranquil, so set apart,” says John Walsh, who once again will flee New York City this year for a rejuvenating stay at the camp. “Going there gives us a chance to feel at peace.”



COURTESY RIDEOUT'S LODGE

For more information, contact Maine Sporting Camp Association, P.O. Box 89, Jay ME 04249; www.mainesportingcamps.com; and www.visitmaine.com/sportcamp.html

Maine's Fishing Waters

1 ➔ 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.

There is good stream fishing along the Fish River from Eagle Lake to Fort Kent. Both the Machias and Aroostook rivers offer good stream fishing for trout. Situated far to the north, fish strike well longer in the season than is the case farther south. Fall fishing begins earlier for the same reason. In winter, numerous snowmobile trails afford excellent opportunities for access to lakes for ice fishing.

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 and togue*)

This is a region loved by many anglers as it entails canoe trips into the wildlands. It taps the Allagash, St. John, and East and West Branches 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 along the West Branch from Seboomook Dam to Pine Stream near Chesuncook Lake, and 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



RICHARD V. PROCOPIO PHOTO

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 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.

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

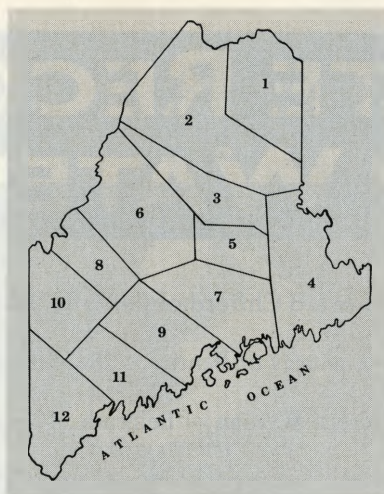
Central points in this area are easily reached on good roads. Available accommodations include several sporting camps and campgrounds in and around Baxter State Park. (For location, see section 3 of fishing map.)

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 productive. 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 smallmouth bass and togue. Big Lake, the lake it empties into, is one of the best smallmouth black bass waters in Maine. 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 Meddybemps, Cathance Lake, Rocky Pond and numerous other lakes, ponds, brooks, rivers and streams. To the west are Nicasious Lake and the Machias Lakes. To the north, Spednic Lake, in the Schoodic Chain, is a 23-mile-long body of water that is a recovering bass fishery that was once rated as one of the best bass lakes in the state. East Grand Lake, almost as long, is famed for its splendid bass, 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 water. A little over twenty miles away is Lake Nicasious, a fine 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 good salmon, splake and bass 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 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, and Seboeis 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 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, Green Lake, and Branch Pond. All afford good fishing for salmon, togue, bass, 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, 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 good bass fishing.

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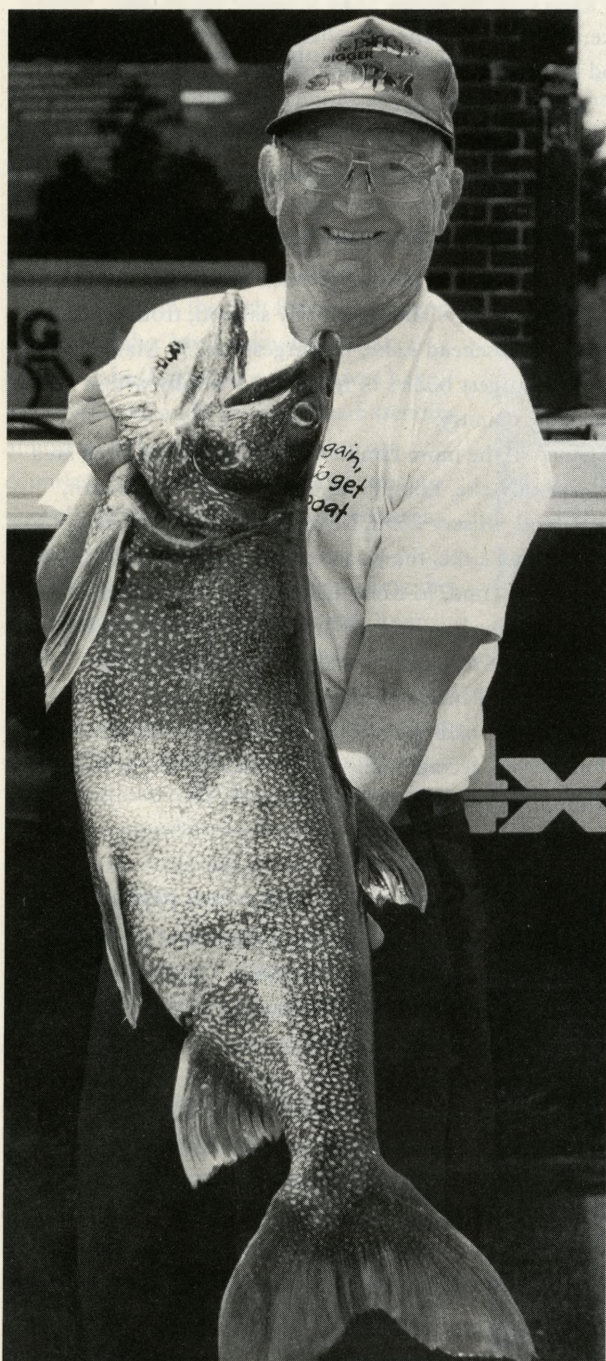
STATE RECORD FRESH WATER FISH

ATLANTIC SALMON: 28 pounds, 1 ounce, **Howard Clifford** of Portland, October 9, 1980, location undisclosed.

BLACK CRAPPIE: 3 pounds, 4 ounces, **Wayne Morey** of Benton, 1986, Sibley Pond.

BLUEBACK TROUT: 4 pounds, 4 ounces, **Merton Wyman** of Belgrade, 1958, Basin Pond.

BROOK TROUT: 8 pounds, 8 ounces, **James R. Foster, Sr.** of Howland, 1979, Chase Pond.



BROWN TROUT: 23 pounds, 8 ounces, **Robert Hodsdon** of Sanford, March 6, 1996, Square Pond.

CUSK: 18 pounds, 8 ounces, **Annette Dumond** of Fort Kent, March 15, 1986, Eagle Lake.

FALLFISH: 3 pounds, 12 ounces, **Wayne Morey** of Benton, 1986, Sibley Pond.

LANDLOCKED SALMON: 22 pounds, 8 ounces, **Edward Blakely** of Darien, Conn., 1907, Sebago Lake.

LAKE TROUT: 31 pounds, 8 ounces, **Hollis Grindle** of Ellsworth, 1958, Beech Hill Pond.

LARGEMOUTH BASS: 11 pounds, 10 ounces, **Robert Kamp** of Denmark, 1968, Moose Pond.

MUSKELLUNGE: 22 pounds, 12 ounces, **Lance Geidel** of Fairfield, June 1988, Baker Lake.

NORTHERN PIKE: 31 pounds, 2 ounces, **Lance Bolduc** of Skowhegan, 1998, North Pond.

PICKEREL: 6 pounds, 12.8 ounces, **Joseph Arsenaault** of Rumford, February 11, 1992, Androscoggin Lake, Wayne.

SILVER (SUNAPEE): 4 pounds, 10 ounces, **Wayne Dillon** of Brownville, 1989, Lower South Branch Pond.

SMALLMOUTH BASS: 8 pounds, **George Dyer** of Augusta, 1970, Thompson Lake.

SPLAKE: 10 pounds, 3 ounces, **Dan Paquette** of Augusta, 1993, Basin Pond.

WHITEFISH: 7 pounds, 8 ounces, **Neil Sullivan** of Worcester, MA, 1958, Sebago Lake.

WHITE PERCH: 4 pounds, 10 ounces, **Mrs. Earl Small** of Waterville, 1949, Messalonskee Lake.

YELLOW PERCH: 1 pound, 10 ounces, **Chad Mostas** of Portland, 1989, Worthley Pond.

Maine: An Angler's Paradise

From Kittery in the south to Fort Kent in the north, Maine abounds with lakes, ponds, streams and rivers of every size and description. Whether fly fishing remote wild trout ponds, casting bass plugs on one of our sprawling warm water fisheries, or trolling a streamer fly for fighting landlocked salmon, Maine really does have it all for the sportfisherman. Spectacular scenery and solitude is a bonus.

The key to successful fishing here is the same as it is 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 the surface in spring and fall, and in the cold depths during the 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 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 provide descriptions of habitat, water depths, and fish species. A catalog is available from the Department by calling 207-287-8000 or writing to: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, 284 State Street, Station #41, Augusta, ME 04333.

Following is a list of Maine's principal freshwater 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).



RICHARD V. PROCOPIO PHOTO

Cold-Water Species

Brook Trout (E): Brook trout reside in clean, cold brooks and streams, and grow to larger sizes in ponds and lakes in northern and western Maine (where they are sometimes 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. Sizes generally range from six to twelve inches in most brooks and ponds and twelve to

fourteen inches in larger lakes. 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 to Aroostook County. Wild trout of larger sizes can be found in the Fish River Chain, Allagash, Mooshead and Rangeley Lake drainages.

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. Both the Kennebec River below the Shawmut Dam and the Upper Androscoggin River from the Maine border to Rumford are excellent brown trout waters.

Landlocked Salmon (D): This close relative to the Atlantic salmon was once found in only four drainages. Now, through stocking programs, this popular game fish can be found throughout the state. 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. These salmon are sleek silvery fish with black spots, a forked tail and a reputation for jumping when hooked. Average size is sixteen inches and one to two pounds. Big fish are common in eastern Maine's East Grand Lake, the Fish River lakes in Aroostook County, Sebago Lake, and the Rangeley Lakes.

Splake (D): A hatchery-raised hybrid, a splake is a cross between a brook trout and a lake trout (togue). Their appearance may resemble either the brook trout or the togue. However, should red spots be present they will not have blue

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MAINE ICE FISHING:

A Family Affair

BY WILMOT ROBINSON,
MASTER MAINE GUIDE

There was a time when mention of ice fishing meant sharpening the home-made chisel (it was constructed from an old file and welded to a pipe) and going to the local store for mummy chub for bait. There were no "traps" as we know them today. Most "hard-water" anglers simply cut five-foot bushes and tied some cheap line to it with No. 2 hooks and a lead sinker on the end. A piece of cedar bough served as a flag. Pickerel were the species most sought after. Cutting a hole could take upwards of an hour, depending on the thickness of the ice, and since snowmobiles had not been invented yet, snowshoes were the mode of transportation. Lucky were the ice fishermen who found glare ice conditions—they could bring ice skates and enjoy skating, as well as fishing.

Much of this changed with the advent of gas-powered ice augers, and even more when snowmobiles came onto the scene. The snowsledd opened up many distant bodies of water, some hardly ever fished in winter. Pickerel became the lowly prize while togue and landlocked salmon took top priority. Even the choice of bait changed drastically as shiners and smelts became available. Mummy chubs nearly disappeared from dealers' holding tanks.

Another big change took place with traps. While old-timers held on to the bush style for fishing, the younger generation invented traps that held spools of line under the ice, away from the freezing effects of temperature and wind. Flags attached to springs that lifted high into the air when a feeding fish struck the bait were a far cry from the first homemade ice fishing rigs. (Once such early affair was made from the ribs of an old umbrella nailed to a stick, with line on one end and a piece of red wool on the other. Extra running line was laid out in neat coils on the ice beside this contraption. How did ice fishing ever survive?)

If this wasn't enough to get Dad and the kids out of the house in January, Monsieur Bombardier and his yellow snowmobiles did the trick. Wow! Imagine—a machine that could carry two people and tow a tote sled full of gear and take the occupants to waters rarely fished in winter! Togue, salmon, whitefish and huge white perch, even jack smelts and bottom-feeding cusk were prized targets for anglers. A new era was born!

Come along now on a trip to ice fishing land and learn all about it. Dress warmly. A snowmobile suit is ideal. They

come in several styles and colors, some being one-piece and others being two-piece units. Most are crafted from manmade fabrics. Boots and mittens, helmets and face shields add to your comfort, too. Snowshoes are seldom

used, but safety-minded travelers always carry a pair in case of a breakdown.

The variety of fishing traps on the market is astounding, with new introductions every year. There is even one with a flag that revolves when a fish is running away with the bait. When it stops, wait ten seconds and set the hook by pulling sharply on the line. Another trap sits low on the ice and the flag is nearly hidden, especially if snow is deep. Probably the favorite for most ice anglers is the style that unfolds from its wooden shaft into a horizontal four-legged affair with a main shaft, with a spring-loaded flag on the top end. Feeding fish grab the bait, springing the flag. This action always results in cries of "Flag! Flag!" Then everyone runs like mad to get to the spot to wait for the fish to stop running. The trap owner is the only one allowed to touch this trap, or so the unwritten laws of the ice mandate.

As the owner takes the line, he slowly feels to be sure the fish is still on the other end. He then sets the hook and in a hand-over-hand action begins to bring in the fish. The audience is in awe, waiting to see how big it is. Instructions, like advice, are free, but seldom acknowledged by the lucky angler.

Finally the moment of truth arrives, as the end of the line comes close to the hole. With close attention to the fish under the ice, making sure it is lined up with the hole, he brings his finny prize up on the ice and away from the hole. More than one fish has come off the hook at just this moment and disappeared back down the hole, leaving a disappointed angler cursing his failure to be more careful.

Okay! Let's go ice fishing. It's a cool, clear early March morning, with the promise of some warming sun at midday. We'll join Bill as he takes his son Jimmy, 11, and daughter Beth, 9, on their first ice fishing trip. Destination: Dolby Pond, where ice anglers find white perch, pickerel, smelts and the occasional landlocked salmon or smallmouth bass. Easy access allows Bill to get kids and gear out to his favorite spot in two short trips, using one snowmobile with the tote sled on behind. Jimmy even gets to feel the thrill of driving on the

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MARTIN E. HARWOOD PHOTO

State Parks, State Historic Sites, and Public Reserved Lands

Town or County	Acreage	Camping	Historic	Snack Bar	Scenic Road	Picnicking	Swimming	Boat Launching	Fishing	Snowmobiling	Fee Charged	Dumping Station	Trails*	Parks/Lands Region	Approximate Opening and Closing Dates
State Parks															
Allagash Wilderness Waterway	Aroostook & Piscataquis	22840	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	N	
Aroostook	Presque Isle	577	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	N	May 15 through October 15
Birch Point	Owls Head	56				•	•		•					N	Memorial Day through Labor Day
Bradbury Mountain	Pownal	440	•			•								S	Open All Year
Camden Hills	Camden	5474	•		•	•				•	•	•	•	N	May 15 through October 15
Cobscook Bay	Dennysville	888	•		•	•				•	•	•	•	N	May 15 through October 15
Crescent Beach	Cape Elizabeth	243		•		•				•	•	•	•	S	Memorial Day through Columbus Day
Damariscotta Lake	Jefferson	17				•				•	•	•	•	N	Memorial Day through Labor Day
Ferry Beach	Saco	117				•				•	•	•	•	S	Memorial Day through October 1
Fort Point (Fort Pownall)	Stockton Springs	154		•		•				•	•	•	•	N	Memorial Day through Labor Day
Grafton Notch	Grafton Township	3192			•	•				•	•	•	•	S	May 15 through October 15
Holbrook Island Sanctuary	Brooksville	1365			•	•				•	•	•	•	N	Open All Year
Lake St. George	Liberty	360	•			•				•	•	•	•	N	May 15 through October 1
Lamoine	Lamoine	55	•	•		•				•	•	•	•	N	May 15 through October 15
Lily Bay	Beaver Cove	924	•			•				•	•	•	•	N	May 1 through October 15
Moose Point	Searsport	183				•				•	•	•	•	N	Memorial Day through October 1
Mt. Blue	Weld	5021	•			•				•	•	•	•	S	May 15 through October 1
Peacock Beach	Richmond	100				•				•	•	•	•	S	Memorial Day through Labor Day
Peaks-Kenny	Dover-Foxcroft	839	•			•				•	•	•	•	N	May 15 through October 1
Popham Beach	Phippsburg	529				•				•	•	•	•	S	April 15 through October 30
Quoddy Head	Lubec	481				•				•	•	•	•	N	May 15 through October 15
Range Ponds	Poland	750				•				•	•	•	•	S	May 15 through October 15
Rangeley Lake	Rangeley	691	•			•				•	•	•	•	S	May 15 through October 1
Reid	Georgetown	766		•		•				•	•	•	•	S	Open All Year
Roque Bluffs	Roque Bluffs	274				•				•	•	•	•	N	May 15 through October 1
Sebago Lake	Naples	1300	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	S	May 1 through October 15
Shackford Head	Eastport	90				•				•	•	•	•	N	Open All Year
Swan Lake	Swanville	67				•				•	•	•	•	N	Memorial Day through Labor Day
Turner	Turner	2200				•				•	•	•	•	S	Open All Year
Two Lights	Cape Elizabeth	40		•		•				•	•	•	•	S	Open All Year
Vaughan Woods	South Berwick	250				•				•	•	•	•	S	Memorial Day through Labor Day
Warren Island	Islesboro	70	•			•				•	•	•	•	N	Memorial Day through September 15
Wolfe's Neck Woods	Freeport	233				•				•	•	•	•	S	Memorial Day through Labor Day
Public Reserved Lands															
Bald Mountain	Franklin	1873								•			•	W	*In addition to hiking, depending on the
Bigelow Preserve	Somerset & Franklin	35027	•	•		•	•	•	•				•	W	time of year and trail conditions, some trails
Chain of Ponds	Franklin	1141	•	•		•	•	•	•				•	W	are available for shared uses:
Chamberlain Lake	Piscataquis	9557											•	N	• snowmobiling
Cutler Coast	Washington	12170	•										•	E	• cross country skiing
Dead River	Somerset	4771	•				•	•	•	•			•	W	• ATV riding
Deboullie	Aroostook	21871	•				•	•	•	•			•	N	• horseback riding
Dodge Point	Lincoln	506					•	•	•				•	W	• mountain bike riding
Donnell Pond	Hancock	14162	•		•	•	•	•	•				•	E	For specific uses allowed and trail condi-
Duck Lake	Hancock	25220	•			•	•	•	•				•	E	tions, call Parks or Lands Regional Offices:
Eagle Lake	Aroostook	23882	•			•	•	•	•				•	N	• Parks Division Northern Regional Office:
Four Ponds	Franklin	6015				•			•				•	W	(207) 941-4014
Gero Island	Piscataquis	3845	•	•		•							•	N	• Parks Division Southern Regional Office:
Great Heath	Washington	6067					•	•	•				•	E	(207) 624-6080
Holeb	Somerset	19651	•			•	•	•	•				•	W	• Lands Division Northern Regional
Little Squaw	Piscataquis	15047	•			•	•	•	•				•	W	Office: (207) 435-7966
Mackworth Island	Cumberland	100							•				•	W	• Lands Division Eastern Regional Office:
Mahoosucs	Oxford	27253	•			•			•				•	W	(207) 827-5936
Moosehead Lake	Piscataquis	11176					•	•	•	•			•	W	• Lands Division Western Regional Office:
Nahmakanta	Piscataquis	42818	•				•	•	•	•			•	E	(207) 778-8231
Pineland	Cumberland	1090							•				•	W	Campsite reservations for 1999 at Maine's
Richardson	Oxford	17757	•			•	•	•	•	•			•	W	state parks (except Baxter, Allagash
Rocky Lake	Washington	10904	•			•	•	•	•	•			•	E	Wilderness Waterway, and Penobscot River
Round Pond	Aroostook	20349	•			•			•				•	N	Corridor) can be made from the first work-
Scraggly Lake	Penobscot	9057	•			•	•	•	•	•			•	N	ing day in January 1999 to the last
Seboeis	Piscataquis & Penobscot	12902	•			•	•	•	•	•			•	E	Friday in August by calling:
Squa Pan	Aroostook	17985	•		•	•	•	•	•	•			•	N	In-state (800) 332-1501; Out-of-state
Telos	Aroostook	22806	•			•			•	•			•	N	(207) 287-3824; Fax (207) 287-6170;
Wassataquoik	Penobscot	2340	•			•			•	•			•	E	or on the Internet:
															www.state.me.us/doc/prkslns/reser
State Historic Sites															
Colonial Pemaquid (Ft. Wm. Henry)	Bristol	19		•	•		•	•	•				•	S	Memorial Day through Labor Day
Eagle Island	S. Harpswell	17		•			•						•	S	June 15 through Labor Day
Fort Edgecomb	Edgecomb	3					•		•				•	S	Memorial Day through Labor Day
Fort Halifax	Winslow	0.75		•			•						•	S	Memorial Day through Labor Day
Fort Kent	Fort Kent	3		•			•						•	N	Memorial Day through Labor Day
Fort Knox	Prospect	124		•			•						•	N	May 1 through October 30
Fort McClary	Kittery Point	27		•			•						•	S	Memorial Day through September 30
Fort O'Brien	Machiasport	2		•			•						•	N	Memorial Day through Labor Day
Fort Popham	Popham Beach	7		•			•		•				•	S	Memorial Day through September 30
John Paul Jones	Kittery	2		•			•						•	S	Open All Year
Katahdin Iron Works	T6R9	17		•			•						•	N	Memorial Day through Labor Day

Although many of these areas are closed during fall and winter, visitors may still enjoy them by parking outside the gates and walking in.

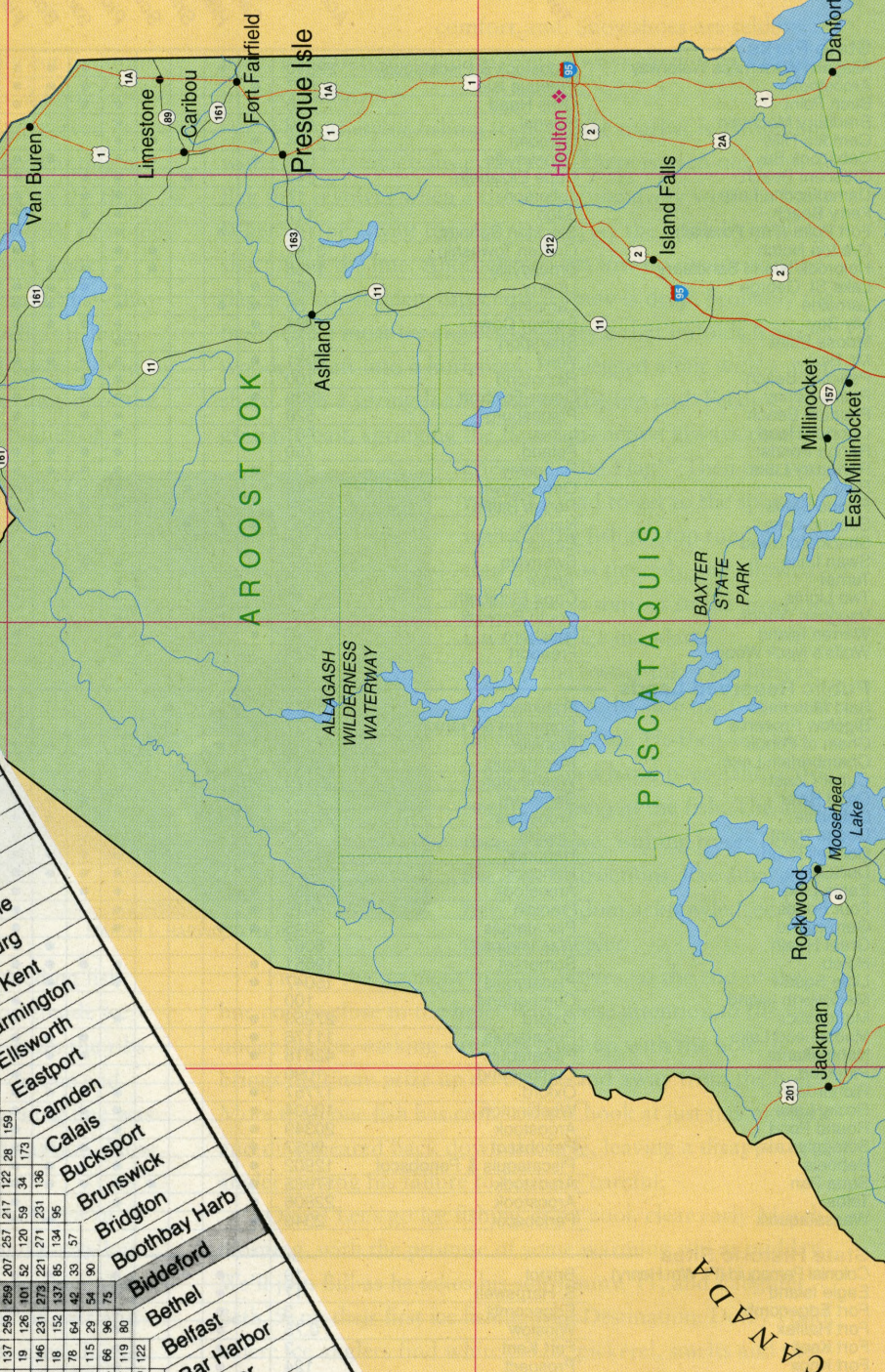
For more information contact: Bureau of Parks and Lands/Maine Department of Conservation, 22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0022; Phone 207-287-3821

Maine Department of Conservation's home page: www.state.me.us/doc/parks.htm

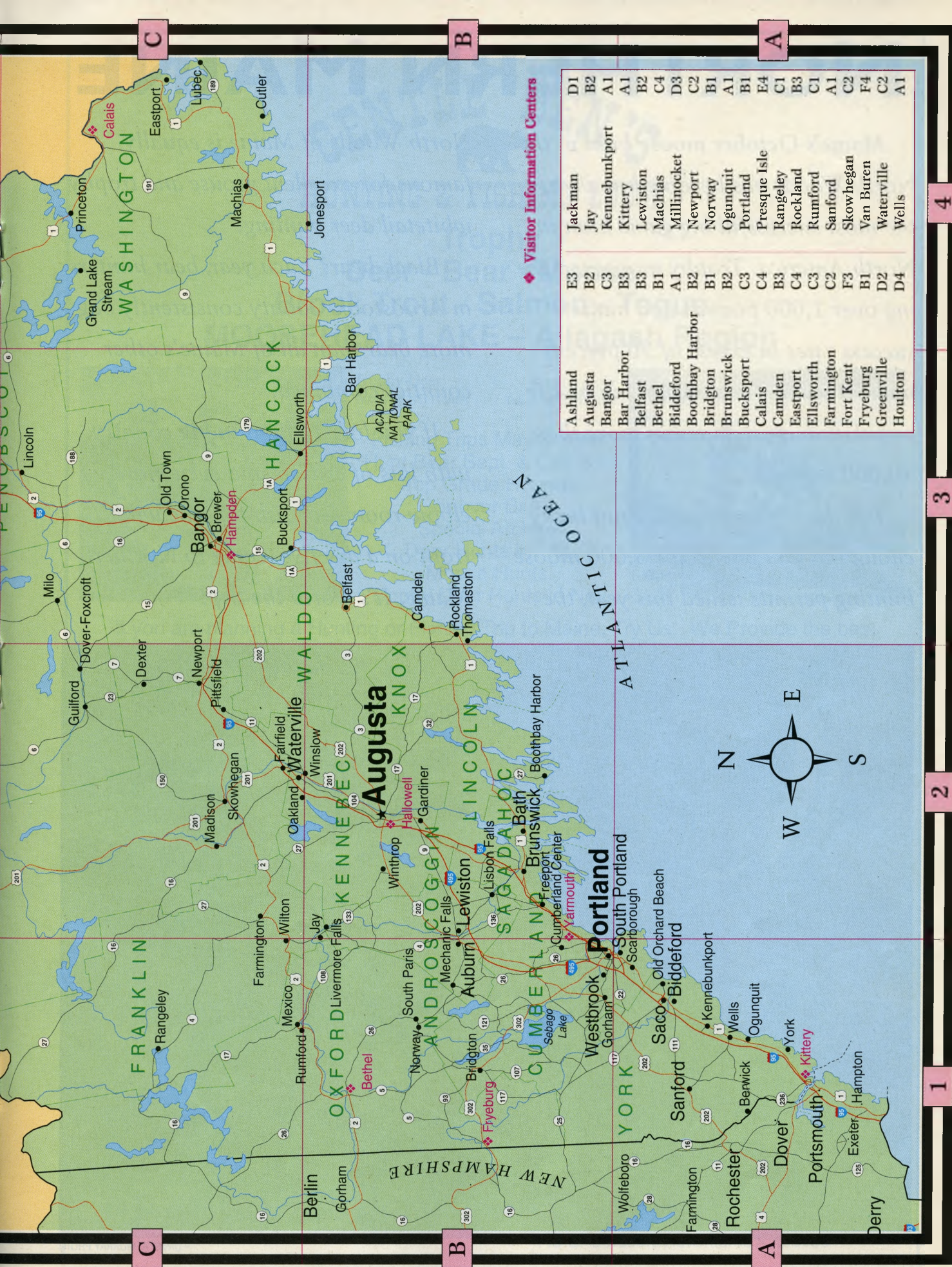
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F E D

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	Wells
190	21	54	97	39	88	94	57	90	52	57	152	62	179	77	36	239	106	81	174	89	50	107	128	51	135	109	28	72	113	78	217	78	63	73	111	16	251	Waterville	
55	273	197	243	231	324	346	298	336	305	216	169	251	197	223	270	45	352	232	79	185	284	359	380	303	202	145	223	324	365	330	35	310	259	305	364	249	Van Buren		
187	37	51	97	49	81	110	73	94	68	70	149	78	177	27	236	110	63	171	73	41	123	144	67	135	99	25	76	129	94	214	68	79	57	128	364	249	Skowhegan		
303	91	167	195	136	91	18	93	61	60	155	291	119	277	174	114	352	54	193	287	203	100	18	30	68	233	237	140	71	20	34	330	149	115	106	106	Sanford			
244	55	108	154	99	24	93	91	53	61	127	206	96	234	134	31	393	61	116	228	123	28	106	127	43	192	156	82	36	112	75	272	43	97	120	120	120	Rumford		
197	42	61	85	27	118	97	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	Rangeley		
254	79	120	166	115	67	138	115	97	106	130	218	119	246	146	42	302	104	122	232	124	56	141	173	88	204	166	94	79	157	122	275	116	81	224	120	120	Presque Isle		
200	239	163	200	195	293	312	264	302	270	118	134	116	162	189	236	50	319	197	43	250	250	325	346	269	168	111	189	264	331	246	116	81	224	120	120	120	Portland		
269	57	133	161	104	63	16	59	38	26	121	231	85	243	141	80	316	94	158	253	167	66	29	30	34	199	203	106	45	35	116	81	224	120	120	120	120	Ogunquit		
304	80	168	196	128	97	19	94	73	61	156	292	120	278	176	113	353	79	194	288	192	101	11	15	75	234	238	141	90	110	82	110	82	110	82	110	82	110	Norway	
263	49	26	72	66	104	122	85	118	80	45	124	54	152	52	52	211	134	54	146	95	66	135	158	78	110	82	110	82	110	82	110	82	110	82	110	82	110	Newport	
88	146	70	116	110	179	219	171	197	177	89	115	123	143	96	124	137	213	88	141	138	232	228	163	125	208	177	228	249	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	Millinocket	
188	143	84	78	94	217	215	163	212	173	78	45	115	44	58	163	223	228	163	125	208	177	228	249	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	Machias	
242	30	106	135	79	46	50	51	38	18	95	204	76	217	115	46	291	95	131	226	138	32	69	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	Lewiston	
319	107	183	211	155	111	34	109	82	76	171	281	135	283	191	130	369	83	208	303	217	116	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	Kittery	
298	74	162	187	121	91	12	88	67	55	150	286	118	272	170	107	347	73	168	282	197	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	Jay	
228	30	92	138	76	51	82	60	57	50	79	190	66	218	119	14	277	73	104	207	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	Jackman	
227	110	124	170	130	144	183	146	163	141	143	222	150	250	150	92	276	179	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	Houlton	
62	196	120	168	152	253	269	221	263	227	139	91	173	119	146	193	149	279	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	Greenville	
175	101	71	25	90	143	175	139	153	132	90	169	107	197	96	90	223	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	Fryeburg	
195	85	159	190	131	37	61	106	16	73	150	187	136	273	170	87	244	244	244	244	244	244	244	244	244	244	244	244	244	244	244	244	244	244	244	244	244	244	Fort Kent	
49	261	185	231	222	318	334	296	330	292	204	189	238	217	211	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	263	Farmington	
214	38	78	125	75	53	96	74	71	64	93	176	86	204	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	Ellsworth	
162	85	26	20	39	359	157	106	154	115	30	116	57	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	Eastport	
192	38	53	77	19	126	101	52	120	59	34	173	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	Camden	
153	174	98	136	146	231	273	221	231	231	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	Calais	
155	65	19	40	18	152	137	85	134	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	Bucksport
243	31	107	135	78	64	42	33	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	Bridgton
179	69	143	174	114	115	29	54	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	Boothbay Harb
237	36	101	125	86	96	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	Biddeford
285	73	149	177	119	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	Bethel
269	76	133	179	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	Belfast	
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185	104	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	Bangor	
136	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	Ashtad	
212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	Ashtad	



Handwritten notes: "Maine @ 17.5", "changed in from Dark if needed"



NORTHERN MAINE

Maine's October moose hunt in the North Woods has become known as the most successful big game hunt in North America. Trophy moose weighing over 1,000 pounds and hunter success rates in excess of 90 percent make it so. Maine's expanding moose population is estimated at more than 30,000 animals.

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Taken by NH Hunter

Trophy Bear
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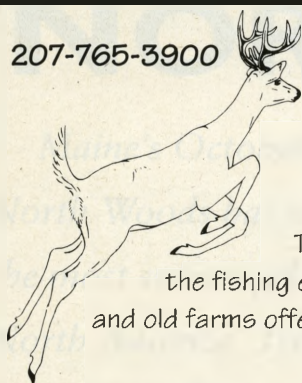
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continued from page 25

halos like a brook trout. The splake survive well in lakes marginally suited for brook trout. Over 30 Maine waters are stocked with splake. These game fish grow faster than hatchery brook trout and have a higher survival rate. They are more catchable through ice than other trout. Splake are excellent eating and fun to catch.

Atlantic Salmon (H): Last year, catch and release fishing for the famed Atlantic salmon was legal on a number of Maine rivers, including the fabled Penobscot River, which is home of the equally famous Bangor Salmon Pool. Pending an expected listing of the Atlantic salmon as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission last December closed until further notice all Maine rivers to recreational fishing for Atlantic Salmon.

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

Warm-Water Species

Smallmouth Bass (E): Maine is famous for its smallmouth waters, especially “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 Seboeis in northern Penobscot County. The Penobscot and Androscoggin Rivers are developing reputations as excellent smallmouth fisheries. This

continued on page 39



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Fishing Waters *continued from page 23*

Finally, visitors to Mount 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*)

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.

The Belgrades also continue to offer excellent white perch fishing, with all the lakes providing dependable action. Unauthorized introductions of black crappie and northern pike have resulted in established populations of these species which provide opportunities for fishing in several lakes. Northern pike fishing is best in Great, North, and Long Ponds and Messalonskee Lake, while black crappie are taken regularly in Long and North Ponds. There are landlocked salmon, splake, brown trout and brook trout available in the region, 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, Moose-lookmeguntic 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. 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. George Lake, 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 center of 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 an introduction of this deep-dwelling species by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Excellent fishing can be found in many other waters in the Sebago area. 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 Pennessewassee 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 Great East Lake, Mousam Lake, Little Ossipee Lake 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.*) ➤

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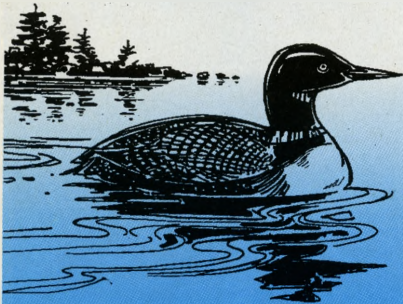
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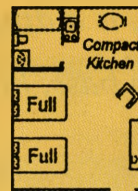
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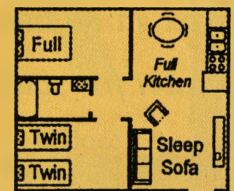
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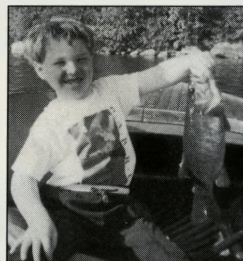
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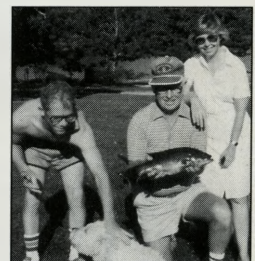


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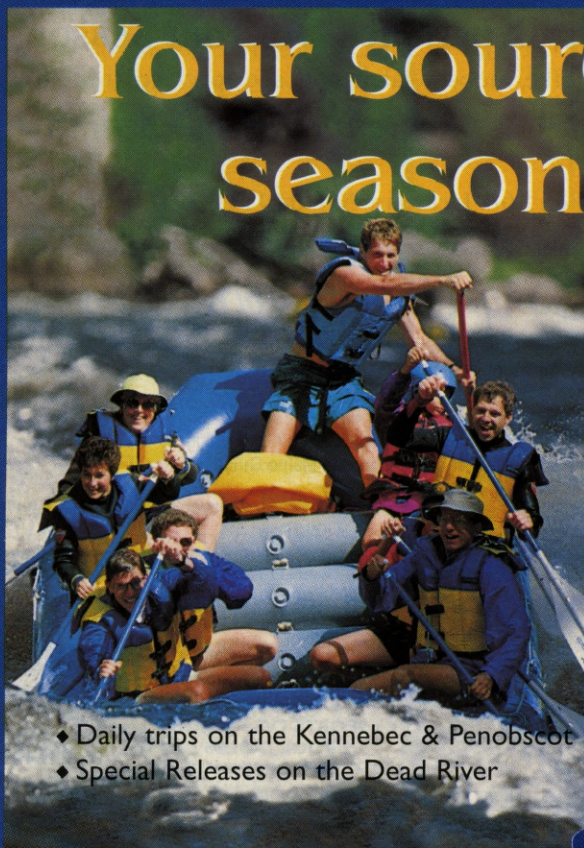
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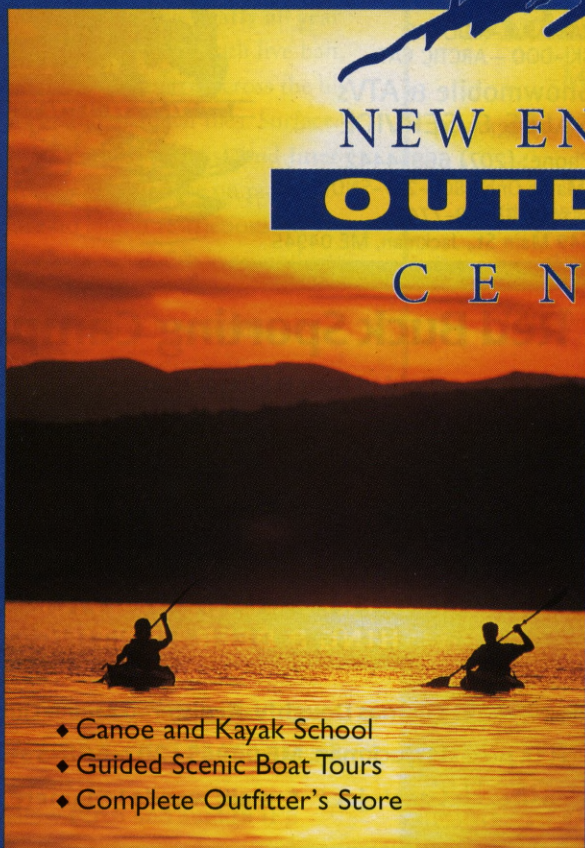
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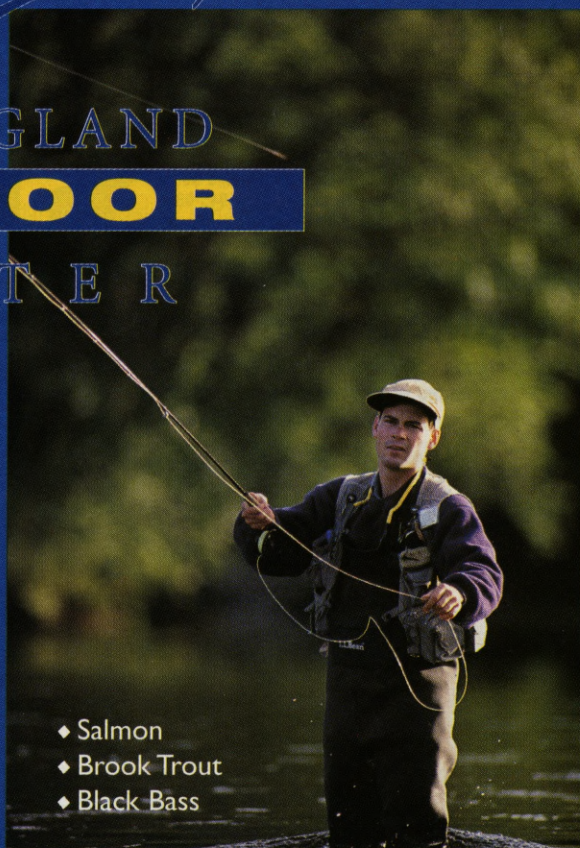
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continued from page 33

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, however, bass often move into the shallows, 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 (E): 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. Cobbosseecontee Lake, North Pond and Winnegance Lake all produce big fish.

Pickrel (E): These long, lean bat-tlers 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 Jitter-bug) are equally effective on pickerel. There are no length restrictions on pickerel; the average fish is around one to two pounds.

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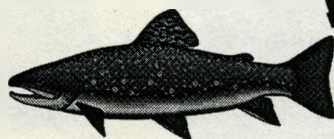
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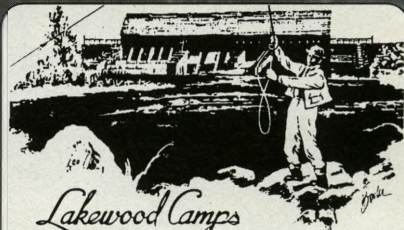
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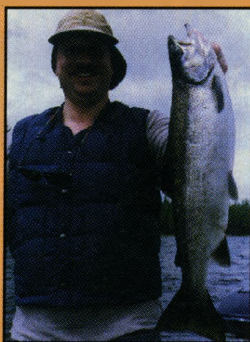
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Ice Fishing *continued from page 26*

second trip. Beth is content to sit behind Dad with her small arms wrapped around his waist.

The sharp ice auger makes short work of cutting ten holes, and soon Bill is enjoying his job of teaching his children the fine art of baiting the traps. Before half the traps are in, the second one trips a flag. The kids race to the flag, each eager to be first to bring a fish onto the ice. Line is still running off the reel, but soon it stops and Bill gives the word to "set the hook." Beth lets Jimmy handle it now. She isn't too keen on handling slimy, wiggling fish at her age. Jimmy isn't bashful as he hoists a 24-inch pickerel out of the hole. "Wow! My first fish. I like this," Jimmy exclaims as he picks up the pickerel.

"Be careful, Jimmy," Dad cautions, "pickerel have sharp teeth."

After re-baiting the hook, they continue setting the rest of the traps. It isn't long before more flags flip into the air and more fish are iced. White perch and pickerel are numerous, and Bill

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elects to release most of the pickerel because perch fillets are his favorite winter fish.

By now the sun has warmed the day, and fresh air and activity have spawned big appetites: lunch time. A shoreside fire must be kindled. Lots of driftwood is gathered and soon the fire is roaring, and the kids toast a few marshmallows while Bill sharpens a couple of sticks for roasting hot dogs. Somehow hot dogs always taste better cooked outdoors on an open fire. The children are enjoying the outing as much as Bill as they chase flags, eat their lunch and try to build a snowman. What a glorious day to be outdoors!

The sun is low in the sky and the air is cooling fast as they pick up the traps and prepare to head for home. Fishing has been good and Bill will have his work cut out for him when they arrive home. The perch will need to be cleaned and filleted.

"We've got enough for a fish fry and a chowder, too," he tells the kids.

continued on page 48



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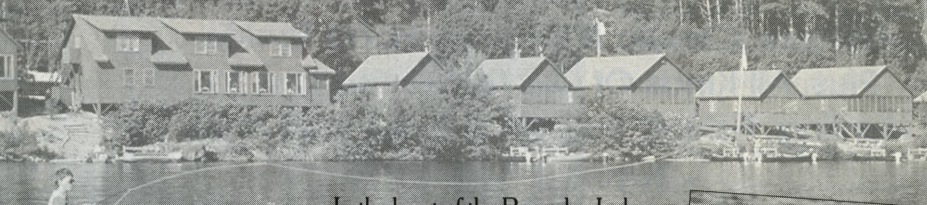
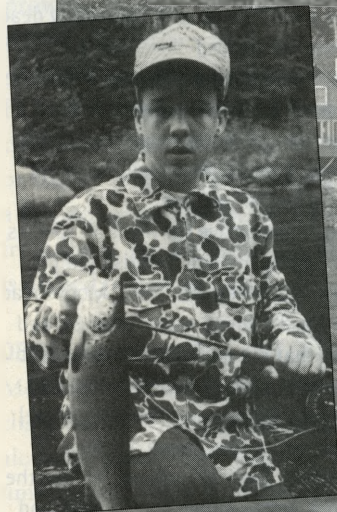
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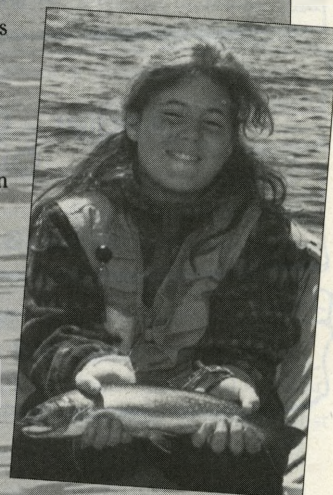
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"When can we go again, Dad?" asks Beth.

"Maybe next weekend, and let's ask Mom if she wants to come along, too," Dad responds.

"Sounds good to me," Jimmy says, "can I drive the sled, Dad?"

"Sure, son, I'll start it for you."

"Let me try it, Dad, I know I can pull that starter rope," Jimmy exclaims as he gives it a yank. But his small hands can't hang on to the handle and

it flies back in the cowl, snapping the handle off the rope. Jimmy stares in disbelief at the hole where the rope's handle should be. Then he looks at Dad, wondering what he will do. Bill is wondering that himself, but doesn't want to make Jimmy feel badly about the new problem.

"Are you okay, Jimmy? The rope didn't hit you, did it?"

"No, Dad, I'm okay, but I didn't mean to do that. What will we do? How will we get the sled started now?"

Will we have to leave it? Can you fix it? I wish we had an electric start sled, Dad, don't you?" Jimmy asks worriedly. Bill lifts the cowl and fumbles around in the tool box where he finds the emergency starter rope. Wrapping it around the fly wheel he gives it a sharp yank, and to his surprise the engine starts.

"Imagine that! It started on the first pull. We sure were lucky today, kids. Let's go home!"

Heading home across the lake with his day's catch and his two happy children, Bill watches the red sun sink beneath the black fir tops and breathes deeply of the cool, still air. He is sure there will be other great days on the ice, and he can hardly wait. ➤

TIPS FOR ICE ANGLERS

- * Carry extra sounders, plenty of hooks in various sizes and waterproof matches.
- * Tune up power augers prior to the season. Carry extra spark plugs (gap them ahead of time). Most augers use a replaceable blade; keep a spare, wrapped to protect the edge.
- * Spare (mixed) gasoline should be kept in a container with a tight cap.
- * A battery operated aerator provides oxygen for the bait bucket. Keep the bucket out of cold winds and not too close to the fire. (Some waters will not allow live bait; to keep dead bait fresh, wrap it in an old woolen mitten or sock. Be sure it is completely dead by pinching the heads.)
- * Splake, togue, smelts and cusk feed close to bottom while landlocked salmon feed just under the ice. Brook trout like shallow water close to shore. Perch will be found two to five feet off bottom.
- * Jigging is productive for most all species. Lures for jigging include Swedish pimple, daredevils in a variety of colors, Moosehead Wobbler, Cecil's Smelt, many spinners and bass lures that dip and dive and believe it or not, worms, night-crawlers or cut bait (spiny-finned species are illegal in Maine) on a hook, tied a foot above a sinker.
- * When using lures for jigging, replace the treble hook with a single strong hook and add a morsel of cut bait to the hook. It works! When action is slow and if the holes aren't freezing over, try hanging the line on a bush with a small piece of cedar bough tied in such a way that the breeze will jig the line. Be sure the line can easily fall off the bush if a fish hits the bait. When the line falls into the water, the reel on the trap will take over.

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SALT WATER FISHING

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BARRY GIBSON

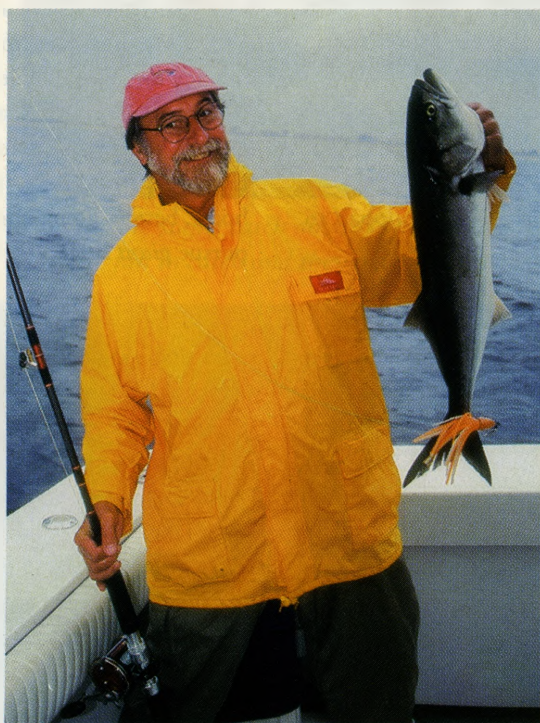
Maine's 3,478 miles of coastline offer some of the best salt water fishing in the country. The rocky shoreline, interspersed with rivers and occasional beaches, combines with the rugged sea floor to provide perfect habitats for dozens of game and food species. The cold, clear water is arguably the cleanest 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 26 to 65 feet and can carry from 6 to 50 or more passengers. These vessels usually sail on a daily schedule (half- or full-day trips) from May through October, 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.



Bluefish offers great light-tackle sport during the summer. Trolling is an effective way to cover a large area of water in order to find the schools.

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 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. In state waters (out to three miles from shore) anglers may keep a maximum of three pollock under the 19-inch minimum.

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 haddock not to exceed 10 fish.



Giant bluefin tuna weighing from 200 to 700 pounds or more offer the ultimate big-game adventure. The best bet if you're new at this sport is to charter a boat equipped to go after these behemoths.

Other species commonly taken include the *cusk*, a muscular dweller of rocky bottoms weighing five to 20 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, although 50-pounders are more the norm.

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*, *blue-*



fish 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.

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 three bluefish per person per day.

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 2000, anglers may keep one striped bass per day that measures from 20 to 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 and for special regulations for the Kennebec/Sheepscot Rivers area.

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



Cod are the staple catch aboard party boats. They're fun to catch and they make excellent table fare.

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 pogy (menhaden) or mackerel. **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.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Maine’s Department of Marine Resources (DMR) now offers an excellent 36-page color publication called *Maine Saltwater Angler’s Guide* that lists and describes the salt water boat launching ramps in the state, information on boating, fishing and shellfish regulations, and descriptions of all the salt water game, food and bait fish available as well as tips on how to catch them. The guide is free and is available by contacting Marine Recreational Fisheries Program, Maine DMR, PO Box 8, W. Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575; 207-633-9500. Also check out the DMR’s recreational fishing website at www.state.me.us/dmr/recreational/home-page.html. ➤

SOUTHERN MAINE

Sportsmen looking for easy access and diverse angling and hunting opportunities will find it all in Southern Maine. Special fishing rules permit catch and release angling for salmon, trout and bass through November. Sebago Lake—Maine's second largest lake and home of that fabled fighter, the landlocked salmon—continues to be a productive sport fishery, for big lakery as well as silver-sided salmon.

Along the coast, salt-water anglers

will find exceptional summer action for striped bass, bluefish, mackerel and sharks.

Hunting? Southern Maine offers unique opportunities. Grouse are plentiful around old orchards. And some of Maine's best wild turkey and ring-necked pheasant hunts take place here. Deer hunters—especially archers—will find whitetails plentiful. Special deer hunts are available to bow hunters during September.



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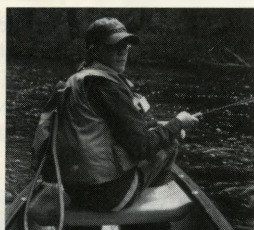
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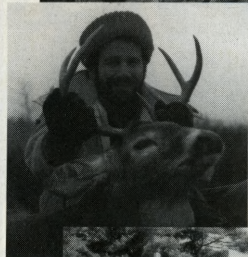
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