FISHING AND HUNTING IN MAINE
FISHING and HUNTING
in
THE STATE OF MAINE
FOURTH EDITION

A brief booklet telling what Maine offers for fishing and hunting, when and where to go and how much it will cost.

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A Publication of the
STATE OF MAINE PUBLICITY BUREAU
Gateway Circle Portland, Maine
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Fly-fishing with wet flies of the conventional type as well as many patterns of streamer fly design also work exceptionally well at this time. Later, as the season progresses and temperatures rise, the salmon move back, seeking cooler areas in deep water. From the hot days of late June until the crisp frosty mornings of early September, trolling with deep-going revolving spoons and live bait usually accounts for excellent catches. Smelts, shiners, angleworms and large night crawlers are the choice of many successful fishermen.

Cooler surface temperatures during September again bring these silversided battlers near the surface and once more fly-fishing close to the mouths of incoming streams is at its best, with both wet and dry flies productive as the Salmon congregate for their own spawning run.

**Brook Trout**

Eastern Brook Trout fishing in Maine is a special sort of fun all by itself. These speckled beauties can be found in small, clear, cold water brooks in every section of the State as well as in most of Maine’s deeper springfed lakes and ponds, where water temperatures remain low even during the hottest of summer weather. From the eight and nine-inch “pan size” to the five and six-pound “lunkers,” there are thrills galore for the trout fisherman.

**Black Bass**

Smallmouth Black Bass fishing, Maine style, is a thrill never to be forgotten. These northern bronzebacks, frequenting more than 300 of the Pine Tree State’s clear cool waters, rise to almost any bait or fly. They’re ready and spoiling for battle at the slightest provocation.
Bait casting, fly-fishing, trolling or still fishing with live bait are all productive bass tactics. Surface plugs displaying plenty of action seem to work better early in the morning, just at dusk and on cloudy days. During the hours of higher sunshine, underwater plugs of the wobbling type are usually favored by Maine guides. Those who prefer trolling or still fishing with live bait will find plenty of happy surprises in store, if they’ll search out the deep holes and rocky ledges. Better be sure to include a landing net in your equipment if you are of a mind to try Maine’s Black Bass. They’re never down until they’re out, and out means right in the frying pan, alongside strips of crisp brown bacon!

**Togue**

Lovers of True Lake Trout fishing have been enchanted for years by top notch Togue fishing enjoyed in many of Maine’s deeper lakes and ponds. One of the heaviest of these rugged battlers, netted recently, weighed thirty-one and a half pounds with a great many others taken that ran between ten pounds and this mark. Average catches go from two and one-half and three pounds up to six to eight pounds. These deep-fighting Togue can be taken with almost equal success all during the entire open season here in Maine.

Early in the season, Togue are near the surface and frequently fall prey to streamer flies or a well-trolled smelt, much as both Land-locked Salmon and Squaretails do. As warmer weather moves in, these fish take up new quarters in the very deepest part of the lake. From the middle of June until the end of the fishing season, best results will be obtained by bottom fishing. Still fishing with a “jig”
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line or "dragging the bottom" with large revolving spoons ahead of a minnow six or seven inches long is the recommended procedure for taking the big ones.

Most important to remember in Togue fishing is to troll very slowly with a heavily weighted line in the deepest part of the lake you intend to fish. Togue are found in many of Maine's lakes and deeper ponds from one end of the State to the other. There are none however in the Rangeley Lakes, where good fishing is confined to Trout and Salmon. Don't forget to bring a gaff when Togue fishing if you're really after a big one. Many of these "Old Lunkers," longer than a rubber boot, are far too large to fit in any conventional landing net.

**Brown Trout**

For the past few years, Maine's Inland Fish and Wildlife Department has been gradually introducing Brown Trout in waters of the Pine Tree State, particularly adapted to these sporty gamefish. Recently, one of these stubborn fighters weighing nineteen pounds...
seven ounces came to the net of a very surprised angler. The average weight of Brown Trout taken in Maine, however, usually runs between one and one-half and seven or eight pounds, with some specimens much larger.

Brown Trout are fished the same as Landlocked Salmon. The Browns, however, frequent many of the so-called warmer waters and more shallow ponds and rivers. Although often caught while trolling or plug casting, they are however, particularly susceptible to flies in both the wet and dry types here in Maine.

White Perch

White Perch, cousin of the Black Bass, is one of the easiest of all Maine’s fish to catch. Rated as one of the very best panfish, these snappy little dark-colored hustlers are found in great numbers and furnish plenty of action. Still fishing from a dock or anchored boat with ordinary angleworms, minnows, small frogs or cut bait hardly ever fails to get results. Don’t underestimate White Perch when it comes to fly-fishing or trolling either. Almost any of the baits
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mentioned above trolled just behind one or two small gold or silver colored spinners will help to fill the frying pan. White Perch are an “all season fish,” but afford the best fishing of all during the warmer days of mid-Summer.

**Pickerel**

For real honest-to-goodness everyday outdoor sport, don’t overlook the countless hours of fun to be had PICKEREL FISHING. Shallow water ponds, slow moving streams and deep bays heavy with lily pads and other vegetation are the home of this hungry feeder. Frowned upon by some but ready to charge at almost any moving object, the Pickerel is among the easiest of all fish to land. Live bait, flies, plugs, popping-bugs or trolling spoons, whether manipulated by an expensive rod or an old cane pole, bring equally good results in Pickerel waters. Here’s a rough and ready fish, a challenge to the beginner, the expert, the old folks or the kids. He’s what might be called a dependable fish. He’ll strike almost anything and he’ll almost always strike!

**Atlantic Salmon**

Maine’s Penobscot County, boasting the famed Bangor Salmon Pool, Lincoln County’s Sheepscot River and Washington County with its Narraguagus, Dennys, Pleasant, Machias and East Machias Rivers are now the major spots in the United States where sport-fishermen can take that king of all gamefish, the ATLANTIC SALMON.

**Tuna**

TUNA FISHING along the Maine Coast has become a major
sport during the last few years. Between the first of July and the end of August, thousands of these gigantic bluefins move into Maine coastal waters. Top-weight tuna to be taken on rod and reel so far, chalked up an official mark of 874 pounds. These mammoth silvery fish may also be caught by handline fishing or harpooning.

Striped Bass

STRIPED BASS FISHING in coastal rivers and inlets or surf-casting for these fish along Southern Maine beaches is becoming increasingly popular each year. "Stripers," ranging from two to ten pounds are common, with some tipping the scales at nearly twenty pounds. Probably more are taken by trolling than by any other method. A standard "salt-water rod" weighing 10 or 12 ounces, 30-lb. test line and reel of ample capacity should make up the backbone of your equipment.

Use of regular striped bass lures as manufactured by several well-known companies, to which live bait has been added, is the next step. Sandworms, bloodworms, small eels, small herring and occasionally shrimps make good bait to troll with both standard fresh-water spoons or regular striped bass lures. Careful attention to water currents and the fishing of "the rips" during an incoming tide often make the difference between failure and success. Once connected with even a fair-sized striper, you'll be spending lots of time on those waters again.

The salt-water angler in Maine isn't forced to confine his activities to tuna and striped bass fishing—not by a long shot!

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School Fish

Mackerel and Pollock run in tremendous schools along the Maine Coast during summer months. Spinners, flies or even a piece of red or white cloth attached to a hook will often do the trick. This sketchy equipment, trolled either through or near these schools will almost always take fish as fast as they can be removed from the hook. This may sound surprising, but it works—and there’s action a-plenty to be had with the use of either a handline or a light rod and reel!

NO LICENSE is needed for salt-water fishing along the Maine Coast, whether from the docks, mainland, islands or boats.

Handline and pole fishing from wharves, bridges and the shore for flounders, cunners, mackerel and rock-cod are enjoyed by thousands of men, women and children all through the Summer and Fall. Many “partyboats” lie ready at Maine harbors and ports to take out fishing parties seeking cod, haddock, pollock and other fish, or just for a cooling day’s cruise along the shore among the hundreds of green-studded islands that dot the rugged coast between mainland and the open sea.
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Hunting in Maine

Maine Hunting Has Variety

Variety is the word for Maine hunting! With 18,000,000 acres in forest lands alone and a total area nearly as large as the other five New England states combined, Maine's game population is unsurpassed. Whether you want to match wits with a crafty old Black Bear, thrill to the ringing cry of hounds announcing "coon treed" under a frosty autumn moon, or snap into action at the sound of rising wings in the meadow pasture... it's all here.

Some 3,500 miles of coastline provide feeding and resting places for Ducks and Geese as they start their annual southward migration from northern marshes. Woodcock, Ruffed Grouse (Partridge) and Pheasants are common in upland fields and woodlands. The hardy hunter who wants to try his luck at Bobcat hunting can have adventures galore. The Fox hunter cannot find a more favorable section to match his skill against "Reynard," the master tactician of hide and seek. Rabbit hunters and beagle fanciers are in for a real treat when they tangle with Maine's long-legged Snowshoe Hares. These nimble tricksters provide top-notch sport and the best of eating over a long season.
Whether you’re a bird hunter, a big or small game hunter, a professional or an amateur, Maine holds the answer to your hunting question. For a real old fashioned hunting trip, put your bets on the Pine Tree State this Fall!

**White-tail Deer**

Deer hunting in Maine rates easily as the top activity for the outdoorsman who loves a gun. According to experts, Maine Deer are outstanding specimens of their kind in the world.

Opinion is divided as to which part of the open season it’s best to plan your trip. Some say that the early days are better, because the deer aren’t so wild and so are easier to approach. On the other hand, many veteran hunters refuse even to try their skill until the last ten days or two weeks of the shooting period. They claim that since foliage is thinner toward mid-and late-November, easier, cleaner and longer shots are the rule, with the increased possibility of snow for tracking.

“Generally speaking, still hunting is the best procedure on dry ground. Beech ridges, old apple orchards and locations on a hillside where the “black growth” meets the hardwood are key spots to the experienced hunter. Always walk into the wind, as softly as possible, avoiding dry sticks that may snap. Stop frequently to watch and listen. “Driving” deer in Maine is now unlawful.
The best time to hunt in any part of the open season is from daylight in the morning until 10 A.M., and from about 3 P.M. until sundown. Always study the ground for fresh tracks, droppings and areas where the Deer have been "working" for food. Under beech trees, especially, Deer will often paw the leaves up in little piles while searching for beechnuts.

Old burned-over areas and year-old timber cuttings furnish likely spots also. In early Fall, Deer are often found nibbling small tender shoots and wild raspberry bushes in these open sections. Sit down on a log or a stump frequently and slowly but carefully study the landscape around you. Nature has endowed the White-Tail Deer, as well as most other animals, with an almost perfect camouflage of natural coloring. You may nearly trip over a Deer if you are a careful stalker—but be sure it's a DEER and not a MAN BEFORE YOU SHOOT!

Hunting with snow on the ground is a rather difficult proposition. Nearly any hunter, whether inexperienced or tempered by years of reading woods lore signs, can determine with a little study and commonsense whether a Deer track in the snow is very old, 24-hours-old, fairly recent or fresh. Much of your success depends upon your appraisal of the track and of the manner in which the deer was walking.

Tracks four to six hours old that show a Deer walking leisurely toward a thicket on a knoll are worth ten times as much to the seasoned hunter as a very fresh set patterned in bounds of many feet apart and left by a frightened Deer intent upon leaving that part of the country. A zigzagging trail indicates a Deer that is either
feeding or looking for a place to “bed down,” or both. In soft snow without a crust, it’s often possible to walk almost up to a resting Deer under these conditions. Due respect must always be given the wind direction, however.

Unhurried fresh tracks in soft snow going straightaway or on a feeding course are best worked by attempting a cut-in ahead of the Deer about 75 to 100 yards to either the left or the right, depending upon wind direction. Frequently a hunter can surprise a White-Tail in this fashion since Deer have the habit of watching their back trail carefully and often trusting to scent in the wind as a guard against possible dangers ahead and aside.

The use of both rifles and shotguns is permissible in Maine for Deer hunting. Rifles are by far the more popular and much more practical, except in a few instances where thick brush and close shots are the rule. Maine guides swear by the .30-30 rifle and the .32 Special Winchester. Other favorites are the .300 Savage, .303, .30-06, .35 Remington and the old .38-55. Frankly, any hard-hitting, easily-handled high power rifle from a .25 bore and up will do the trick if it has sufficient shocking power. In any event . . . make sure it’s a DEER and not a MAN before you shoot!

Deer hunting, boiled down, is careful planning, patience, perseverance and often a degree of luck. One thing you can be sure of: No amount of the above-mentioned qualities or conditions will put venison on your table unless you expose yourself to Deer hunting in a section where White-Tails are plentiful. A hunting trip in Maine will assure you of that, so—get that shootin’ eye in trim this Fall and come to the Pine Tree State. The rest is up to you!
Black Bear

Maine’s Black Bears are crafty, shy and much more difficult than Deer to stalk. In weight they run from cub-size to nearly 500 pounds. When frightened they rip through the woods at terrific speed and present the poorest targets. Last year one hunter declared that a fast-moving Black Bear looked more like a rolling black barrel than anything else.

Late in the Fall, mid-October to late November, is probably the best time for still-hunting these dark-furred marauders. During this period of the year they are busy building up surplus fat in anticipation of their long winter hibernation. They’re also moving around a lot in search of suitable winter quarters.

Black Bears as well as Deer are fond of beechnuts. Abandoned farm areas where half-frozen apples still cling to remote trees during the late fall months also make excellent spots to watch for Bruin. Deserted lumber camps and old timber cuttings, where rotting logs and stumps abound with grubs and other insects, rank high among the favorite feeding grounds of the Black Bear.

The most common method of Bear hunting in Maine is over bait. Normally, a guide will set up bait in areas he knows to be most active for Bear. Tree stands are most often used for bait. Bruin also may be hunted with dogs in Maine. Unfortunately, some so-called “Bear dogs” will switch or “jump” trail and chase Deer. It is therefore best to hunt Bear only with specially-trained dogs that can be relied upon to never break trail, and then only during certain seasons.
Maine’s Black Bears may be hunted from May 1 to Saturday after Thanksgiving. Favorite rifles among Maine Bear hunters are the traditional .30-30, the .35 Remington, the .300 Savage, .32 Winchester Special and .30-06. Of course, any big game rifle of your choice will probably do the job, but you’ve got to be “fast on the draw” to hit old Bruin unless you are lucky enough to catch him sitting still. Plentiful, but far more difficult to bag than a big buck, Maine’s Black Bears make excellent trophies. You, too, can have a bearskin rug in front of your fireplace—but the thrill of your hunt in the deep woods of Maine will continue as a more cherished memory for a lifetime.

Upland Bird Shooting

Maine Ruffed Grouse or “Partridge” as they are popularly called, offer the best shooting for this species to be found in the Country. An old Maine guide’s description of these magnificent birds seems to come nearer than most in filling the bill. “King-sized quail,” he calls them . . . “but much smarter!”

Hunting these birds, found both deep in the Maine woods and in farming and pasture lands, is the keenest of sport. Typical covers are beech groves, orchard areas and alder or birch thickets near agricultural sections. In more remote parts of the State, prowling carefully along old logging roads and trails is one of the most productive methods.

Naturally, use of a good bird dog is preferable, but many hunters shoot their limit (four birds per day) by “walking them up” after
choosing likely looking covers. Selection of a shotgun and size of shot to be used are pretty much up to the preference of the hunter in this instance. Anything from a .410 to a 12-gauge shotgun is usable and Nos. 6 to 8 chilled shot are local favorites.

These “Brown Bombers” rise suddenly, sometimes from almost under your feet with a thundering roar of wings, then dart cleverly through the thickest of underbrush at top speed! This king of Maine game birds is a wary and talented customer. In fact, other forms of wing shooting may seem tame, once you’ve matched wits with a Maine “Partridge.”

**Pheasant**

In most instances, Maine Pheasants will be found in farming sections and pasture lands much the same as many of our Ruffed Grouse. They are, however, largely confined to the southern and coastal counties of Maine. This is due to the fact that heavy snows and sub-zero temperatures in the northernmost inland parts of the State often reduce their numbers during the winter season.

Many thousands of these meaty game birds are reared and released annually by Maine’s Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. These birds are smart, fast on the wing and know all the tricks of hide and seek. A good bird dog is, of course, advisable, but here again, the average hunter, if reasonably conscientious, can “walk up” his day’s limit without much trouble.
Woodcock

Once again, it is with real pride that we can say that no state in the Nation offers better Woodcock Hunting than Maine! The Pine Tree State is one of the best natural breeding grounds of these much sought-after game birds, in the entire Country. Every Fall as their southward migration begins, countless additional thousands of Woodcock that have summered and bred in the Maritime Provinces spend many days in Maine as they move along. Fortunately for Maine this movement usually coincides with our bird hunting season.

Any hunter who has witnessed the “jack-in-the-box” tactics and speeding zig-zag flight of a rising Woodcock knows what a match of skill and precision these sparkling performers can offer the most experienced wing-shot. A good bird dog is almost a necessity in successful Woodcock shooting since these clever little “Timber Doodles” will often “freeze” and fail to flush for a walking man. If you think you are a good wing-shot, try Maine’s Woodcock this Fall. If you’re just a beginner, at least try Maine, the spot where your chances are the best!

Duck Shooting

With a rugged coastline nearly 2,500 miles in length, made up of bays, peninsulas, beaches and marshlands, Maine has duck shooting to thrill the expert. Part of the secret of this success story lies in

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the fact that when millions of Ducks, Geese and other waterfowl start their annual southward migration from northern breeding grounds, in following the Atlantic flight line, Maine is the first State in this Country that they reach. Fortunately, at that stage they're not gun shy, not reduced in numbers and are easily attracted to decoys.

Beyond doubt, this makes for the best real, honest-to-goodness waterfowl shooting on the North Atlantic Coast. What’s more, they’re in excellent physical condition, having traveled only a short distance.

Black Ducks, Wood Ducks, both Green and Blue-Winged Teal, Mallards, Scaup, Ring Necks, Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, Eiders, Old Squaws, Canada Geese, Scoters, and several kinds of Mergansers make up Maine’s principal fall waterfowl population. Brant, Pintails, and Ruddy Ducks are also present but are not quite as plentiful as the other species mentioned.

A blind of pine, spruce, fir or other evergreen, supported by a wooden framework upon which chicken wire of about two-inch mesh has been fastened, makes an excellent cover. This type of gunning stand is especially effective on rock points and ledges where heavy forest prevails as the natural background. A partial roof covering with an open area near the front plus a “step-up” footing plank to give adequate gun-play room above the “camouflage level” when things are “popping” is always desirable. Added comfort for the hunters may be gained on windy or cold days by securing an old canvas or tarpaulin (brown, green or gray) inside
the blind on the windy side as well as above and toward the rear in the event of rain or snow.

For a low marsh area or a spot where brown foliage prevails, marsh grass and oak boughs with leaves attached should be worked into the chicken wire on the framework as a camouflage. In this writer’s experience, oak is about the best of all branches to employ in the building of a duck blind. Used in conjunction with coniferous branches, it’s ideal due to the fact that the leaves will not blow or drop off for many weeks after being cut and secured in the blind.

Decoys (artificial) should be placed carefully and arranged to float and bob in the water in a lifelike manner with the nearest group less than 100 feet from the key shooting position in the blind. This is an important point and gives hunters, both green and experienced, an opportunity to judge with fair accuracy, the actual distance of incoming birds from the point of shots attempted.

Decoys should be placed in the most natural looking arrangement that imagination will allow. In salt-water, allowance for changes in the tide level should be made. The use of a duck call is occasionally effective but, as a rule, unnecessary in Maine waterfowl shooting.

Another popular method of wildfowling is to disguise a specially constructed “sculling boat” and with your guide cautiously maneuvering the craft, moving up to a flock of ducks or geese. The hunter lies in a reclining position with gun ready and at the opportune moment rises to a sitting position and takes the birds as they rise.

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In summary, it can be said with confidence that Duck and Goose shooting along the Maine coast provides more continuous action than any other wing-shooting sport with which the writer is acquainted. For loads of fun, thrills by the score and plump, tasty birds for the table, don’t miss Maine’s duck shooting season this Fall!

Raccoon

Any hunter who has once thrilled to the deep-throated bellow of a good “coon” dog hot on the trail, or knows the excited change in his tone announcing “Treed,” needs no description of the countless adventures that this sport of sports offers. For downright outdoor fun, rugged exercise, and thrills and spills galore, it can’t be beat!

Raccoons, although found principally in the southern part of Maine up until a few years ago, are now widely distributed throughout the State and in plentiful supply. These big Northern Ringtails may be hunted from Oct. 20 to Dec. 15. If you’ve never been on a “coon” hunt, we know you’ll want to try it. If you are a “coon” hunter, don’t miss Maine’s open season this year!

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STATE OF MAINE PUBLICITY BUREAU
Gateway Circle Portland, Maine 04102

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North Street, U. S. Route 1

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