

1999

Maine Guide to Hunting & Fishing 1999

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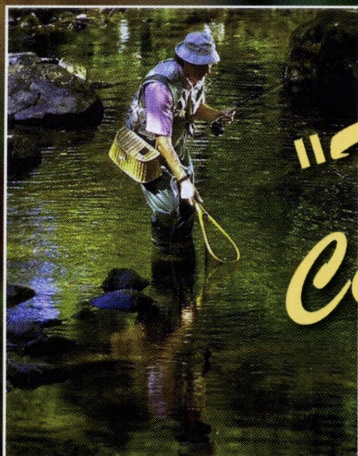
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Guide to Hunting and Fishing



V. PAUL REMONDS PHOTO

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GUIDE TO HUNTING & FISHING

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ANGUS S. KING, JR.
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DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

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LEE E. PERRY
COMMISSIONER

Welcome to Maine!

Maine is natural beauty, abundant resources and exceptional opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, from native trout in wilderness settings to bass, togue or salmon on one of our great lakes. Fish where eagles soar overhead while you enjoy the vast vistas of rocky headlands and bays. Maine has it all; treat yourself to a great outdoor experience!

The variety of opportunities extend to Maine's hunting heritage as well; those who do know have kept it a secret. Come see for yourself; our bear, deer, moose, and turkey populations have reached historic highs. We're proud of our management programs and want to share our success with you! And don't forget, we also offer many opportunities to hunt small game and waterfowl.

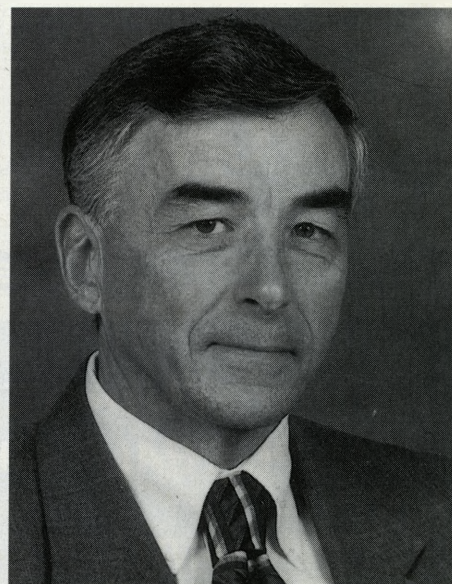
Bring the family or a friend! Maine is a natural wonderland with exceptional opportunities to relax, view and photograph wildlife, and enjoy! Maine is a setting that fits both your budget and your lifestyle. From classic sporting camps to a coastal bed and breakfast to remote tent camps, we offer the greatest outdoor destinations in the East!

Visit us on the Web at www.state.me.us/ifw. As always, our department staff is eager to help you plan your adventure.

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

Sincerely,

Lee E. Perry
Commissioner



THE MAINE SPORTING

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

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

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

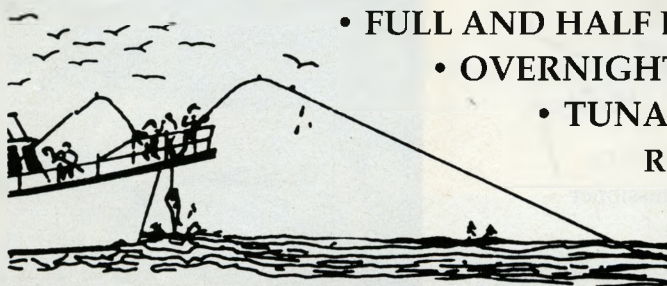
Newcomers to Maine can speed their success by chatting with knowledgeable sporting camp owners, innkeepers, and the personnel at outdoor sporting shops, or by hiring a Registered Maine Guide. Some guides work directly with the various sporting camps, so be sure to ask about hiring one when you make your lodging reservations. You can also hire a guide directly. Most will 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 847, Augusta, ME 04332-0847.

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

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EXPERIENCE

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

the favorite quarry of Maine hunters. Abandoned farms and clearcuts 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. Rabbits and hares thrive in parts of Maine, and gray squirrels have a small following of dedicated enthusiasts.

swamps and lakes during not dry weather.

- Hunt during mid-day. 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.

fees at check-points throughout this domain. For further information, write 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 & 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

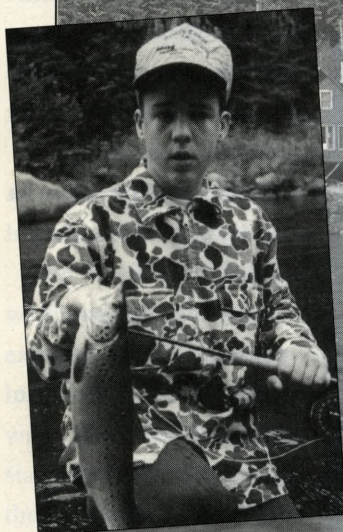
areas such as oat and corn field berry barrens.

Hunters sitting over most of the harvest, but hunting success ratio. Hunters sitting hunting do shoot Maine beaver. In years when warm weather early, deer hunters relish the bonus bear for the game pool and fishing. ➤

BIG GAME

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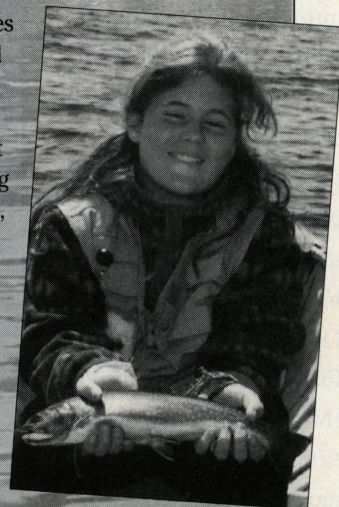
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MAfter fishing for cold-water ndlocked salmon is best in *Maine—for hunter*ss, pickerel, and perch, the during the summer months.

The white-tailed deer, black bear, and moose) hunting is Three. Upland birds, waterfowl seasons for some small game, rabbits, coyotes, bobcats and the winter or year 'round. hunters who enjoy varied terrain de you with answers to a spectacular foliage display. It hunting and fishing in the has a reputation as a destination involved are best gleaned looking for adventure at a resort. Pamphlets provided hunting lodges in Maine offer Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, packages in the world, some in Augusta, Maine 04333. Our of lodging and meals. Each fall, all without first checking dents and non-residents spend 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 United States. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIF&W) has recently extended the season for muzzle-loaders and bow hunters, adding five more

PHOTO COURTESY BANGOR DAILY NEWS



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 847, Augusta, ME 04332-0847.

If you want to camp during your stay, there are dozens of private campgrounds, several state parks, and scores of 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 non-residents, who usually hire guides and hunt over bait. If black bears interest hunters, this state is the place to go, a truth recognized by hunters from around the world who know they can find a world-class hunting experience here.

Parts of Maine have more moose per square mile than any other place 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 percent. In recent years, the success ratio has climbed

over 90 percent to as high as 96 percent in 1991. Indeed, since 1991, over 93 percent of hunters shoot a moose.

Upland birds attract a huge following and, in fact, ruffed grouse takes second place behind deer as the favorite quarry of Maine hunters. Abandoned farms and clearcuts 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. Rabbits and hares thrive in parts of Maine, and gray squirrels have a small following of dedicated enthusiasts.

BIG GAME

Where to hunt for white-tailed deer in Maine begins and ends with each hunter's whim, and choices vary as much as the state's diverse terrain. Deer are everywhere from Kittery to Fort Kent and from Rangeley to Eastport. Nearly everyone lives within a few miles of 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 northern half of the state has far more hunting lodges and working guides than the southern regions. Northern Maine deer 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, 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

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 mid-day. 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.

state's entire bear kill. (MDIF&W wants the harvest to stay between 1,500 to 2,500 bears each fall and has managed to achieve that goal most seasons.) Piscataquis County takes second place, producing about half as many bears as Aroostook each season.

Penobscot, Somerset, Washington, Oxford, Franklin and Hancock counties also hold strong bear populations, and all the above counties have bear-guiding operations. The terrain varies from big woods to agricultural

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

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

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.

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 country 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. And last year, despite cautious forecasts, grouse were plentiful. 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.



HUNTING TIPS

Grouse

- Hunt old apple orchards.
- If you don't have a dog, walk quietly in grouse cover and pause frequently.



Sundown at Delta Marsh. Art by J. Hautman; reprinted courtesy of the artist and Wild Wings, Inc.

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

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

Maine has a ring-necked pheasant season in southern Maine, mostly for stocked birds released in late summer or early fall. This exotic species usually doesn't survive winter except in limited areas where these birds have milder weather conditions and ample winter food. In 1997, 2540 pheasant were stocked for hunters, a small number for a state that covers 33,040 square miles.

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.

In the late 1970s, wildlife biologists from the MDIF&W took 41 wild turkeys from Vermont and stocked them in York County, and from the initial planting, this species has spread up the coast to Penobscot Bay. Biologists have helped introduce turkeys in mid-coast Maine by capturing birds and releasing them in suitable habitat, beginning with a stocking of York County birds in Waldo County. This program has become so successful that Maine now has excellent turkey hunting in this bird's present range. Hunters need to be drawn in a lottery before they can pursue turkeys, and in 1997 about one in three applicants received a permit. This year 3,000 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 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 such as mallards have risen from less than 1,000 mallards in the early 1960s to 10,000 in 1995. The green-winged teal, blue-winged teal and wood duck



KAREN REYNOLDS PHOTO

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 Merry-meeting Bay offer solitude and fast shooting to hunters after this small, coastal bird. Snipe, a similar species, also inhabits marshy areas and attracts a small following who enjoy fast shooting action for a twisting, feathered rocket.

SMALL GAME

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

continued on page 54

1999 MAINE HUNTING SEASONS

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

		First Day	Last Day	Basic Limits	
				Daily	Possession
Deer	Firearms season	Nov. 1	Nov. 27	ONE DEER PER YEAR♦ regardless of season or method. Only deer with antlers at least three inches long may be taken from Oct. 30–Dec. 11 , except that any deer may be taken in designated wildlife management districts by hunters with any-deer permits. Permit application period: mid-June to Aug. 1 annually.	
	Maine-residents-only day	Oct. 30			
	Archery	Sept. 30	Oct. 29		
	Muzzleloader in specific WMDs (check lawbook)	Nov. 29	Dec. 4		
	Muzzleloader	Nov. 29	Dec. 11		
Expanded Archery Season — Limited Area #		Pending Legislative Approval			
Bear*	General hunting seasons	Aug. 30	Nov. 27	ONE BEAR PER YEAR	
	Hunting with dogs	Sept. 13	Oct. 29		
	Hunting with bait **	Aug. 30	Sept. 25		
Moose (by permit only)		Oct. 4	Oct. 9	Permit application period: mid-Jan. to Apr. 1.	
Ruffed Grouse & Bobwhite Quail		Legislation has been submitted to set these seasons in compliance with the new wildlife management districts. Dates and details will be available in July or August.			
Pheasant					
Wild Turkey (by permit only)		May 3	May 31	Permit application period: mid-Dec. to Feb. 1.	
Woodcock*		Seasons set early in September. Regulations available mid-September from license agents, game wardens and Fish and Wildlife Department offices.			
Common Snipe*					
Ducks, Geese, Sea Ducks (scoter, eider, old squaw)					
Sora & Virginia Rails (and Gallinules)*					
Crow*		Mar. 14	Apr. 30	-	-
		July 16	Sept. 29		
Gray Squirrel		Oct. 1	Nov. 30	4	8
Rabbit (cottontail) and Hare (snowshoe)***		Oct. 1	Mar. 31	4	8
Bobcat		Dec. 1	Jan. 31	-	-
Fox		Oct. 18	Feb. 28	-	-
Raccoon		Oct. 1	Dec. 31	-	-
Skunk, Opossum		Oct. 18	Dec. 31	-	-
Coyote, Woodchuck, Porcupine, Red Squirrel		NO CLOSED SEASON FOR HUNTING			
Any species not listed above		NO OPEN SEASON FOR HUNTING			

* Migratory waterfowl stamp not required.

* Bear permit required (resident, \$6; nonresident, \$16) in addition to hunting license between Aug. 30 and Oct. 29. 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 who bag a deer during the expanded September archery hunt are still eligible to purchase other big game licenses and to harvest one additional deer during those traditional archery or firearm seasons.

Sunday Hunting: Illegal in Maine.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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.



BILL SILLIKER, JR. PHOTO

THE REGISTERED MAINE GUIDE

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY GIL GILPATRICK

As our canoe dipped into the first pitch of the two-mile-long rapids the young man yelled, “I can’t see the rocks, but you tell me what to do and I’ll do it!” My canoe partner was Todd and he was one of a group of young people I was guiding on a week-long canoe trip down Maine’s famous Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Legally blind, he could see almost nothing unless it was held inches from his eyes.

Before making the white water run I had the group practice the paddle strokes they would need in order to successfully, and safely, make it through Chase Rapids, the first and most difficult white water on the waterway. The group practiced long and hard to learn the important strokes, and none harder than Todd. I was pleased to see that he was able to master the draw and cross-draw strokes needed to control our canoe in the roaring rapids. I felt confident that we would do fine in spite of the fact that I would be responsible for spotting all of the obstacles.

My faith in Todd was well placed: at the end of the run the whole party was dry and, more importantly, flushed with the satisfaction that comes when hard work leads to success. None in the group was more proud and excited than Todd. None, that is, unless you count me. The pride and satisfaction I felt in helping him have this experience was just out of this world, and it continued throughout the trip as I watched his self confidence and self reliance grow.



A NESTING LOON ON EAGLE LAKE

This by itself makes a good story, but there’s more. At that time I was writing a monthly column for an outdoor publication, so I told Todd’s story there. I wrote how good I felt at having helped Todd have this wilderness experience and recommended anyone who had the opportunity to do the same should certainly do so, if for no other reason than their own satisfaction.

A Proud History

The history of Registered Maine Guides goes back slightly more than 100 years. In fact, the history of guiding in Maine goes back to the earliest explorers who sought out a guide to show them around. Of course, the logical choice for a guide back then was a Maine native—an Indian.

Henry David Thoreau had Indian guides on both of his lengthy excursions into the wilds of Maine.

Lucius L. Hubbard, in 1881, made an extensive trip up Moosehead Lake, through the West Branch of the Penobscot and into Allagash waters. In his book *Woods and Lakes of Maine* he tells of being guided by two native Mainers named Joe and Silas, and had high praise for their knowledge and ability, although he did not see fit to identify them with their last names.

Maine recognized the value of its guides early on, and in 1897 the Maine State Legislature passed a bill requiring hunting guides to register with the state. Thus the title “Registered Maine Guide” was born. It is noteworthy that, in these times of heightened awareness of women’s rights, and their abilities, that the first Registered Maine Guide was a woman named Cornelia Thurza Crosby, who later gained considerable fame known as “Fly Rod Crosby.”

Guides must possess the outdoor skills of old as well as the ability to operate a small business in today’s fast-paced world. Their guests come here to experience the outdoors as it was a century and a half ago. Still, today’s visitor expects, and receives, the safety and convenience that is possible with today’s modern equipment. Maine guides must have the skill to start a fire in the soggy woods after a four-day rain, know where to find and how to prepare fish and game, but also be able to surf the Internet.

Our Wildlife

Maine has abundant wildlife, and nearly all guides, regardless of their specialty, possess a wealth of information about all species. Moose top most visitors’ lists of animals to see. However, the Maine black bear holds a fascination (and sometimes fear) that makes it the most interesting and talked about animal in the Maine woods. I cannot

recall a canoe trip where I have not fielded questions about this animal.

While canoeing in northern Maine, my party indicated they would like to see a bear, but I said that in nearly thirty years of guiding canoe trips, I had seen only three bears from the water, so they didn’t stand much of a chance. A day or so later we saw three bears in one day!

You Name It, Someone Does It

There are guides that specialize in just about any outdoor activity you can name. They are tested and licensed in six different categories: recreation, hunting, fishing, white water rafting, sea kayaking, and tidewater fishing. Of course, many guides hold multiple licenses, and those holding recreation, hunting and fishing are Master Guides and are entitled to wear that designation on their patch.

Activities included in some of the categories are: Recreation: canoeing, hiking, camping, photography, wild-life watching, dog sledding, horseback tours, snowmobiling, and cross country skiing; Hunting: moose, deer, bear, raccoon, bobcat, snowshoe hare, turkey, ducks and geese, ruffed grouse, and woodcock; Fishing: trout, salmon, bass, whitefish, perch, and ice fishing. Examples of tours some guides offer are: rafting through the beautiful Kennebec Gorge and the exciting West Branch of the Penobscot River; sea kayaking to some of the offshore islands and touring the rockbound coast for its beauty and bountiful wildlife; tidewater fishing for bluefish, striper and just about anything else that swims in Maine’s coastal waters. Often activities are combined. A week-long canoe trip, for example, could include paddling with expert instruction, wild-life observation, camping, photography, and swimming.

How to Find a Guide

Most guides operate independently, and set their own schedules and rates. Many have Internet sites which provide this information. Try Maine Guides On Line at **www.maine-guides.com** or The Maine Resource Guide at **www.maine-guide.com** (note that only the “s” differentiates these two URLs). A quick search by the category or area you are interested in will bring several other guides for you to check out. Many guides advertise in various publications relating to their specialty.

The Maine Professional Guides Association (MPGA) maintains and mails out listings of their members along with their specialties. The MPGA can be reached at 207-785-2061. Their mailing address is: MPGA, P.O. Box 847, Augusta, ME 04332-0847. ➤

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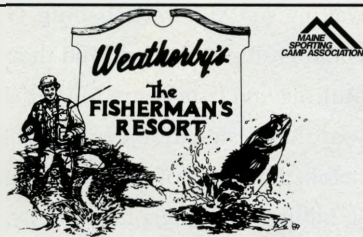
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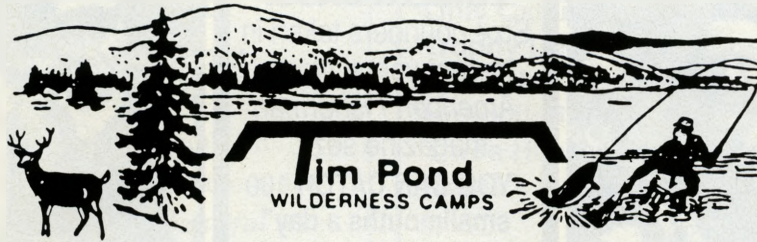
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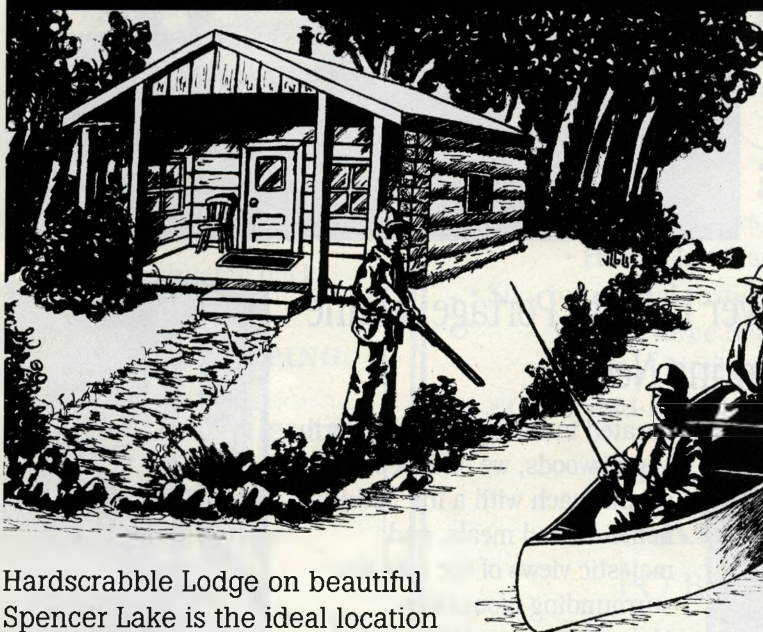
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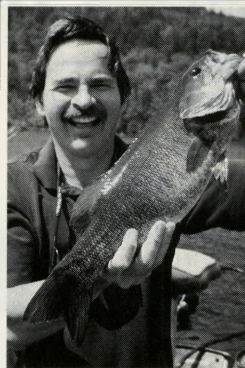
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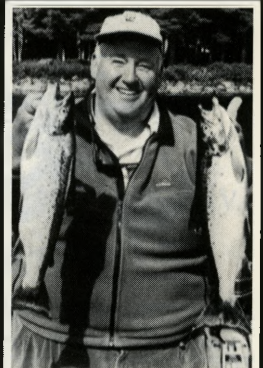
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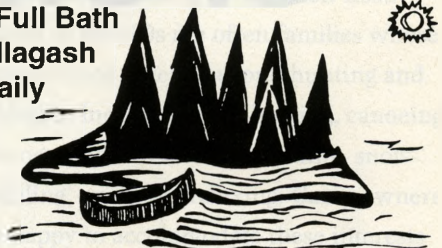
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MAINE SPORTING CAMPS

BY RICK & JUDY GIVENS

Ask anyone new to

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

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

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

When he arrived, the sportsman would find a group of cabins, or camps, usually constructed of logs cut and peeled on the spot, and located on a remote and pristine lake or "pond," as Mainers call their small lakes. Most cabins were situated to provide a fine view of the water, with a roofed porch and simple chairs for evening meditation. While the amenities were as comfortable as wilderness provisions would allow, plumbing consisted of water pail and backhouse, and lighting was by the warm glow of kerosene lamps. The cabins were satellites of one grand main lodge, where guests gathered at tables before plates heaped with hearty, home-cooked food prepared on the wood range by the proprietor's wife. The lodge was

also the social center for the swapping of tall tales.

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

Many sports relied on his knowledge and skill to lead them to fish or game. When action was slow, a good guide would boost morale with his clever outdoor cookery, his wry humor, and some mighty good stories. If the guest's interests were more in nature observation—bird-watching, moose-stalking, or exploring—the knowledgeable guide was a top-notch, home-grown naturalist, as well. Most camps also provided canoes or boats for their guests, for the water was not only a fishing ground, but a highway for hunters.

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

More than a century after the earliest enterprising Maine woodsman laid down his first sill log, the sporting camp is still providing fond memories for guests, and a

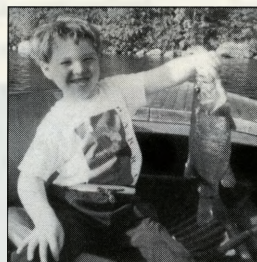


step back to a simpler day. In fact, some camps have been operating continuously for a century, through five generations. Many of today's camps have existed since the '20s and '30s, and a few have been built on wilderness lakes within the last twenty years. Still, there are far fewer camps today than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

Although much has remained the same, inevitably there have been some changes. Float planes, motor boats, and well-constructed logging roads provide much easier access to Maine's interior. Most remote camps have installed generators, and many now provide lighting and plumbing, although some still adhere to the rustic style of earlier years. While a number of camps still offer the American Plan with excellent home-cooking, others now provide fully-equipped housekeeping cabins for guests who prefer to do their own cooking.

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

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



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The Maine Attraction



MAINE ICE FISHING: A FAMILY AFFAIR

BY WILMOT ROBINSON, MASTER MAINE GUIDE

It isn't long before more flags flip into the air and more fish are iced. White perch and pickerel are numerous, and Bill elects to release most of the pickerel because perch fillets are his favorite winter fish.

There was a time when mention of ice fishing meant sharpening the homemade 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 snowsled 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



JOSH EASTMAN, 12, OF OLD TOWN,
WITH TROUT AT PICKEREL POND
V. PAUL REYNOLDS PHOTO

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, hooked into a spool holding the running line with hook and bait on the 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.



GRANDMOTHER AND
GRANDSON AT HERMON
POND
V. PAUL REYNOLDS PHOTO

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 mid-day. 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 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."

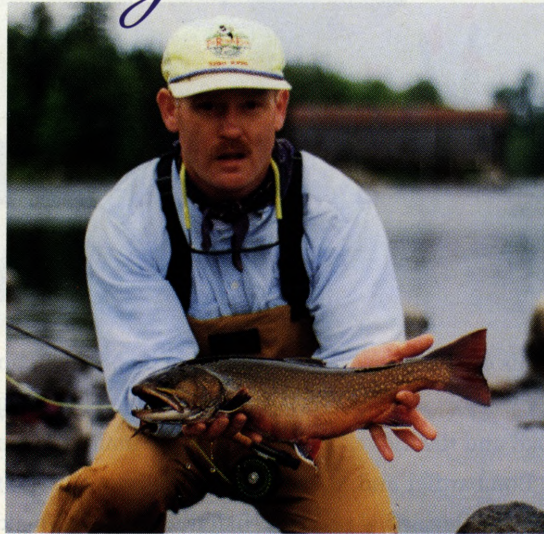
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MAINE:

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.

COURTESY MAINE DEPT. OF INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE



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 their 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.

Blessed with over 5,000 lakes and ponds and 32,000 miles of rivers and streams, Maine offers nearly endless opportunities for fishermen. Our native wild trout fishery is a national treasure.

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

Cold-Water Species

Brook Trout (D): Brook trout are abundant in clean, cold brooks and streams, and grow to large sizes in some ponds and lakes (where they are called squaretails). They have dark, wavy-green backs, red spots on their sides, white or silver bellies, and pink or reddish lower fins with white leading edges. The legal minimum size is six inches (longer in some water); most run between six and 12 inches long. Wet and dry flies, tiny metal lures, and angleworms are common baits, as are streamer flies with red and/or yellow (Barnes Special, Miss Sharon, and Mickey Finn streamers are good examples), used when trolling. Brookies are most abundant from the middle of the state north, and run to large sizes in the Rangeley Lakes, Moosehead Lake, Pierce Pond, and the Roach River.

Brown Trout (H): Tougher to catch than brook or rainbow trout, browns are the choice for those experi-

enced 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 Papala are effective.

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

Splake (D): A hatchery-raised hybrid, a splake is a cross between a brook trout and a lake trout (togue). Over 30 Maine waters are stocked with splake. Splake grow faster than hatchery brook trout and have a higher survival rate. They are more catchable through ice than other trout. Very similar in appearance to a brook trout, splake are excellent eating and fun to catch. Splake were first stocked experimentally in Big Wood Pond in Jackman.

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

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

popular targets of ice fishermen. Minimum length is 18 inches, and three pounds is a average size.

Warm-Water Species

Smallmouth Bass (D): Maine is famous for its smallmouth waters, especially in lakes and ponds “Down East” in Washington County. The fish is common in hundreds of ponds in the southern part of the state, reaching its northern limit in Grand Lake Seboeis in northern Penobscot County. The Penobscot River is developing a reputation as an excellent smallmouth fishery. This hard fighter is brownish or bronze backed with dark vertical bars on its sides and a yellowish belly. While it can be taken trolling streamers or lures, the smallmouth is best cast to with flies or lures. It spends much of its time in the shallows until midsummer, when warm temperatures drive it to cooler surroundings near rock piles. At night, 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 (D): Now common in many southern lakes, the largemouth is best distinguished from its cousin by its upper lip (which extends behind the eye), its dark lateral line, and the greenish cast to its scales. Caught using the same methods and baits as the smallmouth, an average fish will run two to four pounds. The Kennebec River, North Pond, Cobbosseecontee and Winnegance lakes all produce big fish.

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

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

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

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.

In August 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 further south. Fall fishing begins earlier for the same reason.

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

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

This is a region loved by many anglers as it entails canoe trips into the wildlands. It taps the Allagash, St. John, and East and West Branch of the Penobscot, waters all known as canoeing waters *par excellence* throughout the world.

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

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

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

There are a few sporting camps in the region, and tenting out may be done at authorized campsites within the Allagash Wilderness Waterway or under the jurisdiction of the North Maine Woods, an organization of paper companies and other landowners headquartered in Ashland. (*For location, see section 2 of fishing map.*)

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

This magnificent region, dominated by Mount Katahdin, is one of the most ruggedly beautiful areas in the 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 Nesowadnehunk Lake and Stream, Chesuncook Lake, Kidney Pond, Daicy Pond, Millinocket Lake, Shin Pond, Togue Pond, and Katahdin Lake.

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



RICHARD V. PROCOPIO PHOTO

4 ➤ Grand Lakes and Schoodic

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

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

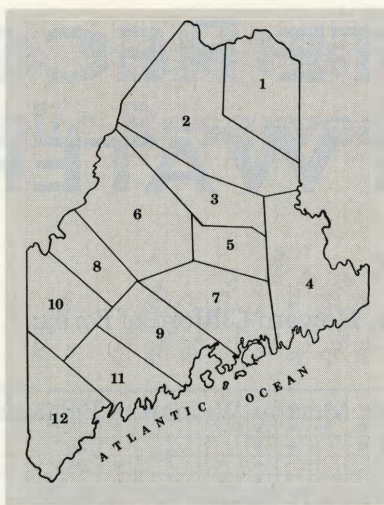
West Grand Lake is one of the original homes of the landlocked salmon and still offers good fishing for this species, as well as for smallmouthed bass and togue. Big Lake, the lake it empties into, is one of the best small-mouthed black bass waters in the world. Other waters in the area are Junior Lake,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

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

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

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

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



6 ➤ Moosehead-Jackman Region

(*Salmon, trout, togue*)

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

Some of the more familiar waters in the far-flung area are: Brassua Lake, Long Pond, Big Wood Pond, Attean, Holeb Pond, Misery Pond, Moxie Pond,

Lake Parlin, Lobster Lake, Ragged Lake, the Roach ponds, Lake Onawa, Sebec Lake, Indian Pond, Jo-Mary Lake, Seboeis Lake, and Sebasticook Lake. In addition, it contains hundreds of brooks, streams, and rivers, including the Moose River and the headwaters of the Kennebec and Penobscot rivers.

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

7 ➤ Bangor Region

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 ➤ Dead River Region (*Trout and salmon*)

In the northwest corner of the state, on the line of Benedict Arnold's historic march to Quebec, can be found

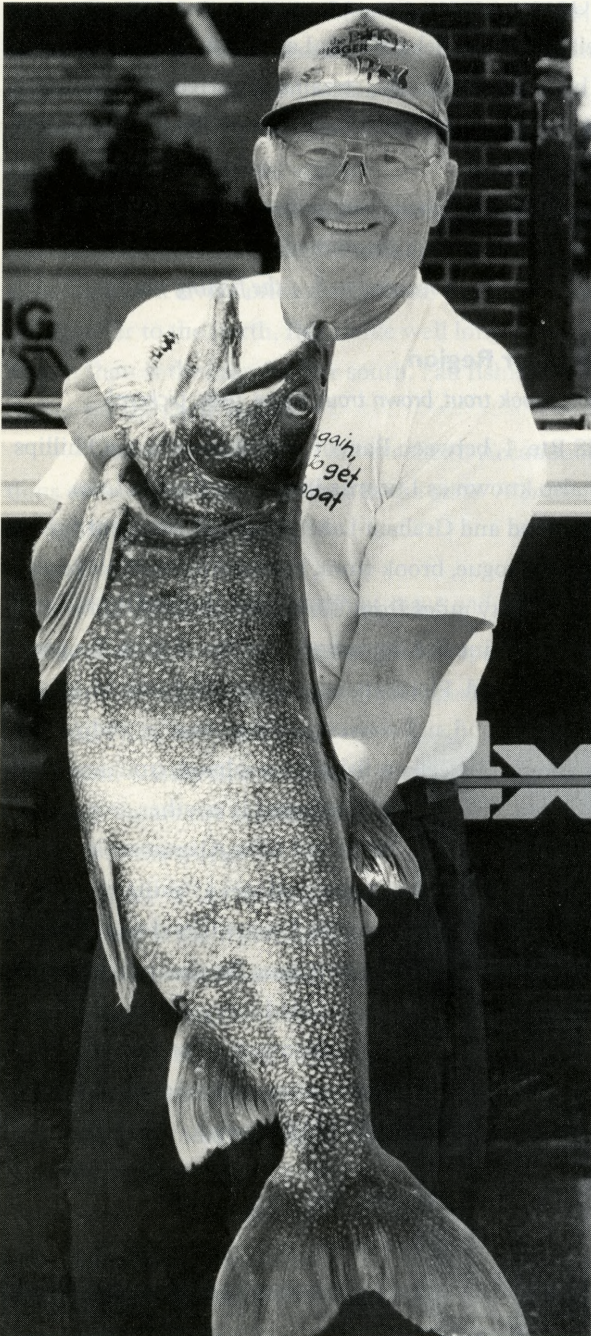
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STATE RECORD FRESH WATER FISH

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

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.

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, 4 ounces, Lance Geidel of Fairfield, June 1988, Baker Lake.

NORTHERN PIKE: 26.74 pounds, Rick Dodge of Union, February 12, 1989, Great Pond.

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

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

PHOTO COURTESY MAINE DEPT. OF INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

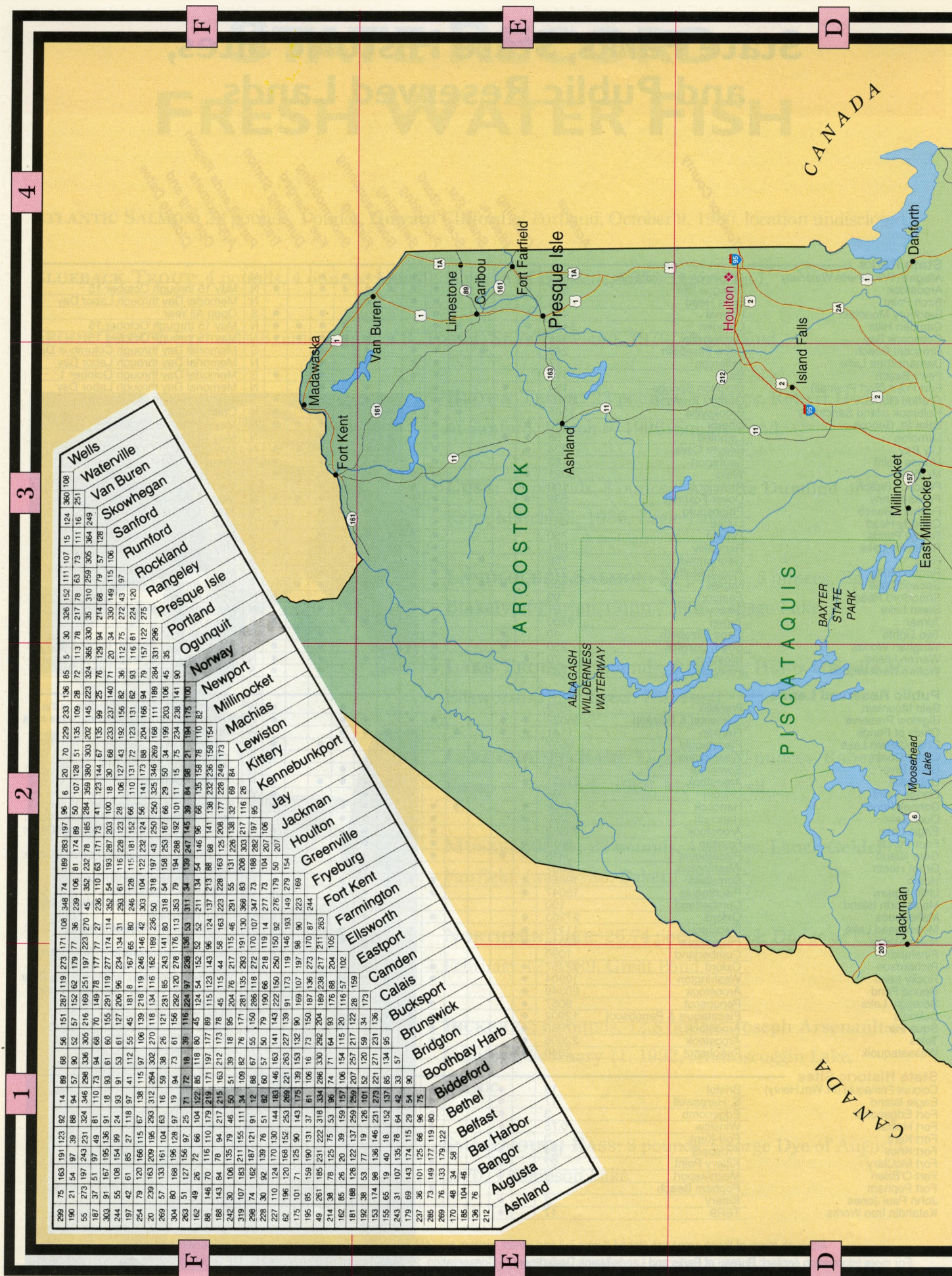
State Parks, State Historic Sites, and Public Reserved Lands

Town or County	Acreage	Camping	Historic	Snack Bar	Scenic Road	Picnicking	Swimming	Boat Launching	Fishing	Snowmobiling	Fee Charged	Dumping Station	Trails*	Park/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
Rangleley Lake	Rangleley	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/prkslands/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	•			•			•	•			S		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

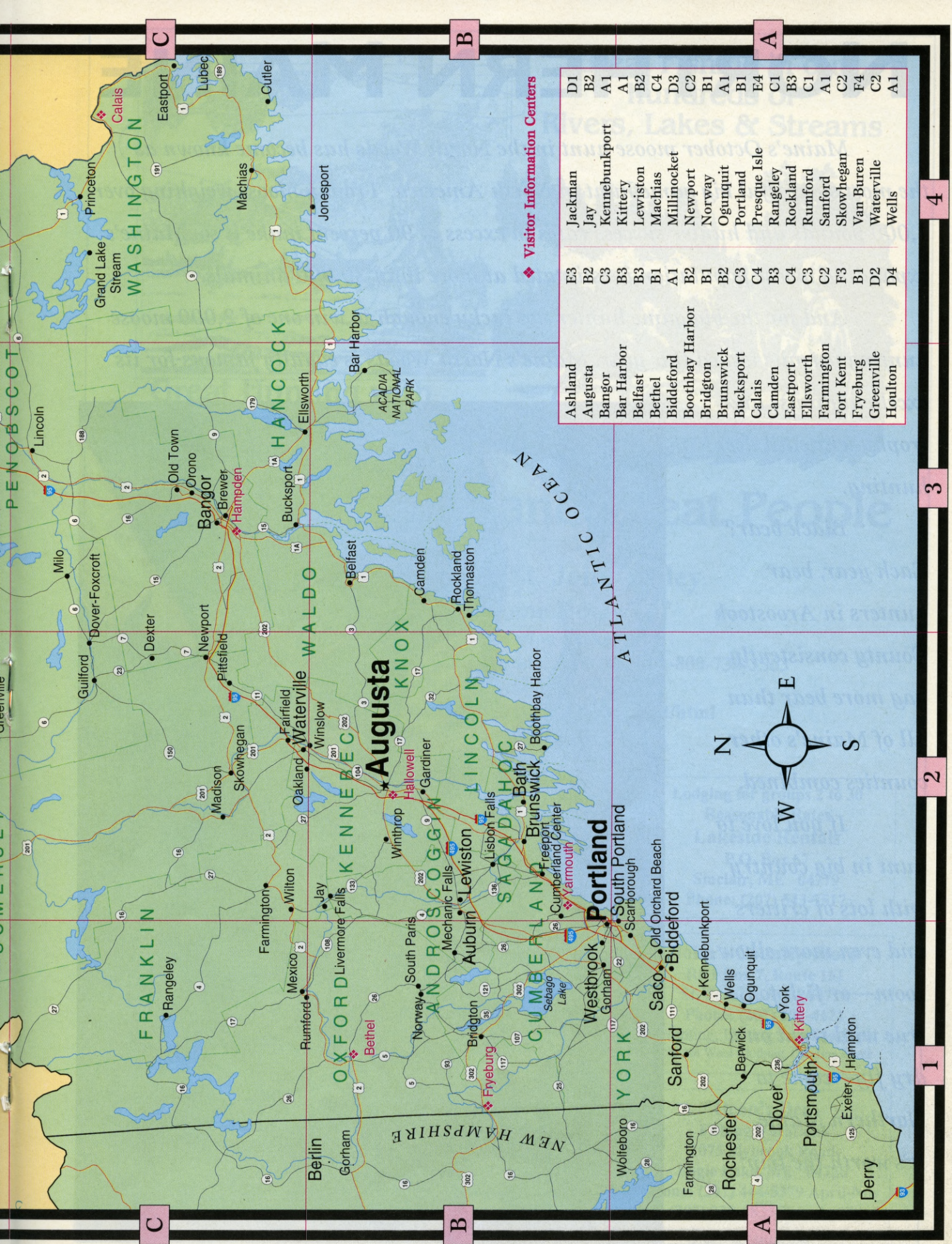
Although many of these areas are closed during fall and winter, visitors may still enjoy them by parking outside the gates and walking in.

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/dochoome.htm



299	75	163	191	123	92	14	89	68	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	34	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	684	346	298	336	305	216	169	251	197	233	270	45	352	232	78	185	284	359	380	303	202	145	223	345	330	35	310	259	305	364	249	Van Buren			
187	37	51	97	49	81	110	73	94	68	70	149	78	177	77	27	236	110	63	171	73	411	123	144	67	135	99	25	76	129	94	214	68	79	57	128	349	Sanford		
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	Rumford				
244	55	108	154	99	24	89	41	112	55	45	161	8	167	65	80	246	128	115	181	152	66	110	131	72	123	131	62	93	116	81	224	120	157	122	275	Rockland			
197	42	61	85	27	118	97	41	112	55	45	161	8	167	65	80	246	128	115	181	152	66	110	131	72	123	131	62	93	116	81	224	120	157	122	275	Rangeley			
234	79	120	168	115	67	138	115	97	106	139	218	119	246	146	42	303	104	122	232	124	56	141	173	88	204	166	94	79	157	122	275	157	122	275	Portland				
20	239	163	209	195	283	312	264	302	270	118	134	116	162	189	236	50	318	197	43	250	250	325	346	269	168	111	189	284	331	296	157	122	275	157	122	275	Presque Isle		
269	57	133	161	104	63	16	59	38	26	121	231	85	243	141	80	318	54	158	253	167	66	29	50	34	199	203	106	45	35	157	122	275	157	122	275	Ogunquit			
263	51	127	156	97	25	71	72	18	39	116	224	97	238	136	53	311	34	139	247	145	39	84	36	21	194	175	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	Norway		
162	49	26	72	66	104	122	85	118	80	45	124	54	152	52	211	134	54	146	95	66	135	158	78	110	82	136	232	236	158	154	136	232	236	158	154	Newport			
88	146	70	116	110	179	219	171	197	171	89	115	123	143	96	124	137	213	88	68	141	138	232	236	158	154	136	232	236	158	154	136	232	236	158	154	Millinocket			
242	30	106	135	79	46	50	51	39	18	95	204	76	217	115	46	291	55	131	226	136	32	69	84	173	188	262	197	95	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	Machias		
319	107	183	211	155	111	84	109	82	76	171	261	135	293	191	130	368	83	208	303	217	116	26	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	Kittery	
298	74	162	187	121	91	12	88	67	55	150	266	118	272	170	107	347	73	188	262	197	95	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	Kennebunkport	
228	30	92	139	76	51	82	60	57	50	79	190	66	218	191	14	277	73	104	207	106	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	Jay	
227	110	124	170	130	144	183	146	163	141	143	222	150	250	150	92	276	179	50	207	106	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	Jackman	
62	196	120	168	152	253	289	221	263	227	139	91	173	119	148	193	149	279	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	Houlton	
175	101	71	125	90	143	175	138	153	132	90	169	107	197	98	90	223	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	Greenville	
195	85	159	190	131	37	61	106	16	73	150	167	136	273	170	87	244	204	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	Fryeburg	
49	261	185	231	222	318	334	286	330	292	204	169	238	217	211	263	204	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	Fort Kent	
214	38	78	125	75	35	96	74	71	64	93	176	88	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	Greenville	
162	85	26	20	39	159	157	106	154	115	20	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	102	Greenville
181	188	126	122	137	259	259	207	257	217	122	28	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	Greenville
192	38	53	77	19	126	101	52	120	59	34	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	Greenville
153	174	98	136	146	231	273	221	271	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	136	Greenville
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	Greenville
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	Greenville
179	69	143	174	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	90	Greenville
237	36	101	125	66	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	Greenville
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	Greenville
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170	48	34	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	Greenville
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◆ Visitor Information Centers

Ashland	E3	Jackman	D1
Augusta	B2	Jay	B2
Bangor	C3	Kennebunkport	A1
Bar Harbor	B3	Kittery	A1
Belfast	B3	Lewiston	B2
Bethel	B1	Machias	C4
Biddeford	A1	Millinocket	D3
Boothbay Harbor	B2	Newport	C2
Bridgton	B1	Norway	B1
Brunswick	B2	Ogunquit	A1
Bucksport	C3	Portland	B1
Calais	C4	Presque Isle	E4
Camden	B3	Rangeley	C1
Eastport	C4	Rockland	B3
Ellsworth	C3	Rumford	C1
Farmington	C2	Sanford	A1
Fort Kent	F3	Skowhegan	C2
Fryeburg	B1	Van Buren	F4
Greenville	D2	Waterville	C2
Houlton	D4	Wells	A1

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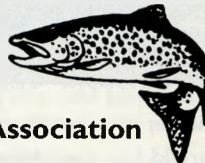
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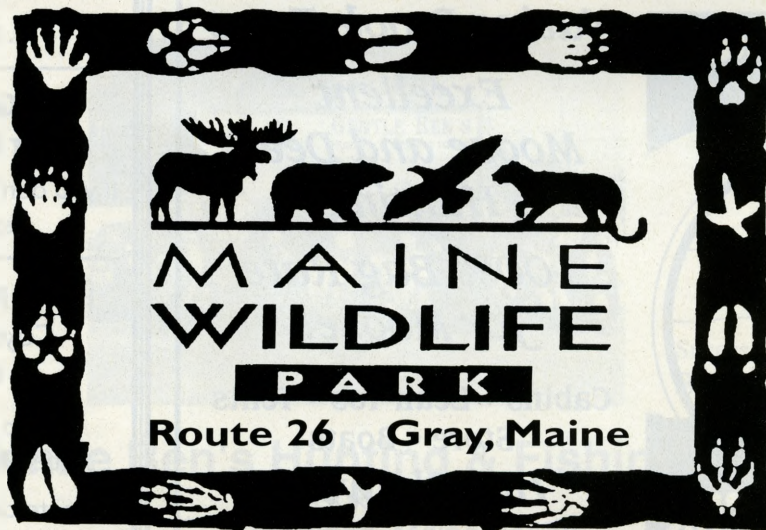


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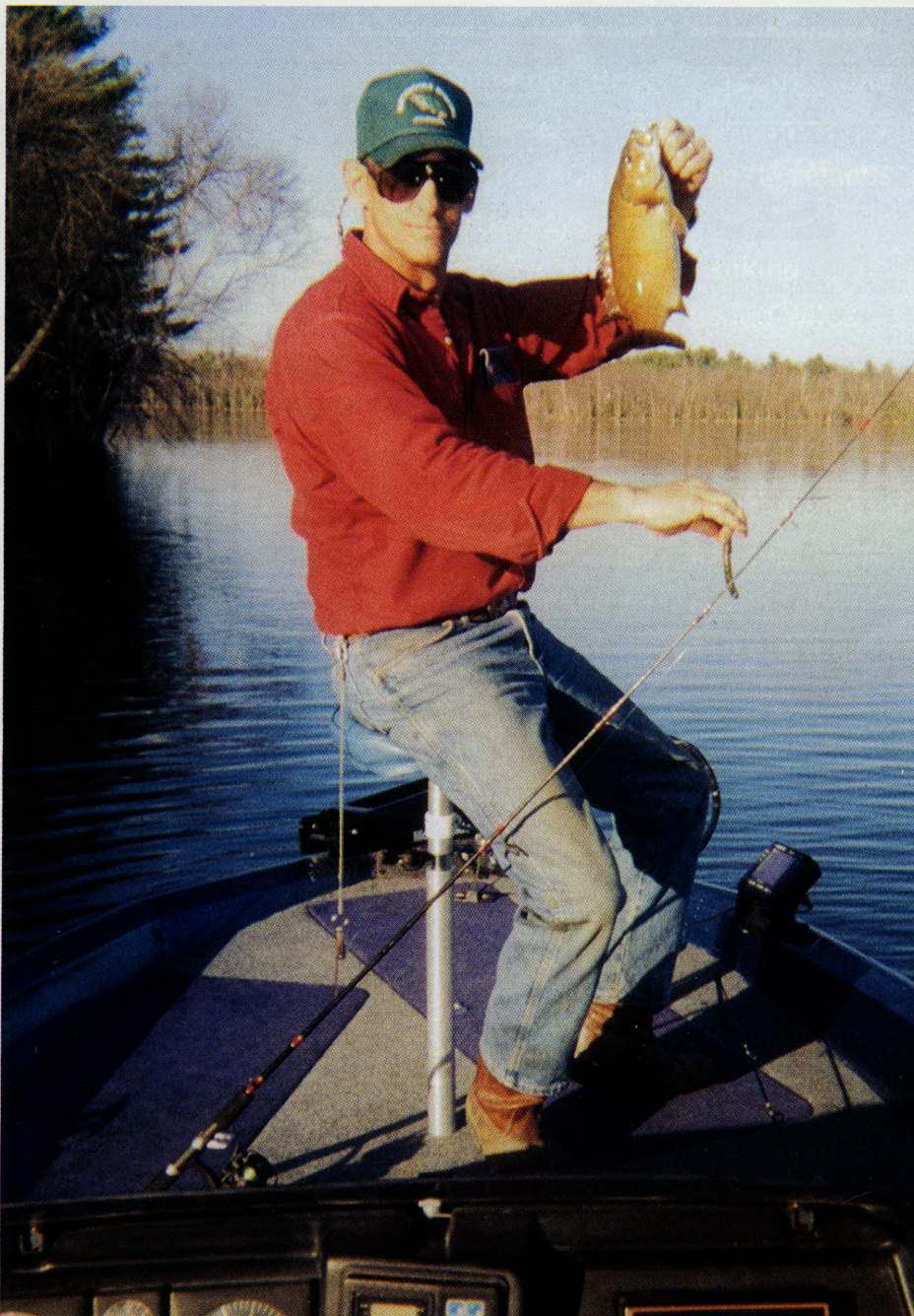
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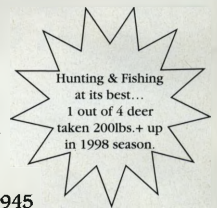
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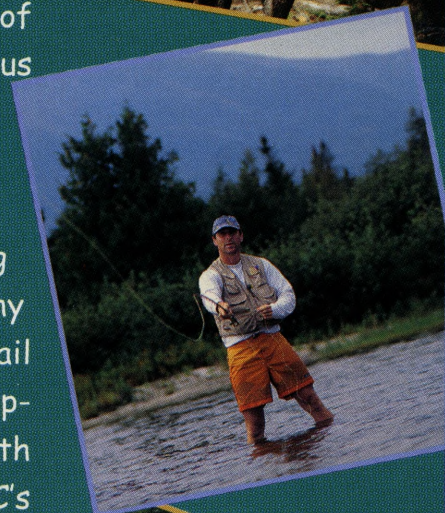
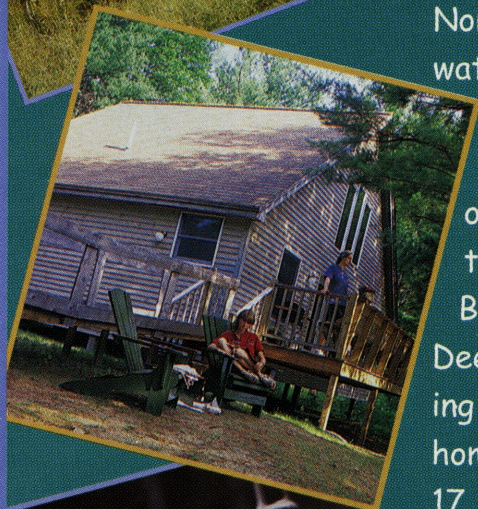
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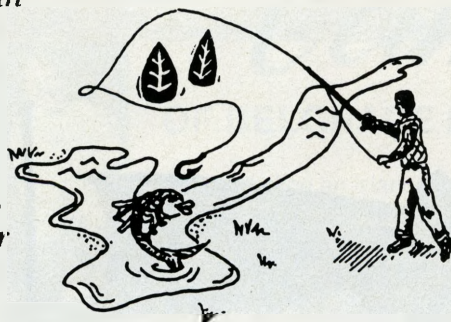
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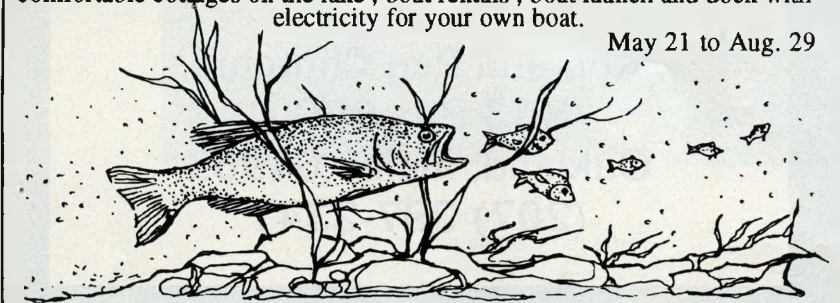
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**State of Maine
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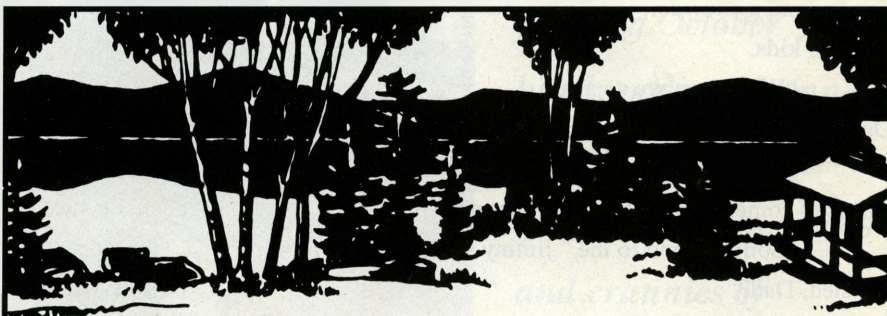
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After re-baiting the hook, they continue setting the rest of the traps. It isn't long before more flags flip into the air and more fish are iced. White perch and pickerel are numerous, and Bill elects to release most of the pickerel because perch fillets 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.

"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

* Always carry extra sounders, plenty of hooks in various sizes and waterproof matches.

* Power augers should be tuned up prior to the season. Carry several extra spark plugs, and gap them ahead of time. Most augers use a replaceable blade. Keep a spare wrapped to protect the sharp 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. ➤

V. PAUL REYNOLDS PHOTO



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BOB LEEMAN PHOTO

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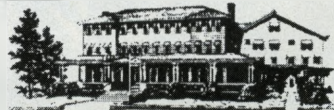
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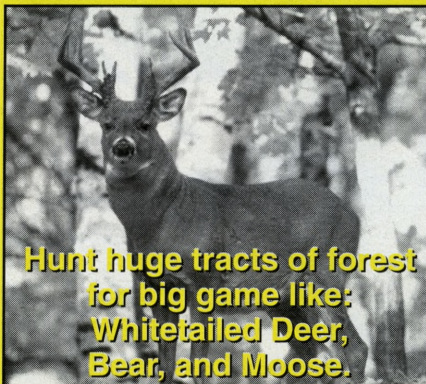
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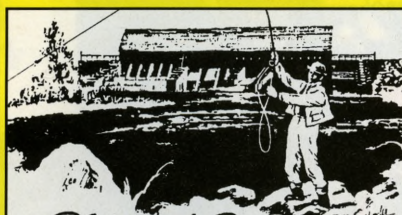
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V. PAUL REYNOLDS PHOTO



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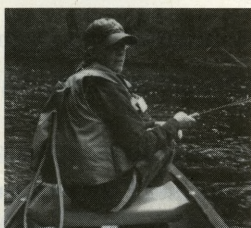
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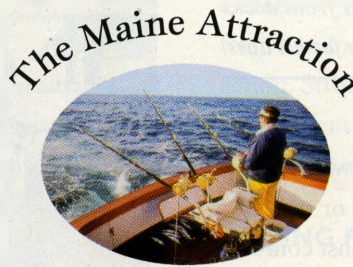
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SALT WATER FISHING

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BARRY GIBSON

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

One of the reasons Maine's coastal angling is so productive is that fishing pressure is much lighter here than it is in many other states, mainly because you won't find many glamor species such as sailfish and marlin.

Maine's best fishing, by and large, is for "meat and potatoes" varieties, although there are plenty of top-rated gamesters prowling the waters, many of record proportions.

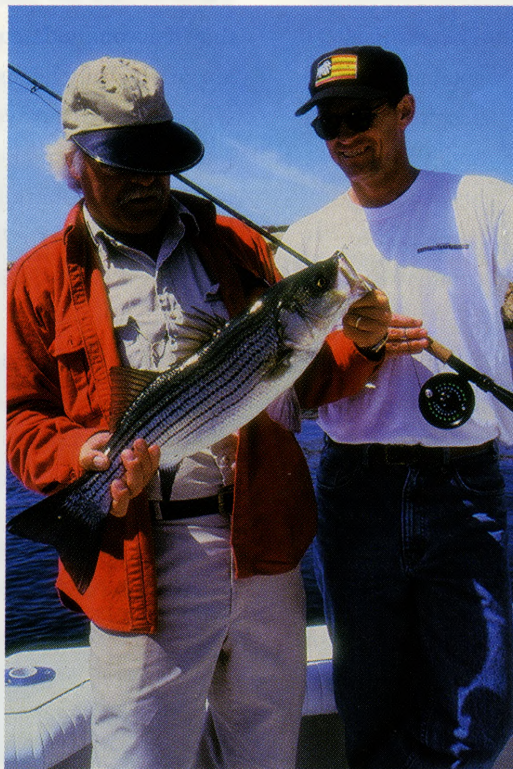
Opportunities for anglers can be broken down into three basic categories: deep-sea fishing on party or charter boats; inshore fishing on a private or rental boat; or fishing from shore. No license of any kind is needed to fish salt water.

DEEP SEA FISHING

Modern, well-equipped party and charter boats can be found in almost all the major harbors along the coast. Party boats, or "head boats" as they're sometimes called,

range from about 36 to 65 feet and can carry from 12 to 50 or more passengers. These vessels usually sail on a daily schedule (half- or full-day trips) from 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. 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.



Fly fishing for striped bass in the river systems and along the coast is one of Maine's fastest-growing sports, and lures anglers from all over the country.

Fishing for mackerel, small pollock and flounder from docks and piers can provide hours of fun for all ages.

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, except if caught in state waters.

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

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



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*, *bluefish* and *striped bass*. Many times the skipper will "mix up" the day for you, such as a morning of bottom or blue fishing and an afternoon of tuna or shark fishing, assuring customers plenty of fillets to take home. Charter boats are perfect for small groups, families, or more serious anglers, simply because there are no crowds—it's "your" boat for the day.

FISHING NEAR SHORE

Visiting anglers interested in fishing the near-shore waters for mackerel, flounder, bluefish or striped bass can rent a small outboard boat (in some areas) or trailer their own boat. Launch ramps are numerous, and local tackle stores



The *wolffish*, good eating despite its fierce appearance, is an incidental catch, as are *cunners*, winter

You never know what you'll haul up from the bottom 300 feet below when fishing from a party boat!

These are redfish, excellent table fare when filleted and pan-fried.

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 1999, 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 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 pogey (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.” ➤



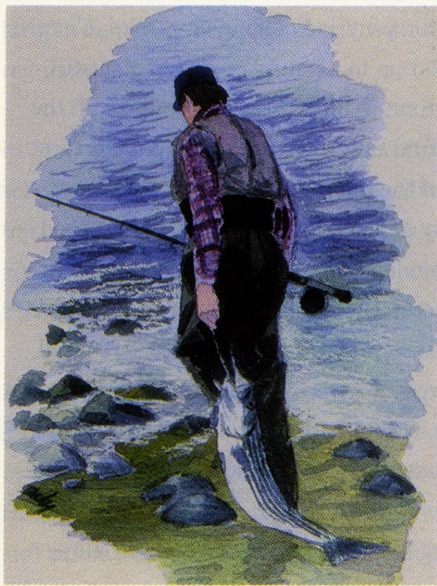
For big-game thrills, nothing beats trolling for giant bluefin tuna. These sluggers run from 200 to well over 800 pounds, and can take hours to fight and land, even on heavy tackle.

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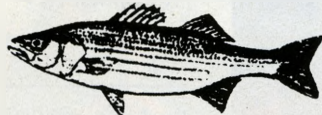
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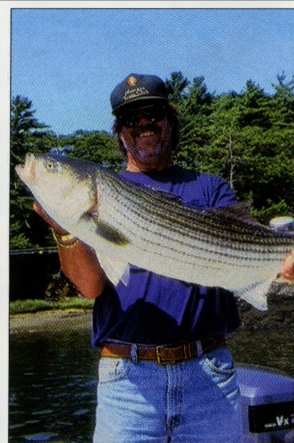
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STATE RECORD SALT WATER FISH

BLUEFISH: 20.32 pounds, Dick Rousseau of Orrs Island, July 26, 1990, Bailey Island.

BLUEFIN TUNA: 1,155 pounds, Percy Stevens, Jr., August 20, 1981, aboard *Bunny Clark* off Perkins Cove.

BLUE SHARK: 391 pounds, Ken Putnam of Casco, August 9, 1989, aboard *Sharks-R-Us* 20 miles southeast of Portland.

COD: 87.5 pounds, Doug Lindsay of Conway, NH, July 20, 1988, aboard *Sonny W.* near Bigelow Bight.

CUSK: 33 pounds, Montreal, July 4, 1986, aboard *Pegasus* 15 miles off Camp Ellis.

STRIPED BASS: 67 pounds, Douglas Dodge of South Bristol, September, 1987, Sheepscot River.

HADDOCK: 12 pounds, Chris Savarie of Schroon Lake, NY, September 12, 1991, aboard *Bunny Clark* off Perkins Cove.

HALIBUT: 215 pounds, Richard F. Hineman, August 14, 1995, Bailey Island.

MAKO SHARK: 724 pounds, Mark Chase of Gorham, August 15, 1992, 18 miles southeast of Portland.
(Length 10 feet, 3 inches, girth 69 inches.)

MAKO SHARK: (Harpoon): 915 pounds, Jim DuPont of Gardiner, September 5, 1992, 15 miles south of Bailey Island.

POLLOCK: 57 pounds, Stephen A. Dore of Augusta, August 30, 1996, aboard *Yellow Bird* out of Boothbay Harbor.

THRESHER SHARK: 385 pounds, Don Morse, June 7, 1989, aboard *Blue Zone*.

WINTER FLOUNDER: 4 pounds, 3 ounces, Liza Boughner, June 28, 1989, aboard *Bunny Clark* out of Perkins Cove.

WHITE HAKE: 58 pounds, Daniel Mark Davenport of Cobleskill, NY, July 6, 1988, aboard *Yellow Bird* out of Boothbay Harbor.

PORBEAGLE SHARK: 548 pounds, Wesley Hurst, Jr., July 22, 1995, Bailey Island.

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 a county away, this swamp-edge speedster will be abundant.

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

PREDATORS

This wary, intelligent predator offers a challenge unmatched by Maine game animals, so interest in coyote hunting has grown in Maine. A common tactic for coyotes begins on the edge of a field, frozen water, clear-cut, burn or power line where the hunter sits in a concealed position and uses a calling device, often simulating the cries of a dying rabbit. Other hunters use bait or a coyote decoy to attract this predator. A handful of hunters team up with dogs that chase coyotes, and this method proves highly successful. At the moment, coyote season runs all year, and from January 1 to April 30, it is legal to hunt this animal after dark within certain guidelines. 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 offers the best woodchuck hunting in the country. It is remote, has lots of woodchucks and virtually no posting signs, a varmint-hunter's paradise.

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. ➤

Maine Hunting and Fishing License Fees

(Prices do not include \$1.00 agent fee)

RESIDENT

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

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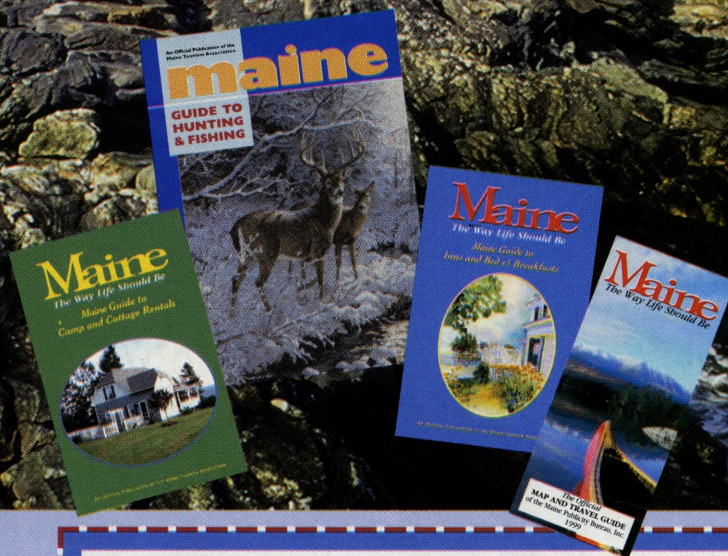
Big Game Hunting (16 and older)	125.00
Season Fishing (16 and older)	70.00
Combination Hunting and Fishing (10 and older)	176.00
Small Game Hunting (16 and older)	70.00
Archery Hunting (16 and older)	70.00
Muzzle-loading (10 and older)	58.00
Junior Hunt (10-15 years inclusive)	25.00

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.

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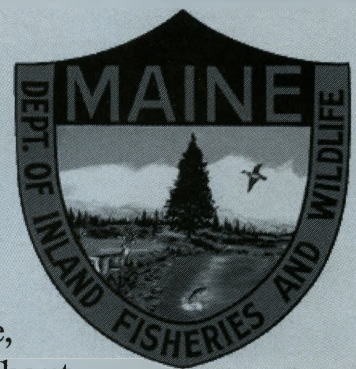
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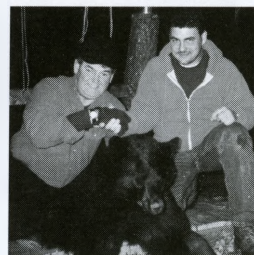
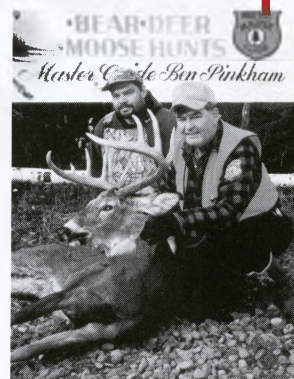
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