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The Maine Guide to Hunting and Fishing

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Thomas Hildreth
President

George Stobie
Director

97 Winthrop St.
Hallowell, ME 04347
207/289-2423

Editorial Director
Gretchen Piston Ogden

Design and Production
Faith Hague

Advertising Director
Wayne Hendsbee
207/289-2423

Advertising Sales
Stanley D. Catell
207/763-3875 (summer)
207/236-2287 (winter)

Advertising & Production Manager
Lisa M.W. Rodrigue

Publisher
India R. Howell

The Maine Guide to Hunting and Fishing is published annually by the Maine Publicity Bureau, Inc., a non-profit corporation for the promotion of Maine’s tourism industry.
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Salt Water Fishing

by Barry Gibson

Maine’s 3,000-or-so 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 a perfect habitat 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 glamour species such as marlin and sailfish. 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 visiting anglers can be broken down into three basic categories: deep-sea fishing on party boats, fishing by private 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 40 to 65 feet and can carry from 20 to 50 or more passengers. These vessels usually sail on a daily schedule (half- or full-day trips) from June to September, and 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. Weekend days can be particularly busy.

The main target for party boats is the wide variety of bottom fish that can be found from a mile or two from shore out to 20 miles or so. Cod are the most common catch, and range from a few pounds all the way up to the occasional 70-pounder.

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 15 to 35 pounds when encountered in the open ocean.

The haddock, which generally runs from 2 to 10 pounds, is the perennial party boat prize, primarily for its unsurpassed table qualities. They’re easily identified by their single, dark lateral stripe and oversized eye.

Other species commonly taken include the cusk, a muscular dweller of rocky bottoms weighing 5 to 15 pounds. This fish makes an excellent ingredient for a good old-fashioned New England fish chowder. Hake, another tasty species, are occasionally taken in excess of 30 pounds. The wolffish, despite its fierce appearance, is an occasional catch as are cunner, winter flounder, a variety of sculpins and sea robins, 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 sometimes weigh in excess of 200 pounds.

Party boats furnish each customer with a rod and reel, bait or chromeplated jig — and plenty of good advice. Deckhands will cheerfully instruct you as to the best techniques and 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 $25 to $35 per person for a full day, and $15 to $20 for a half day aboard most boats.

Charter boats are also available in most harbors. These vessels are usually 24 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) and accessories. Charter boats, besides going after all the bottom fish, also frequently pursue giant tuna (to 1,000 lbs.), sharks, bluefish and other game species that party boats aren’t equipped to handle. Many times the skipper will “mix up” the day for you, providing a morning of bottom or bluefishing, and an afternoon of tuna or shark fishing, assuring customers of 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 a day.

**Fishing Near Shore**

Visiting anglers interested in fishing the near-shore waters for mackerel, flounder, bluefish, striped bass and others can rent a small outboard (in some areas) or trailer their own boats. Launch ramps are numerous, and local tackle stores and marinas can provide fuel, charts (a must), bait and advice on where to try your luck.
Mackerel are extremely popular among small-boaters, and can be caught from May through September on tiny chrome jigs or by trolling multi-hooked “mackerel trees” available in most hardware, tackle or marine supply stores. These fish average a pound or so in weight, are scrappy fighters, and are delicious when split and pan-fried, or grilled over an open fire.

Bluefish are one of Maine’s true gamesters from late June through September, and they’ll normally run from 8 to 20 pounds. Most anglers troll plugs rigged on short wire leaders for these toothy critters — when a fish hits he’ll often jump repeatedly before you can work him to boatside.

The striped bass is another fine gamester, most often taken near river mouths or up into the rivers themselves. These fish are wary and can be finicky, but you can do well on trolled spoons, plugs, or live or cut bait. Most fish taken are “schoolies” of 2 to 5 pounds, but 50-pounders are also taken each year. Be advised that Maine now has a law against keeping more than four stripers under 24” in length (and they must also be over 18”) per person per day.

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 the myriad of smaller species that live close to shore. Cunners (often called bergalls) up to a pound or so are commonly taken, and if you take the time to clean 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 easy to catch, but they’re not very good eating so it’s best to release them unharmed. Flounders, sculpins, small “tinker” mackerel and others oblige anglers of all ages. The best rig is a small hook tied 6” above a light sinker and baited with a piece of seaworm or clam, although the meat of a periwinkle or mussel will often do 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 fresh mackerel or pogy (menhaden). Bluefish muscle in on the act, often in daytime, and can be taken on plugs or lures as well as bait. Bring a pair of waders and a rugged surfcasting outfit from 9 to 12 feet loaded with 20- or 30-pound line. Local tackle shops can supply bait, equipment and up-to-the minute information on current “hot spots.”

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These rates include boat.

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Accommodations are for to six persons per cottage and rates are:

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<td>Single Occupancy</td>
<td>$38.00</td>
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<td>Double Occupancy</td>
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<td>Children, 1-2 yrs.</td>
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<td>3-5 yrs.</td>
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<td>11 to and including 12 yrs.</td>
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All rates, plus sales tax are per person and include cottage and all meals.

Reservations necessary — Deposit of $25.00 per person when confirmed.

We will do everything possible to make your stay a vacation long to be remembered.

For further information or reservations, please write or call:

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Winter address: (Oct. thru Mid-April)

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“Plan to diet some other time”
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 Fish & Wildlife, 284 State St., Station #41, Augusta, ME 04330. 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 lodgings 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 205, Medway, ME 04400.

If you want to camp during your stay, there are dozens of private campgrounds, several state parks, and scores of free campsites maintained by the Maine Forest Service on the state’s lakes and ponds.

If you plan a trip to northern Maine, be advised that that great roadless “wilderness” that appears on road maps is neither roadless nor a real wilderness. Rather, it is a vast forest farm, laced with gravel roads, lumber camps, and road gates. Much of this country is available for public use, but be prepared for questions about your travel plans and to pay modest gate fees at checkpoints throughout this domain. For further information, write North Maine Woods, PO Box 382, Ashland, ME 04732.

Elsewhere in the state, most shoreland and woods are privately owned. Though some of this land is posted against trespassing, much is not. The Maine Department of Fisheries & Wildlife advises: “It is unlawful to trespass on private property after having been advised not to do so by the property owner either by word of mouth or by conspicuously posted signs. The department encourages sportsmen to seek owner permission before entering upon private property.” Good advice for all of us to follow, if we want Maine’s extensive private lands to remain open to the public for hunting and fishing.
Blessed with a wealth of lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers of high quality and productivity, Maine offers a myriad of angling opportunities for fishermen of all skills. The key to successful fishing here is the same as it would be anywhere — a basic knowledge of when, where, and how to go after the species in question. Of course, a generous dollop of that elusive fisherman's luck is needed as well.

The actions of fish, including their all-important desire to feed, are triggered by temperature and time of day. For example, you could catch a prize landlocked salmon near the surface of Moosehead Lake at noon on a calm, sunny day in August, but the chances of catching a trophy are many times greater if you are trolling a streamer fly on a windy, overcast morning in mid May. By contrast, the powerful smallmouth bass may be smashing surface plugs on eastern Maine’s West Grand Lake on that same hot August day, but be sulking in the depths during those chilly weeks when salmon are most active. In brief, not all fish act alike. Herewith, a general guide to Maine’s species.

The state has basically two kinds of fish: those that survive best in waters that are cold all year, and those that prefer the warmer, often shallower waters on the southern lakes. There is, of course, some overlap where warm-water and cold-water species intermingle, but generally there's a sharp division between the two. You will do best by fishing for one kind or the other. As a rule, you’ll find warm-water lakes and their particular species in a band that reaches from the coast back about 100 miles. Both warm- and cold-water lakes are in the next 50-mile-wide band, while the northern half of the state has mainly cold-water lakes. The lakes that harbor both warm- and cold-water species will have the cold-water fish near their surface in spring and fall, and in the cold depths during summer. In the warm months, the warm-water species can be found in the shallows and medium depths. A note of interest: fall fishing for cold-water
species is much more chancy than spring fishing. A warm September means that the fish will stay in the depths throughout the month, and all fishing for cold-water species closes on September 30. Luckily, many southern Maine lakes remain open for warm-water angling until the end of October, check the rule book for specifics.

Fishing methods vary with the waters and the species, but a few time-tested methods include:

**Trolling:** Here the bait or lure is trailed behind a moving boat, sometimes on the surface, sometimes at great depth. An effective and simple rig, good when fish are near the surface, is an open-faced spinning reel loaded with eight- or 10-pound test line and a light fiberglass spinning rod of six to seven feet in length. A tiny swivel is tied to the line to prevent twist (some anglers also use a small plastic or aluminum rudder) and a streamer fly or small lure of gold, silver, or copper is attached and trailed about 25 yards behind the boat. A similar setup, using a medium-weight fly rod and reel with level sinking line, 10- or 15-foot, eight-pound test leader, and a streamer fly or lure is equally adequate. These lightweight rigs are used for brook trout and salmon in spring and fall and for bass and pickerel in summer. The light rods assure the most action from the fish.

**Togue (lake trout), salmon, and brook trout are taken with deep gear in summer by fishermen using trolling rods, lead-core or wire lines, and flashing lures or live bait. Unfortunately, the extra weight needed to get the lure down to the proper depth may dampen the action of a hooked fish. An in-between rig that preserves that action and will take cold-water fish much of the season is a light trolling rod, equipped with an ordinary fly reel on which five colors of lead-core line are spooled. Used with a long (20 or 30 feet) leader and ample backing, this will take the lure down several feet. This setup works well on salmon and brook trout in summer and will often score on togue.**

**Casting:** The casting of lures and bait is done with spin-cast, open-faced spinning, or conventional gear. Some anglers cast for trout and salmon along a shoreline in spring, but the method is more effective when small- and large-mouth bass are in the shallows, and for catching pickerel. Surface plugs, swimming lures, and live bait may be used on the “business end”. An effective technique for early-season landlocked salmon is to use this gear to drift a live smelt over known hot-spots.

**Fly Casting:** This classic method for catching trout and salmon calls for a fair amount of skill, knowledge of fish habitat, and an ability to read the waters being fished.

**Bobber Fishing:** Similar to casting, this is one of the least expensive and simplest ways to catch many warm- and cold-water species. Needed is a rod, simple reel and line, a plastic or cork bobber, hooks, a few feet of monofilament leader, and perhaps a few lead sinkers. An angleworm or night crawler is threaded onto the hook, the bobber is attached to the line to hold the hook at the desired depth, and the cast is made. Once the bobber bobs, the rod is lifted to set the hook and the catch is reeled in. This rig has been known to bring in much sought-after trout, salmon, and bass as well as sunfish and perch.

Maine's Department of Fish & Wildlife manages the fisheries in the state's seven regions. They are happy to supply information on where to find particular species within those regions, 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 of these surveys is available from the department at 284 State St., Station #41, Augusta, ME 04330.

Following is a list of Maine's principal freshwater species, together with brief information on how, where, and when they can be caught. 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. The letters designate Easy (E), Difficult (D), and Hard (H).

**Cold-Water Species**

**Brook Trout (D):** Abundant in clean, cold brooks and streams, and growing to large sizes in some ponds and lakes (where they are called squaretails), brook trout are lovely fish. 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 waters), most run between six and 12 inches long. A two-and one-half pound brookie is a big fish, one over four pounds is considered a trophy. 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 lures are good examples) that are used when trolling. Brookies are most abundant from the middle of the state north, and run to large sizes in the Rangeley lakes, Moosehead Lake, Pierce Pond, and the Roach River.

**Brown Trout (H):** Tougher to catch than brook or rainbow trout, browns are the choice for those experienced anglers seeking a challenge. Occasional to common in some of the colder lakes and streams (in the band extending 100 miles back from the coast), 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 like the Rebel and the Rapala are effective.

**Landlocked Salmon (D):** This close relative to the Atlantic salmon runs smaller than its ocean brother but is otherwise the same fish. It is common in most of Maine's large lakes, but is notoriously unpredictable in its feeding habits. 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. All seven fish that qualified for Maine's "One That Didn't Get Away" club in 1984 came from Rangeley Lake, but big fish are also common in eastern Maine's East Grand Lake, the Fish River lakes in Aroostook County, Sebago Lake, and Grand Lake Stream. Legal minimum length is 14 inches, average weight is between one and three pounds. A fish of five pounds or more is a trophy.

**Atlantic Salmon (H):** One of the successful conservation stories of recent times is Maine's effort to resuscitate its Atlantic Salmon fishery. The prize exhibit in this program is the Penobscot River, once polluted and barren, but today one of the most prolific of salmon streams. Fishing on it was once confined to the famous Bangor Salmon Pool, but is now carried on successfully over several miles of the river. Elsewhere, Maine's traditional salmon rivers — the Dennys, Pleasant, Machias and East Machias, Narraguagus, Ducktrap, and Sheepscot — produce fish each year. A special license is needed in addition to
the regular state fishing license, and only fly fishing is allowed.

**Togue (H):** Known also as lake trout, this fish is usually brownish on the back with pale white spots on the sides and a silver or silvery yellow belly. Its sharply forked tail helps anglers differentiate between it and salmon and brown trout. Partial to deep water (though occasionally taken near the surface in spring), togue run larger than most Maine game fish — as large as 20 pounds. Successful togue fishermen are masters of deep trolling techniques, and use streamer flies, lures, and live bait like suckers and smelt. Common in deep, cold lakes (Tunk, East Grand, Moosehead, Chamberlain), togue are one of the most popular targets of ice fishermen. Minimum length is 18 inches, and three pounds is an average size.

**Warm-Water Species**

**Smallmouth Bass (D):** Maine is famous for its smallmouth waters, especially in the 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. This hard fighter is brownish or bronze backed with dark vertical bars on its sides and a yellowish belly. While it can be taken trolling streamers or lures, the smallmouth is best cast to with flies or lures. It spends much of its time in the shallows until midsummer, when warm temperatures drive it to cooler surroundings near rock piles. At night, bass often move into the shallows, however, and will strike surface lures after dark. The types of bass lures are legion, but those resembling minnows and frogs are reliable here.

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

**Pickerel (E):** These long, lean battlers with the “alligator” mouths are common to most warm-water ponds, inhabiting the shallows nearly all year round. They are caught with live bait, bits of red cloth skittered across the lily pads, lures, and artificial flies. Surface plugs used for bass (Flatfish and Jitterbug) are equally effective on pickerel. A smashing strike by a three-pounder on the placid surface of a pond is enough to give anyone the shakes. There are no length restrictions on pickerel, but 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, especially if one finds a school of them. 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. Scorned by many, but delicious in the pan, these fighting rascals offer the serious fisherman an excellent chance to practice on willing targets.
1985 FISHING LICENSE FEES
(Prices include the $1. agent fee, if any.)

Resident

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FISHING (16 and older)</td>
<td>$14.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMBINATION FISHING &amp; HUNTING</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUPERSPORT**</td>
<td>34.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMBINATION FISHING &amp; ARCHERY</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-DAY FISHING*</td>
<td>16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SERVICEMAN (resident) COMBINATION</td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUIDE (allows fishing &amp; hunting)</td>
<td>38.00</td>
</tr>
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</table>

(*3-day fishing license may be exchanged by a Maine resident for a season fishing license upon payment of the agent’s fee.)

(**Supersport license: A combination fishing and hunting license which allows an individual to make a financial contribution toward the management of fish and wildlife over and above the normal license fee.)

Nonresident

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEASON FISHING (16 and older)</td>
<td>41.00</td>
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<td>COMBINATION FISHING &amp; HUNTING</td>
<td>104.00</td>
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<td>15-DAY FISHING**</td>
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<td>3-DAY FISHING</td>
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<td>JUNIOR FISHING (12-15 years)</td>
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<td>GUIDE (allows fishing &amp; hunting)</td>
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<td>ALIEN SEASON FISHING (16 and older)</td>
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<td>ALIEN COMBINATION FISHING &amp; HUNTING</td>
<td>157.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALIEN GUIDE (allows fishing &amp; hunting)</td>
<td>165.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(**Nonresident 15-day fishing license may be exchanged for a nonresident season fishing license upon payment of $12. plus the agent’s fee.)

EXPIRATION OF LICENSES

Unless otherwise specifically provided, all licenses expire on December 31st of the calendar year for which they were issued.

DUPLICATE LICENSES

A duplicate license will be issued, upon payment of $1. to any person who has accidentally lost or destroyed his original fishing license. **RESIDENTS** must obtain duplicate licenses from the clerk who issued the original license. **NONRESIDENTS** must obtain duplicate licenses from the Department office in Augusta.
Hunting for Game—Big and Small

by David R. Getchell, Sr.

Big Game

The outlook for large animal hunting in Maine for 1985 and 1986 can only be called excellent. Stocks of black bear and moose are high, and deer numbers are rebounding under a stringent management program which has been helped by the state's recent mild winters.

The 1985 deer season will run from November 4 through 30, with November 2 being set aside for Maine residents only. In addition, there will be a special archery season from October 1 to November 1, as well as a special muzzleloader season from December 2 to 7.

The bucks-only law, instituted two seasons ago to help rebuild the state deer herd, will be statewide this year except for the last week of the season (November 24 through 30) in the Central and Northern districts (see map, page 34).

1984 saw a legal kill of 19,358 deer, 7,105 in the Northern District and 12,253 in the Southern. The more open country of the southern half of the state favors deer growth, with some of the best hunting to be found in the coastal counties. However, widespread logging in the north is improving deer habitats.

Research has shown that bear numbers are much higher than was previously believed, with the total population in excess of 18,000. The 1985 season begins September 1 and ends November 30. In 1984, more than 1,600 bear were taken — the majority of which were trapped or shot in the northern part of Maine. Baiting techniques account for most animals taken in the first half of the season, while deer hunters take many bear in November.

The moose season has been set for the week of October 21-26 after public hearings revealed that most hunters favored a later season. Maine moose are hunted under a permit system based on a lottery conducted each spring. Nine hundred permits go to Maine residents and 100 to nonresident hunters. Despite the long odds, some 10,000 out-of-state hopefuls participate in the lottery each year hoping to get the privilege to hunt the state's largest animal. Recent counts have shown that the northern Maine moose population of more than 18,000 works out to a density of three animals per square mile — among the highest in North America.

Small Game

Rabbits, gray squirrels, raccoons, and other small game flourish in the state's fields and forests, but hunting for them is quite light. This is good news for the small-game hunter, for it means little competition during the relatively
long seasons (as much as six months for cottontail rabbits and snowshoe hares).

Rabbits and raccoons are found statewide; the former are common in the hedgerows and softwood growth in the south, and in the evergreen thickets in the north country. Raccoons are one of only two Maine animals that can be hunted at night, the other being the coyote. A special night season has been set for coyotes in January, February, and March, check the rulebook for details. Otherwise, there is no closed season on coyotes.

A two-month season on gray squirrels provides plenty of opportunity for hunters seeking these elusive animals. Grays are plentiful in the hardwood forests of southern Maine, especially in stands of beech and oak. Note that it is strictly illegal to hunt squirrels in parks, or the built-up areas of towns and cities.

Woodchucks, porcupines, and red squirrels may be hunted year round.

**Birds and Ducks**

Partridge (ruffed grouse) and woodcock are the principal upland gamebirds in Maine. There are a few pheasants in the southern part of the state, however, and there is a possibility that a wild turkey season will be held in the near future.

Grouse-hunting methods differ considerably between the northern and southern areas. The traditional method, shooting over a dog, is most commonly used in the south. By contrast, most partridge taken in the north are found by hunters walking the woods roads. Most drive along these roads until birds are spotted, then get out of their vehicle, load up, and hunt the area on foot. State
law (and common sense) rules against carrying a loaded gun in a vehicle, and it is always illegal to actually hunt from a vehicle or from a paved road. Sunday hunting is also forbidden in Maine.

Woodcock are considered migratory birds, and thus come under both federal and state jurisdiction. Their season usually opens at the same time as the state’s season for grouse and pheasant (October 1 to November 30). Pheasants are no longer common in Maine, and a special stamp is required should you wish to hunt for them.

Duck-hunting seasons are also based on federal and state regulations. The special rulebook pertaining to species and seasons is issued in September. A state duck stamp and a federal one, in addition to the regular state hunting license, are required.

The black duck situation remains very critical in the northeast, so hunting for this popular duck is strictly limited. Wood duck have taken on some of the pressure which used to be on the black duck, but Maine populations in general are down. Many hunters are thus turning away from marsh ducks and concentrating instead on Canadian geese and sea ducks, both of which are in good supply. Seasons for both are long and limits are quite liberal. However, hunting for both types of birds requires special techniques. Anyone seeking good sport their first time out should take along a Maine Guide or an experienced friend.
1985 MAINE HUNTING LICENSE FEES

Resident

HUNTING (16 and older) .................................................. $ 13.00
COMBINATION HUNTING AND FISHING (16 and older) .... 24.00
SUPERSPORT ............................................................................. 34.00
JUNIOR HUNTING (10 to 15 years inclusive) .................. 3.00
COMBINATION FISHING AND ARCHERY HUNTING(16 and older) .................................................. 24.00
SERVICEMAN COMBINATION HUNTING AND FISHING . 11.00
ARCHERY HUNTING (16 and older) ................................. 13.00
MUZZLELOADING HUNTING .................................................. 7.00

Nonresident Citizen

BIG GAME HUNTING (10 and older) .................................... 75.00
COMBINATION HUNTING AND FISHING (16 and older) . 103.00
SMALL GAME HUNTING (16 and older) ............................. 45.00
JUNIOR SMALL GAME HUNTING (10 to 15 years inclusive) . 23.00
ARCHERY HUNTING (16 and older) ................................. 45.00
MUZZLELOADING HUNTING .................................................. 25.00

Nonresident Alien

BIG GAME HUNTING (10 and older) .................................... 115.00
COMBINATION HUNTING AND FISHING (10 and older) . 156.00
SMALL GAME HUNTING (10 and older) ............................. 60.00
ARCHERY HUNTING (16 and older) ................................. 60.00
MUZZLELOADING HUNTING .................................................. 50.00

MAINE 1985 BIG GAME HUNTING SEASON

Statewide firearms season on deer
Maine residents only: Saturday, Nov. 2
All hunters: Nov. 4 – Nov. 30

Antlerless deer restrictions
Only deer with minimum antler length of three (3) inches may be taken as follows (all district lines same as last year):
1. Eastern and Western Districts: entire firearms season, including residents-only day.
2. Central and Northern Districts: first three weeks of season, including residents-only day. Either-sex hunting from Nov. 25-30.

Special archery season on deer
Oct. 1 – Nov. 1 statewide

Special muzzleloader season on deer
Dec. 2 – Dec. 7 statewide. Antlerless restrictions to be announced.
Note: The annual limit on deer is one per hunter, regardless of season or means of taking.

Bear season
Sept. 2 – Nov. 30 statewide

Moose season
Oct. 21 – Oct. 26, by permit only.

HUNTING LAW BOOKS: Available in September
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