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Brief Summary of the General Fish & Game Laws

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game

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Brief Summary
of the
General Fish & Game Laws

as amended by 1927 Legislature

which became effective

July 16, 1927

**Issued by
Department of Inland Fisheries and Game
Augusta, Maine**

BRIEF SUMMARY OF GENERAL MAINE FISH AND GAME LAWS

**as amended by 1927 Legislature
which became effective July 16, 1927**

BIG GAME

Caribou and moose protected at all times.

BEAR

No close season—in territory open to hunting.

DEER

In eight southern counties, Androscoggin, Kennebec, Waldo, Lincoln, Knox, Sagadahoc, Cumberland and York, open season November only.

In the northern counties, Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Franklin, Oxford, open season Oct. 16th to Nov. 30th. Washington and Hancock counties open season Nov. 1 to Dec. 15, inclusive but a non-resident must have \$15.00 non-resident hunting license in order to hunt birds after Oct. 16th in these two counties.

LIMIT ON DEER

Yearly limit one deer only to one person (no restriction as to sex). Consult latest law book for list of territory closed to hunting, transportation law, etc.)

Deer cannot be sold or given away, bought or accepted as a gift to be taken or shipped out of Maine.

A resident of Maine cannot carry or transport any deer out of the state.

FUR-BEARING ANIMALS

No closed season on the following fur-bearing animals—bears, bobcats, loup cervier, Canada lynx and weasels,—(except in territory closed to all hunting).

Beaver: No open season except when declared by Commissioner upon complaint of land owners of actual damage done to their property. Trappers, however, must procure \$25 beaver trapping license, in addition to regular hunting license, to trap on territory thus opened. Beaver skins must be sealed by Commissioner or his agent before transportation or traffic is legal.

Muskrat: Open season in Androscoggin, Cumberland, York, Sagadahoc, Kennebec, Lincoln, Waldo and Knox, Dec. 1st to Apr. 30th inclusive.

Open season on muskrat in Washington, Hancock, Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Franklin, Somerset, and Oxford, Nov. 1st to May 14th, inclusive.

Fox: Open season Oct. 16th to Feb. 14th, inclusive, in Aroostook, Penobscot, Washington, Hancock, Piscataquis, Somerset, Franklin and Oxford.

Open season on foxes in eight southern counties, Androscoggin, Cumberland, York, Sagadahoc, Kennebec, Lincoln, Waldo and Knox, Nov. 1st to Feb. 14th, inclusive.

(Digging out of fox dens prohibited at all times in all counties.)

Nov. 1st to Feb. 14th, inclusive, is open season on all other fur bearing animals, (which includes among others, raccoons and skunks) in all counties (in territory open to hunting, trapping and governed by the general trapping laws).

(Consult 1927-28 edition of Inland Fisheries and Game Laws for Special Laws on Fur-Bearing Animals.)

Rabbits: Open season, October, November, December, January and February, in Androscoggin, Saga-

dahoc and York counties; open season in the remaining counties, October, November, December, January, February and March.

Dead rabbits cannot be shipped or taken out of state, except a licensed non-resident who has legally killed rabbits in open season may transport same to his home under his hunting license.

Grey Squirrels: Open season, October; perpetual closed season, however, in all public and private parks, and within the limits of the compact or built-up portion of any city or village.

SUNDAY AND NIGHT HUNTING

All Sunday and night hunting prohibited, (except night hunting for skunks and raccoons, with dog and gun is legal from Oct. 1st of each year to Dec. 15th following, both days inclusive, in certain counties).

Hunting with automobile or jack light illegal. Unlawful to carry loaded rifle or shotgun in an automobile, or cartridge in magazine thereof.

GAME BIRDS

Partridge and Woodcock: Open season during October and November, but Federal law, open season on Woodcock during October only.

Ducks, Brant and Geese, Coots, Gallinules, and Jacksnipe or Wilson Snipe: Open season September 16 to December 31, inclusive. Rails, except Coots and Gallinules, open season Sept. 16 to Nov. 30, inclusive.

NOTE—Black-breasted and Golden Plover and Yellowlegs protected by Federal regulations.

DAILY LIMIT ON GAME BIRDS

Partridge, 5 (season limit 25)

Woodcock, 4

Duck, 10

Snipe, 10

BIRDS PROTECTED AT ALL TIMES

All wild birds, other than game birds: The law provides, however, that the English or European House Sparrow, crows, hawks, owls, and kingfishers, may be killed at any time. The law specially provides that eagles, Hungarian partridge, capercailzie, cock of the woods, black game, curlew, woodduck, swans and **all shore birds**, except Wilson or Jacksnipe and woodcock, and all species of pheasants (except ruffed grouse) are protected at all times.

Motor boats cannot be used for hunting sea birds, ducks, or water fowl in any Inland or Tidal waters of Maine.

Stationary blinds unlawful in Merrymeeting Bay waters.

Dogs must not be used in hunting deer.

Unlawful to use silencers on firearms.

Unlawful to buy or sell game birds at any time.

HUNTING LICENSES

Non-Resident

Non-resident to hunt prior to deer season, \$5; to hunt deer and other wild animals (except caribou and moose) and birds during deer season, \$15. (A \$5 license may be exchanged for a \$15 license upon payment of \$10.)

NON-RESIDENTS MUST EMPLOY GUIDES IN CERTAIN CASES

All non-residents **when in unorganized or unincorporated townships** must be in charge of a registered guide during the months of May to November, inclusive, at all times **while hunting, or while fishing if camping or kindling fires thereon.**

Note following exceptions:

(Non-resident fishermen who are camping within the limits of public camp sites maintained by the Maine

Forest Service, or who are building camp fires in the fireplaces provided by the Maine Forest Service on such camp sites are not required to be in charge of a registered guide).

NO HUNTER WITH FIREARM OR FIREARMS IN POSSESSION CAN CAMP IN ANY GAME PRESERVE OR SANCTUARY

No guide can guide or be employed at the same time by more than five non-residents in hunting.

RESIDENT LICENSES

Unnaturalized foreign born residents of Maine who have not lived in the State two years continuously prior to the time they desire to hunt, and who are not taxpayers upon real estate in Maine, must procure a \$15 hunting license before they can hunt or carry firearms; all other residents of Maine must procure a 25 cent license (which under the 1923 law is a combination hunting and fishing license).

INLAND FISH LAWS—OPEN SEASON ON TROUT, SALMON AND TOGUE

On lakes and ponds on salmon, landlocked salmon, trout and togue from time ice is out of waters fished in spring until Sept. 30, inclusive; in rivers from time ice is out until Sept. 14, inclusive.

Open season on trout and salmon in brooks and streams of State governed by general law from time ice is out until Aug. 15, following. (Important streams on which there are special laws are excepted in this new general law—see 1927-28 law book for full text of these exceptions.)

White Perch: Open season on white perch in lakes and ponds governed by general law from June 20 to September 30, inclusive; in rivers, brooks and streams from June 20 to September 14, inclusive.

Black Bass: Open season in lakes, ponds and rivers, June 21 to Sept. 30, inclusive; in brooks and streams June 21 to Sept. 15.

Exceptions: In Lake Megunticook, in Knox and Waldo Counties, and in Crawford Pond, in Knox County, black bass may be taken with unbaited, artificial flies, or fly fishing, or by trolling, from time ice is out of said lakes until June 21st when open season under general law begins.

DAILY LIMIT ON PROTECTED FISH UNDER GENERAL LAW

No person can take or have in possession in any one day more than 15 pounds in all of trout, salmon, togue, white perch and black bass, unless an individual fish weighs more than 15 pounds, or unless last fish caught increases combined weight to more than 15 lbs.; the law further provides no person shall take or have in possession in any one day more than 25 fish in all of salmon, trout, togue, white perch and black bass, even though the 25 fish weigh less than 15 pounds.

(SPECIAL LAWS)

Fishermen should consult latest complete edition of Fish and Game Laws (1927-28) for special laws which close waters to all fishing and change general open season and daily limit laws on many waters, also restrict manner of fishing in numerous lakes, ponds and streams.

FISHING LICENSES

Non-resident fishing license fee, \$3.15; special non-resident ice fishing licenses, \$2.15; alien resident licenses, \$2.15. This latter law applies to all unnaturalized, foreign born residents who are not taxpayers upon real estate in Maine and who have not resided in Maine for two years continuously prior to the time they desire to fish. For other residents, combination hunting and fishing license, fee 25 cents.