Fish Me. The Great State of Maine Fresh Water Fishing

Maine Department of Economic Development

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalmaine.com/decd_docs

Recommended Citation
https://digitalmaine.com/decd_docs/72

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Economic and Community Development at Digital Maine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Economic and Community Development Documents by an authorized administrator of Digital Maine. For more information, please contact statedocs@maine.gov.
MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS
It is unlawful to fish except by use of the single-baited hook and line, artificial flies, artificial minnows, artificial insects, spoon hooks, and spinners. No person shall fish with more than 2 lines at any one time. During any closed season, it is unlawful to fish for, take, catch, kill, or have in possession any fish of any kind from such closed waters.

Possession of fishing tackle in fields, forests, or on waters or ice of the state, by any person without license, shall be prima facie evidence of fishing in violation of law.
Generally, pools of state fish hatcheries, and rearing stations and all waters within 200 feet of these pools shall be closed to fishing (exception Grand Lake Stream).

Generally, no fishing within 150 feet of any dam in which a fishway is located (see law book for certain exceptions); this restriction shall not include taking of alewives and smelts as provided by Sea and Shore Fisheries regulations.

Ponds, natural or artificial, 10 acres or less, formed on brooks, streams, or rivers, shall be governed by the law regulating fishing that applies to the brook, stream, or river on which they are situated.

The general laws governing lakes and ponds also apply to thoroughfares and bogs.

Explosive, poisonous, or stupefying substances are prohibited in taking fish.
The use of fish spawn, grapple, spear, spear gun, trawl, weir, gaff, seine, Gill net, trap or set lines, electronic, sonic, or battery powered devices is prohibited in taking fish, except that hand spearing of suckers is lawful in brooks, streams, and rivers open to fishing April 1 - June 30.
Sale of game fish is prohibited.

Smelts, above tide waters, may be taken with a dip net except from waters where prohibited by rule and regulations of the commissioner. No person shall take, kill, catch, or have in possession more than 4 quarts of smelts in any one day.

TRANSPORTATION OF FISH
Licensed persons may ship to residence one day's bag limit once in 10 days. Exceptions: once a year from these lakes: Rangeley, Mooselookmeguntic, Cupsuptic, Upper and Lower Richardson.

Do not detach either heads or tails from salmon, trout, toge, and black bass, unless the fish are being prepared for immediate cooking. For the purpose of this regulation, the smoking of fish shall not constitute cooking.

Trot, salmon, toge, and black bass kept in any sporting camp, hotel, or public lodging place must have name and address of person who caught them attached to the fish.

Aircraft are required to have a permit for transportation of fish, game, or fur-bearing animals; fee, $2.00.

WHERE TO FISH
To know where to find the various species of fish in Maine it is helpful to group them into two categories—warm-water and cold-water fishes. Warm-water species include: black bass, pickerel, perch, cold-water fishes: Atlantic sea-run and landlocked salmon, Eastern brook trout, lake trout (called togue in Maine), brown trout, rainbow trout, and even certain rare gamefish like blueback trout and golden trout.

Location: If an imaginary line were drawn across a map of Maine, warm-water game fish might be said to inhabit waters from south of Rangeley on the western border to south of Houlton on the Maine-New Brunswick line. North of this line few warm-water fishes are found, but cold-water species are co-inhabitants with bass, perch and pickerel statewide.

There are incidental species, too, that are often eagerly sought by anglers: lake smelts, whitefish, cusk and similarly fine sport and food fishes.

ACCESS:
Most of the fishing areas can be reached by public roads, but extensive areas of the Forestry District are reached only by private forest-industry roads. See Vacation Planner #4, or #5 for further information, or contact: Paper Industry Information Office, 133 State Street, Augusta, Maine 04330.

PREPARATION & SAFETY:
If you plan to fish in the remote areas, please remember that they are remote—from stores, hospitals, gas and other supplies. Go prepared, and exercise sensible safety precautions. Remember, too, that a good compass and map may be more important than your fishing or camping gear, but won’t do you any good unless you know how to use them.

FIRES & CAMPING:
See Vacation Planner #4, 5 or 15, or publication “Forest Campsites”. Outside the Forestry District, several State Parks and many commercially operated campgrounds offer excellent camping facilities—many of them near good fishing waters. See booklet Family Camping in Maine, listed in publications section.

GUIDES & PLANES
Services of a good guide are a good investment, and probably your best insurance for a good catch, especially on first trips to unfamiliar waters in Maine. So are those of a Maine “bush” pilot. Many lakes have water-based small planes and trained pilots to ferry sportsmen in and out of near-virgin fishing waters in the state.

Guides are often contacted by sporting camp proprietors for their guests. When camp reservations are made, request for a guide should be included. Many Chambers of Commerce, and hotel or motel staffs can also recommend guides.

Airplane Service: see Vacation Planner #4, 5 or 16, or contact Maine Department of Aviation.

This Vacation Planner provides general information on the types of fish in Maine, where they may be found, and helpful planning suggestions. A summary of the open-water fishing regulations is provided, but these are subject to change, therefore you should check the law booklet available when you buy your license.

One in a series of Vacation Planners programmed by the Maine Department of Economic Development, available from 78 Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine 04102. Prospective visitors to Maine are interested in the “facts”, and these brochures are designed with this in mind. We would appreciate receiving your comments.

Please write:
Maine Department of Economic Development
State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330

published by Department of Economic Development
State House, Augusta, Maine 04330
Appropriation Number 2230
WANT A FISH FIGHT?

There must be good reasons why Maine attracts so many fishermen from far places. One reason is obvious -- the fish themselves. Some are caught only here, as the Atlantic sea-run salmon (Maine is the only state in this country with sport fishing for this species); other species have exceptional fighting quality, or taste appeal, or abundance, or size (some world-record catches have been made in Maine waters). But it isn't just the fish! A look at a good-sized map of Maine reveals part of the attraction. You'll see the outline of the marvelous Maine coast, with its estuaries and bays, which calls the salt-water sport fisherman -- but the fresh-water angler seeks many lakes, ponds, streams, rivers (more of these waterways in the equivalent area than will be found in most any part of this nation).

A closer look shows sizeable sections without highways -- wilderness timberland area, accessible only by forest-industry work roads, by canoe, hiking, or by air. So you guess it's not over-fished!

And you're right! Those fish are ready to compete with each other to grab the bait, then fight a tug-of-war with you over not-over-fished!

Ronald Speers, Commissioner
Maine Inland Fisheries & Game Dept.

---

**GENERAL OPEN SEASONS**

In waters or portions of waters naturally free of ice, for all fish except black bass.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waters</th>
<th>General Season</th>
<th>Major Exceptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lakes &amp; ponds</td>
<td>April 1-Sept. 30 inclusive</td>
<td>Many reclaimed ponds (trout ponds) open the last Saturday in April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooks &amp; streams</td>
<td>April 1-Aug. 15 inclusive</td>
<td>Aroostook County May 1 - August 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rivers</td>
<td>April 1-Sept. 15 inclusive</td>
<td>See county listings for few exceptions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MINIMUM LENGTHS**

Bass, 10"; trout, 6" (except togue [lake trout], 14"); salmon, 14" (except 12" in Aroostook County). Other exceptions in some waters are county listed in law book.

**ATLANTIC SALMON:** Sea-run salmon must be sought by fly-fishermen in Maine coastal rivers. Baits, nets, jigs are not allowed. Streamer flies and English salmon flies are popular lures.

**LANDLOCKED SALMON & TROUT:** Streamer flies, trolled in lakes and cast in rivers, along with wobblers and similar lures and a variety of baits, are used to entice landlocked salmon and trout. Trout are, by preference, sought by fly fishermen during evening rises.

---

**DEFINITIONS**

**CLOSED SEASON:** The period when it is unlawful to fish for, take, kill, or destroy any fish.

**OPEN SEASON:** The period when fish may be taken as specified and limited by law.

**FLY FISHING:** To cast upon water and retrieve in the usual and ordinary manner, an unweighted, artificial fly attached to a line to which no extra weight has been added. Except as otherwise provided, it shall be unlawful to troll a fly in waters restricted to fly fishing only.

**JIGGING:** The use of a fishing tackle or device in an attempt to snag or snare fish. Jigging is prohibited in Maine waters.

**TRANSPORT:** Includes to offer to or receive for transportation.

**ALIENS:** All aliens shall be classified as nonresidents. Any alien who has resided in Maine continuously for 1 year, also is assessed and pays taxes on real estate in the municipality in which he resides, or any alien who has resided in Maine continuously for 5 years shall be lawful to take minnows usually used as bait for fishing in Maine.

---

**PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION SOURCES**

Publications Mentioned in This Folder:

- **Forest Campsites:** -- Maine Forest Service State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330
- **Family Camping in Maine:** -- Maine Cooperative Camping Ass'n., available: Maine Publicity Bureau.
- **Salt Water Angling Guides:** Maine Department of Marine Resources, 10020 Maine State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330
- **State of Maine Information Center**
- **86 Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine 04102**
- **State of Maine Information Center**
- **46 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, N. Y. 10020**
- **State of Maine Information Center**
- **Laurentien Hotel, Dominon, Montreal, Canada**

Inquiries about accommodations will be answered by Maine Publicity Bureau (address below); for localized fishing information check with regional Publicity Bureau offices.

---

**PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION SOURCES**

Publications Mentioned in This Folder:

- **Forest Campsites:** -- Maine Forest Service State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330
- **Family Camping in Maine:** -- Maine Cooperative Camping Ass'n., available: Maine Publicity Bureau.
- **Salt Water Angling Guides:** Maine Department of Marine Resources, 10020 Maine State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330
- **State of Maine Information Center**
- **86 Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine 04102**
- **State of Maine Information Center**
- **46 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, N. Y. 10020**
- **State of Maine Information Center**
- **Laurentien Hotel, Dominon, Montreal, Canada**

Inquiries about accommodations will be answered by Maine Publicity Bureau (address below); for localized fishing information check with regional Publicity Bureau offices.

---

**PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION SOURCES**

Publications Mentioned in This Folder:

- **Forest Campsites:** -- Maine Forest Service State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330
- **Family Camping in Maine:** -- Maine Cooperative Camping Ass'n., available: Maine Publicity Bureau.
- **Salt Water Angling Guides:** Maine Department of Marine Resources, 10020 Maine State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330
- **State of Maine Information Center**
- **86 Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine 04102**
- **State of Maine Information Center**
- **46 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, N. Y. 10020**
- **State of Maine Information Center**
- **Laurentien Hotel, Dominon, Montreal, Canada**

Inquiries about accommodations will be answered by Maine Publicity Bureau (address below); for localized fishing information check with regional Publicity Bureau offices.

---

**PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION SOURCES**

Publications Mentioned in This Folder:

- **Forest Campsites:** -- Maine Forest Service State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330
- **Family Camping in Maine:** -- Maine Cooperative Camping Ass'n., available: Maine Publicity Bureau.
- **Salt Water Angling Guides:** Maine Department of Marine Resources, 10020 Maine State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330
- **State of Maine Information Center**
- **86 Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine 04102**
- **State of Maine Information Center**
- **46 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, N. Y. 10020**
- **State of Maine Information Center**
- **Laurentien Hotel, Dominon, Montreal, Canada**

Inquiries about accommodations will be answered by Maine Publicity Bureau (address below); for localized fishing information check with regional Publicity Bureau offices.

---

**PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION SOURCES**

Publications Mentioned in This Folder:

- **Forest Campsites:** -- Maine Forest Service State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330
- **Family Camping in Maine:** -- Maine Cooperative Camping Ass'n., available: Maine Publicity Bureau.
- **Salt Water Angling Guides:** Maine Department of Marine Resources, 10020 Maine State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330
- **State of Maine Information Center**
- **86 Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine 04102**
- **State of Maine Information Center**
- **46 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, N. Y. 10020**
- **State of Maine Information Center**
- **Laurentien Hotel, Dominon, Montreal, Canada**

Inquiries about accommodations will be answered by Maine Publicity Bureau (address below); for localized fishing information check with regional Publicity Bureau offices.

---

**PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION SOURCES**

Publications Mentioned in This Folder:

- **Forest Campsites:** -- Maine Forest Service State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330
- **Family Camping in Maine:** -- Maine Cooperative Camping Ass'n., available: Maine Publicity Bureau.
- **Salt Water Angling Guides:** Maine Department of Marine Resources, 10020 Maine State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330
- **State of Maine Information Center**
- **86 Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine 04102**
- **State of Maine Information Center**
- **46 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, N. Y. 10020**
- **State of Maine Information Center**
- **Laurentien Hotel, Dominon, Montreal, Canada**

Inquiries about accommodations will be answered by Maine Publicity Bureau (address below); for localized fishing information check with regional Publicity Bureau offices.

---

**PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION SOURCES**

Publications Mentioned in This Folder:

- **Forest Campsites:** -- Maine Forest Service State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330
- **Family Camping in Maine:** -- Maine Cooperative Camping Ass'n., available: Maine Publicity Bureau.
- **Salt Water Angling Guides:** Maine Department of Marine Resources, 10020 Maine State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330
- **State of Maine Information Center**
- **86 Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine 04102**
- **State of Maine Information Center**
- **46 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, N. Y. 10020**
- **State of Maine Information Center**
- **Laurentien Hotel, Dominon, Montreal, Canada**

Inquiries about accommodations will be answered by Maine Publicity Bureau (address below); for localized fishing information check with regional Publicity Bureau offices.