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1992 Atlantic Salmon Fishing Regulations

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MAINE ATLANTIC SEA RUN
SALMON COMMISSION

1992
ATLANTIC SALMON FISHING
REGULATIONS
TIPS ON HOW TO RELEASE ATLANTIC SALMON

By carefully following these simple instructions you can release your salmon unharmed:

1. **Time is of the essence.** Play and release the salmon as quickly and carefully as possible. An exhausted salmon may be too weak to recover.

2. **Keep the salmon in water** as much as possible. A salmon out of water is suffocating and may injure itself on the rocks or beach. Even a few inches of water under a thrashing salmon acts as a protective cushion.

3. **Be gentle** when handling the salmon. Keep your fingers away from the gills. Don't squeeze the fish as it can be held securely by holding the tail and the bottom jaw area. If a net is used, be sure it is fine meshed to avoid injury to the gills and eyes.

4. **Remove the fly** with small pliers or use your thumb and forefinger to shake it loose. If the fish is bleeding profusely or injured in any way it may not survive. If the fly cannot be removed then cut the leader as close to the eye of the hook as possible.

5. **To revive** the salmon after a struggle, hold the fish by the tail and move it back and forth to circulate water through the gills. Release it after it recovers.

(Reprinted with permission of the Atlantic Salmon Federation, St. Andrews, N.B.)
THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS PERTAIN TO
ATLANTIC SEA RUN SALMON ONLY
(Note under General regulations)

GENERAL SEASONS
Coastal waters - Open Season: May 1 through October 15.
Closed Season: From October 16 to April 30, both days inclusive, it shall be
unlawful to take Atlantic salmon from the coastal waters by any means.
Note: Federal rule prohibits the taking of Atlantic salmon in coastal waters
between the three (3) mile limit and the two-hundred (200) mile limit.

Inland waters - Open Season: May 1 through September 15.
See exceptions marked with an asterisk (*) under Regulations on Individual
Waters, starting on page 4.

SIZE AND BAG LIMITS

BAG LIMIT: It is unlawful to take or possess more than ONE (1)
Atlantic salmon ANNUALLY from inland or coastal waters.
NOTE: See exceptions/restrictions under the following watersheds:
Aroostook, St. Croix and Pleasant.

Excluded from the season limit are any Atlantic salmon donated to and
accepted by the Atlantic Sea Run Salmon Commission for scientific,
educational or other public purposes. Replacement tag will be issued.

MINIMUM LENGTH LIMIT (coastal & inland waters) - It shall
be unlawful to take or possess Atlantic salmon which are less than 14
inches in total length.
§6255. ATLANTIC SALMON LICENSE

1. **License required.** It is unlawful for any person to fish for Atlantic salmon from the areas indicated in subsection 2 (see below), or to take, possess, ship or transport Atlantic salmon taken from these waters without a current Atlantic salmon license, except as provided in subsection 6. (See Page 3)

2. **Limit of application.** This requirement applies to all inland waters and to the following coastal waters, from the head of tide downstream to the line indicated.

   A. **Sheepscot River,** above the Wiscasset - Edgecomb U.S. Route 1 Bridge;
   B. **Dennys River,** above the upstream side of the U.S. Route 1 bridge (Dennysville).
   C. **Kennebec River,** above the upstream side of the Route 197 bridge between Richmond and Dresden;
   D. **East Machias River,** above a line extending from Simpson's Wharf (East Machias) due south to the opposite shore on the Rim;
   E. **Machias River,** above the upstream side of the Rim Bridge, lower-most bridge on the Machias River (Machiasport-East Machias);
   F. **Pleasant River,** above the upstream side on the main river bridge in Addison.
   G. **Narraguagus River,** above the upstream side of the U.S. Route 1A bridge in Milbridge.
   H. **Union River,** above a line extending from the southern extremity of the Ellsworth city boat launch ramp due west to the opposite shore of the Union River;
   I. **Penobscot River,** above the upstream side of the Joshua Chamberlain Bridge in Bangor;
J. Ducktrap River, above the 3 red posts set on the shores approximately 1,000 feet downstream from the U.S. Route 1 bridge (Lincolnville); K. Saco River, above a line extending from the outer extremity of the Camp Ellis breakwater in Saco to the outer extremity of the Hills Beach breakwater in Biddeford; and L. St. Croix River, above the International Bridge between Calais and St. Stephen, New Brunswick.

LICENSE FEES:
Resident: $10.00 (Jr. Resident and Maine Indians: See below*); Nonresident: $30.00 for a season license, $15.00 for a 3-day license (16 years and older), and $5.00 for non-residents under 16 years of age.

It is unlawful for any person to purchase for his own use, more than one Atlantic salmon license in any single calendar year. Immediately after issuance of an Atlantic salmon license, the purchaser must sign it in the space provided - an unsigned license is considered invalid. Licenses may be purchased from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in Augusta or from city clerks and license agents in the vicinity of Atlantic salmon rivers.

*Members of Maine's Indian Tribes and Maine residents under 16 years of age are exempt from any fee, but are required to obtain a complimentary Atlantic salmon license.

Note:
1) The Salmon License is required in addition to a regular fishing license in all inland waters;
2) The 3-day non-resident license may not be exchanged for a season license;
3) When fishing in inland waters, the holder of a license shall be subject to all laws of the Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (12 MRSA, Chapters 701 to 721).
TAGGING REQUIREMENTS

Any Atlantic salmon taken from inland waters or coastal waters shall be immediately tagged with a tag bearing the license number of the person who caught the fish, or shall be tagged as provided in section 6256, subsection 6 (see page 3). Five of these tags will be issued with each Atlantic salmon license, except that only one tag shall be issued with a "3-day" or an "under 16 years of age" non-resident Atlantic salmon license. It is unlawful for any person to possess, sell, accept as a gift, offer for transportation or transport an Atlantic salmon which has not been lawfully tagged. (Replacement tag will be issued to the person cooperating in sending the first salmon to the U. S. President.)

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

It is unlawful to possess, ship or transport an Atlantic salmon which has not been properly registered. The person who killed the salmon shall:

A. Present the salmon within 12 hours of killing the fish to be registered at the first open salmon registration station;
B. Register the fish in his own name;
C. Accurately and truthfully report all information concerning each salmon registered.

EXEMPTIONS: The following Atlantic salmon are exempt from registration requirements:

1. Salmon which are imported from outside the state;
2. Salmon imported by taxidermists solely for taxidermy purposes;
3. Salmon raised by means of aquaculture.
§6256, sub-§6. RECREATIONAL FISHING PROVISION:
A person engaged in recreational fishing in the coastal waters, other than those identified in Section 6255, subsection 2 (See page 1), who takes an Atlantic salmon, shall affix to each fish an identification tag designating the date, location, and name of the person who caught the fish. The person shall notify the Commission or its agents within 24 hours of his first landfall providing all information as the Commission may require. Report to: Atlantic Sea Run Salmon Commission, P.O. Box 1298, Bangor, ME 04401, Telephone: (207) 941-4449.

ATLANTIC SALMON: POSSESSION, BUYING OR SELLING

Disposition. It is unlawful to sell or offer for sale any Atlantic salmon taken from the inland or coastal waters of the State except Atlantic salmon lawfully raised by means of aquaculture. (§6255, sub-§6)

A. It is unlawful for any person to possess, buy or sell an Atlantic salmon unless each fish is clearly identified by one of the following methods:

1. Tagged with an Atlantic salmon tag provided by the Atlantic Sea Run Salmon Commission if caught in Maine waters;

2. Tagged with a New Brunswick, Quebec, Nova Scotia, or Newfoundland/Labrador Atlantic salmon tag if imported from those Canadian provinces;

3. Identified by a sales receipt less than 24 hours old; or

4. For wholesale and retail seafood dealers, a bill of sale indicating numbers of fish purchased, dates of purchase and point of origin of all fish purchased

Exceptions: Those persons and individuals licensed for the aquaculture of Atlantic salmon shall be exempt from this section other than they shall report to the Atlantic Sea Run Salmon Commission the number, weight and locations sold to, of all Atlantic salmon within the Commission's jurisdiction.
Report to: Atlantic Sea Run Salmon Commission, P.O. Box 1298, Bangor, Maine 04401; Telephone: (207) 941-4449
B. It is unlawful to possess any part of an Atlantic salmon taken from the inland or coastal waters of this State, unless each part is plainly labeled with the name and address of the person who registered the fish, except Atlantic salmon which are:

1. Imported from outside the state;
2. Imported by taxidermists solely for taxidermy purposes;
3. Raised by means of aquaculture;
4. Clearly identified as described above in section A.

DEFINITIONS

Commission means Atlantic Sea Run Salmon Commission.

Atlantic Salmon (Salmo salar) means the anadromous finfish commonly called Atlantic Sea Run Salmon.

Fishing With Rod and Line means fishing with rod and line with an artificial lure, fly, or single baited hook attached thereto.

Fly Fishing means to cast upon water and retrieve in the usual and ordinary manner, an unbaited, unweighted, artificial fly attached to a line to which no extra weight has been added.

Fly, for Atlantic salmon fishing purposes, means an unbaited single pointed hook of any size, or a double pointed hook not larger than #6, dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel, or any similar material to which no additional weight, hook, spinner, spoon, or similar device is added.

Jigging means fishing for, catching, or attempting to catch, or killing with hook or hooks manipulated in such a manner as to pierce and hook a fish in any part of the body other than the mouth. Any fish which is hooked in any part of the
body other than the mouth shall be immediately released and returned alive, without further injury, to the waters from which it was taken.

**Total length** means the greatest dimension between the most anteriorly projecting part of the head and the farthest tip of the caudal fin (tail fin) when the caudal rays are squeezed together. The measurement is a straight line and is not taken over the curve of the body.

### GENERAL REGULATIONS

**Method of taking:**

It is unlawful to take Atlantic salmon from **inland** waters by any means other than fly fishing.

From May 1 to October 15, both days inclusive, it shall be unlawful to take Atlantic salmon from the coastal waters by means other than hook and line. Any Atlantic salmon taken by other means shall be immediately released.

It is unlawful to use a gaff in landing Atlantic salmon.

It is unlawful to fish for, kill, attempt to kill, or otherwise take Atlantic salmon in the inland and coastal waters of the state regulated by the Commission except as permitted by regulations of the Commission; but where no regulation has been adopted, the laws and regulations of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or the laws and regulations of the Department of Marine Resources shall apply.

In all waters specifically regulated by the Atlantic Sea Run Salmon Commission, all Atlantic salmon caught at any time, by any means, of any size, and in any numbers, other than as authorized by these regulations shall be immediately released and returned alive, without further injury, to the waters from which they were taken.
Violations of regulations of the Atlantic Sea Run Salmon Commission are punishable pursuant to 12 M.R.S.A., 6204.

Note: The regulations of this folder apply only to the taking of Atlantic salmon. See open water fishing law folder for regulations concerning fishing near any dam which contains a fishway or trap. Check with the Department of Marine Resources and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for additional regulations and statutes concerning Atlantic salmon fishing.

REGULATIONS ON INDIVIDUAL WATERS

A. St. Croix River Watershed.

SEASON LIMIT: 5 fish*; daily bag limit: 1 fish; possession limit: 2 fish; however, any Atlantic salmon greater than 25 inches in length must be released immediately, alive and without further injury.

* Including the St. Croix and Aroostook Rivers, it is unlawful to take more than 5 Atlantic salmon from all waters during the 1992 season. If an Atlantic salmon is taken from any other river, only 4 may be taken from the St. Croix or Aroostook River.

B. Dennys River Watershed.

All waters and tributaries and adjacent coastal waters inside and upstream from a line drawn from the outer extremity of Leighton Point to the outer extremity of Denbow Point, to the east side of the U.S. Route 1 bridge in Dennysville - open May 1 through October 15 to rod and line fishing.

From the east side of the U.S. Route 1 bridge in Dennysville upstream to the two markers set on the shores of the Narrows in Dennysville - *open May 1 through October 15 to fly fishing only.

All waters above the markers at the Narrows - *open May 1 through June 30 to fly fishing only.
C. Machias and East Machias Rivers Watersheds.

All waters and tributaries and adjacent coastal waters inside and upstream from a line drawn from the outer extremity of Long Point to the outer extremity of Birch Point, to two red markers set on the shores of the Machias River downstream from the confluence with the East Machias River - *open May 1 through October 15* to rod and line fishing.

From the above-mentioned red markers upstream to two red markers on the shores of the Machias River above the falls in Whitneyville; and from the above-mentioned red markers upstream to two red markers on the shores of the East Machias River at the Gaddis Mill Pool in East Machias - *open through October 15* to fly fishing only.

The following tributaries to, and sections of, the Machias River - *closed after July 15:

- **Old Stream** and its tributaries upstream from the red marker on the shore of the Machias River at the mouth of said stream.
- **Mopang Stream** and its tributaries upstream from the red marker on the shore of the Machias River at the mouth of said stream.
- **Machias River**, at the mouth of **Libby Brook**, from a line drawn between two red markers set on the shores of the Machias River approximately 100 feet upstream from the mouth of Libby Brook downstream approximately 300 yards to two red markers set on the shores of the Machias River, this area to include Libby Brook and its tributaries. **Machias River**, at the mouth of **Crooked River**, from a line drawn between two red markers set on the shores of the Machias River approximately 100 feet upstream from the mouth of the Crooked River downstream approximately 200 yards to two red markers set on the shores of the Machias River, this area to include Crooked River and its tributaries.

All other waters of the Machias and East Machias rivers open May 1-September 15 to fly fishing only.

D. Pleasant and Narraguagus Rivers Watersheds.

All waters and tributaries and adjacent coastal waters inside and upstream from a line drawn from the outer extremity of Petit Manan Point to the outer
extremity of Cape Split, to the south side of the Addison bridge on the Pleasant River, and to the south side of the U.S. Route 1A bridge in Milbridge on the Narraguagus River - open May 1 through October 15 to rod and line fishing.

| Pleasant River and Tributaries above the main river bridge in Addison: |
| * Open May 1 - September 15 to fly fishing only; all Atlantic salmon must be released immediately, alive, and without further injury. |

Narraguagus River, from the south side of the U.S. Route 1A bridge in Milbridge upstream to the ice control dam in Cherryfield - *open through October 15 to fly fishing only.

All other waters of the Narraguagus River open May 1 - September 15 to fly fishing only

E. Union River Watershed

All waters and tributaries and adjacent coastal waters inside and upstream from a line drawn from the outer extremity of the Weymouth Point to the Ellsworth/Trenton town line, to the downstream side of the U.S. Route 1 bridge in Ellsworth - open May 1 through October 15 to rod and line fishing.

From the downstream side of the U.S. Route 1 bridge in Ellsworth upstream to the Bangor Hydro dam in Ellsworth - *open through October 15 to fly fishing only.

All other waters of the Union River - open May 1 through September 15 to fly fishing only.

F. Penobscot River Watershed.

All waters and tributaries and adjacent coastal waters inside and upstream from a line drawn from the Bayside Wharf in Northport to the Castine Light, to the downstream side of the Joshua Chamberlain bridge in Bangor, and to the downstream side of the first upstream bridge on all tributaries to the estuary of the river - open May 1 through October 15 to rod and line fishing.

From the downstream side of the Joshua Chamberlain bridge in Bangor upstream to the Bangor Hydro dam in Veazie - *open through October 15 to fly fishing only.

There shall be no size restrictions on artificial flies tied on doublepointed
hooks in the coastal waters of the Penobscot River.

Kenduskeag Stream, from the downstream side of the Maine Central Railroad bridge in Bangor to the upstream side of "Six Mile Falls" in Bangor - *closed after July 15.

Note: Closed to fishing are the following areas:

**Felts Brook:** From the downstream side of Route #9 in Brewer down to the Penobscot River, and that portion of the Penobscot River on the easterly side of a straight line drawn from a red painted rock situated on the downriver side of the mouth of Felts Brook to a red painted marker on the Bangor Dam fishway situated on the upriver side of the mouth of Felts Brook.

**Meadow Brook:** In Bangor and the Penobscot River within a 250' radius of the Maine Central Railroad Bridge abutments at the mouth of Meadow Brook.

**Eaton Brook:** From the downstream side of Rt. #9 in Brewer to the Penobscot River, and the Penobscot River within 250' of a red painted marker situated on the down river side of the mouth of Eaton Brook.

**Indian Island** (Eastern Shore): Penobscot River, between two red markers located 150' either side of adult salmon release site, including the area between imaginary lines, roughly perpendicular to the flow of the river, from the above red markers to the middle of the river.

All other waters of the Penobscot River - open May 1 through September 15 to fly fishing only.

G. Passagassawaukeeag River Watershed.

All waters above the downstream side of the U.S. Route 1 bridge in Belfast -* fly fishing only.
H. Ducktrap River Watershed.
All waters and adjacent coastal waters inside and upstream from a line drawn from the outer extremity of the Islesboro Ferry Landing pier in Lincolnville to the outer extremity of Spruce Head in Northport upstream to a line drawn between two red posts set on the shores approximately 1,000 feet downstream from the U.S. Route 1 bridge - open May 1 through October 15 to rod and line fishing.

From the two red posts upstream to the confluence with Black Brook - *open through October 15 to fly fishing only.

All other waters of the Ducktrap River - open May 1 through September 15 to fly fishing only.

I. Sheepscot River Watershed.
All waters and tributaries and adjacent coastal waters inside and upstream from the Wiscasset/Edgecomb U.S. Route 1 bridge, to the downstream side of the Puddledock bridge in Alna - open May 1 through October 15 to rod and line fishing.

From the downstream side of the Puddledock Bridge in Alna upstream to the Head Tide Dam in Alna - *open through October 15 to fly fishing only.

All other waters of the Sheepscot River - open May 1 through September 15 to fly fishing only.

J. Kennebec and Androscoggin Rivers Watersheds.
All waters and tributaries and adjacent coastal waters inside and upstream from a line drawn from the outer extremity of Cape Small to the outer extremity of Salter Island, thence to the outer extremity of Indian Point, to the downstream side of the Maine Central Railroad Bridge on the Kennebec River in Augusta, and to the downstream side of the Brunswick/Topsham bridge on the Androscoggin River, including those portions of all tributaries to the Kennebec and Androscoggin rivers downstream from the first upstream bridge - open May 1 through October 15 to rod and line fishing.
Bond Brook, Augusta, upstream from the red markers set on the shore of the Kennebec River at the mouth of said brook - *closed after July 15.
All other waters of the Kennebec and Androscoggin rivers open May 1 through September 15 to fly fishing only.

K. Saco River Watershed.
All waters and adjacent coastal waters inside and upstream from a line drawn from the outer extremity of the so-called Camp Ellis rock jetty breakwater to the outer extremity of the so-called Hills Beach rock jetty breakwater to the downstream side of Route #9 bridge in Biddeford-Saco - *open May 1 through October 15 to rod and line fishing.
From the downstream side of the Route 9 bridge in Biddeford-Saco to the Central Maine Power Company dam (known as Skelton dam) at Union Falls in Dayton and Hollis - *open May 1 through October 15 to fly fishing only.
That area between the lower York dam in Saco and two red markers located about 200 feet downstream - *Closed to the taking of Atlantic salmon.

L. Aroostook River Watershed.
Season: * Open May 1 through September 30.

SEASON LIMIT: 5 fish*; daily bag limit: 1 fish; possession limit: 2 fish; however, any Atlantic salmon greater than 25 inches in length must be released immediately, alive and without further injury.
* Including the St. Croix and Aroostook Rivers, it is unlawful to take more than 5 Atlantic salmon from all waters during the 1992 season. If an Atlantic salmon is taken from any other river, only 4 may be taken from the St. Croix or Aroostook River.
MAINE ATLANTIC SEA RUN SALMON COMMISSION

P.O. Box 1298
Bangor, Maine 04402-1298

ALERT US
Poachers are Thieves - Help Us Catch Them
Anti-Poaching Hot Line: 1-800-ALERT US (253-7887)

ADDITIONAL PHONE NUMBERS
Maine Warden Service, Bangor....941-4440
(or toll-free 1-800-322-2033)
Maine Marine Patrol, Lamoine....667-3373
Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission,
Bangor....941-4449

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