

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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yes

September 15, 1952

To W. Earle Bradbury, Deputy Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game
Re: Seals

This is in response to your recent request for a ruling as to whether or not common seals come within the meaning of "wild animals" as described in section 13 of Chapter 33 of the Revised Statutes.

"Wild animal", as defined in Chapter 33, is a species of animal wild by nature, whether bred or reared in captivity, as distinguished from the common domestic animals.

A seal is an animal wild by nature and comes within the definition of section 13.

The general rule is that wild animals at large within its borders are owned by the State in its sovereign capacity and are not subject to private ownership except in so far as the State may choose to make them so.

J. Glynn Frost
Deputy Attorney General

jgf/c

(N.B. Above rule is from 3 C. J. S. 1087.)