

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1531

H. P. 1250

House of Representatives, April 2, 1975

Referred to Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Mills of Eastport.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Amend the Fishing Laws of the State of Maine.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA § 2552, sub-§ 1, as last amended by PL 1967, c. 404, § 31, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

1. All fish in lakes and ponds. The open season for all fish in waters or portions of waters naturally free of ice in lakes and ponds shall be from April 1st to September 30th, except in Aroostook County the open season shall be from May 1st to September 30th.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA § 2552, sub-§ 2 is repealed.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA § 2552, sub-§ 3, as last amended by PL 1971, c. 403, § 34, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

3. All fish in rivers. There shall be an open season for all fish in all the rivers above tidewater in waters free of ice from April 1st to September 15th, except in Aroostook County the open season shall be from May 1st to September 15th.

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA § 2552, sub-§ 4, as last amended by PL 1967, c. 404, § 31, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

4. All fish in brooks and streams. There shall be an open season for all fish in brooks and streams in waters free of ice from April 1st to August 15th, except in Aroostook County the open season shall be from May 1st to September 15th.

Sec. 5. 12 MRSA § 2552, sub-§ 6, is amended to read:

6. **Black bass.** In any waters where the bag limit on black bass has been removed by rule and regulation of the commission, ~~the season on black bass and the method of fishing for them~~ **black bass** shall be the same as for trout and salmon.

Sec. 6. 12 MRSA § 2553, sub-§ 2, as last amended by PL 1969, c. 169, is repealed.

Sec. 7. 12 MRSA § 2651, first ¶, is amended by adding after the first sentence, the following new sentence:

Waters open to ice fishing pursuant to such rule and regulation shall be open to fishing during the months of January, February and March.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to make uniform the fishing laws of the State of Maine; in particular to make the open season fishing with respect to all species of fish the same. Current statutory provisions distinguish between seasons for all fish except black bass, which distinction results in public confusion and complexity of enforcement.

The bill would amend the current ice fishing statutes to provide that in any waters currently open to ice fishing, the open season thereon shall be not less than January, February and March of each year.

The bill would eliminate the minimum length limit on trout.