

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 331

H. P. 263

House of Representatives, February 9, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Dow of West Gardiner.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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AN ACT Concerning Bass Fishing.

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA § 2552, sub-§ 1, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 401, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

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

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA § 2552, sub-§ 1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Black bass in lakes and ponds. The open season for black bass in waters or portions of waters naturally free of ice in lakes and ponds shall be from April 1st to October 31.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA § 2553, 1st ¶, as amended by PL 1967, c. 330, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

No person shall take, catch, kill or have in possession more than 8 fish of the salmon, trout or togue species during any one day of any open season, from any or all of the inland waters of the State, except in the County of Aroostook and except as provided for by rules and regulations of the department under section 1960. No person shall take, catch, kill or have in possession more than 12 fish of the salmon, trout or togue species during any one day of any open season, from any or all of the inland waters of Aroostook County, except as provided for by rules and regulations of the department under section 1960.

**No person shall take, catch, kill or have in possession more than 5 black bass during any one day of any open season, from all or any of the inland waters of the State.**

**Sec. 4.** 12 MRSA § 2553, 3rd ¶ is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**No person shall take, catch or kill in any one day or have in possession at any time more than 7½ pounds in the aggregate of the trout, salmon and togue species, unless the last fish caught increases the combined weight to more than 7½ pounds.**

**Sec. 5.** 12 MRSA § 2553, 4th ¶, as amended by PL 1971, c. 4, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**In waters open to ice fishing, no person shall take, catch or kill in any one day or have in possession at any time more than 7½ pounds in the aggregate of the trout, salmon and togue species, unless the last fish caught increases the combined weight to more than 7½ pounds.**

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill will establish an open season on fishing for black bass in lakes and ponds to run from April 1st to October 31st. The open season on black bass in rivers, streams and brooks will remain under the general law.

This bill will also establish a bag limit of 5 bass for any one day and will remove the aggregate weight limit as it applies to black bass.