

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 333

H. P. 265

House of Representatives, February 9, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Dow of West Gardiner.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Concerning the Taking of Black Bass.

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Sec. 1. 12 MRSA § 2552, sub-§ 1, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 401, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place: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

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

1-A. Black bass. There shall be an open season for black bass in waters free of ice in lakes, ponds, rivers above tidewater, brooks and streams from April 1st to June 20th. Three black bass per day on artificial lures only may be taken during this open season and no person shall have in his possession at any one time during this open season more than 3 black bass. Black bass may be taken under the provisions of subsections 1, 3 and 4 after June 20th.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA § 2552, sub-§ 3, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 401, § 3, is amended to read:

3. All fish in rivers. Except as provided in subsection 1-A, ~~There~~ 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Sec. 4. 12 MRSA § 2552, sub-§ 4, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 401, § 4, is amended to read:

4. **All fish in brooks and streams.** Except as provided in subsection 1-A, ~~There 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-§ 5-A is enacted to read:

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

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill would place limitations on the number and method of taking of black bass from April 1st to June 20th. Black bass may not be taken on other than artificial lures and the daily limit on the number of black bass is 3. During the remainder of the open season after June 20th, black bass may be taken under the general law.

The purpose of this bill is to provide further protection for the black bass and to insure its continuation as one of the leading game fish.