

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 374

S. P. 165

In Senate, February 7, 1979

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

Presented by Senator Martin of Aroostook.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT Relating to Fishing Limits under the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Statutes.**

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

12 MRSA § 2553, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 772, §§ 14-16, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**§ 2553. Size, weight and number**

No persons shall take, catch, kill or have in possession more than 8 fish of the salmon, trout, togue or black bass 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. No person shall take, catch, kill or have in possession more than 12 fish of the salmon, trout, togue or black bass species during any one day of any open season, from any or all of the inland waters of Aroostook County.

No persons shall take, catch, kill or have in possession more than 8 whitefish during any one day of any open season, from any or all of the inland waters of the State.

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, togue and black bass species, unless the last fish caught increases the combined weight to more than 7½ pounds.

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, togue and black bass species, unless the last fish caught increases the combined weight to more than 7½ pounds.

No person shall have in his possession at any time:

1. Salmon or togue. A salmon or togue less than 14 inches in length, except that the length limit on salmon taken from any of the waters in Aroostook County shall be 12 inches;
2. Trout. A trout less than 6 inches in length, a brown trout or rainbow trout less than 12 inches in length, except that there shall be no length limit for brook trout, brown trout or rainbow trout taken from brooks, streams and rivers;
3. Black bass. A black bass less than 10 inches in length; or
4. Smelt. More than 4 quarts of smelt from any or all of the inland waters of the State, except as provided by section 2558.

Whenever any waters have a special bag limit, no person shall have in possession more than one day's bag limit taken from those waters.

No person shall have in his possession any salmon, trout, togue or black bass with the heads and tails, or either, detached therefrom, unless such fish are being prepared for cooking, unless the dressed length is equal to or greater than the legal length. For the purposes of this section, the smoking of fish shall not constitute cooking.

In the event any person has fished in 2 or more counties during any one day, he shall not have in his possession more than the maximum number or maximum weight of fish permitted in the county allowing the largest number to be taken under the rules and regulations of the commissioner.

Any trout, salmon, togue or black bass kept in any sporting camp, hotel or public lodging place shall have the name and address of the person who caught them attached thereto.

The provisions of this section, except subsection 4, may be modified or changed by the rules and regulations of the department under section 1960.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill will set the possession limit for smelt from inland waters at 4 quarts.