

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 499

H. P. 390

House of Representatives, February 13, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Mitchell of Vassalboro.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Amend the Possession Limit for Fish taken from Inland Waters.

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA § 2553, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 772, §§ 14 to 16, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 2553. Size, weight and number

No person shall take, catch or kill 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 and except as provided for by rules and regulations of the department under section 1960. No person shall take, catch or kill 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, 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 8 whitefish during any one day of any open season, from all or any of the inland waters of the State.

No person shall take, catch or kill in any one day more than 7 1/2 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 7 1/2 pounds.

In waters open to ice fishing, no person shall take, catch or kill in any one day more than 7 1/2 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 7 1/2 pounds.

No person shall have in his possession at any time, except as provided by rules and regulations of the department under section 1960:

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.

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

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.

This section may be modified or changed by the rules and regulations of the department under section 1960.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA § 2554-C, is enacted to read:

§ 2554-C. Three-day possession limit

No person shall have in his possession more than the sum of three times the daily limit after fishing for three or more consecutive days. In no case shall any person have in his possession more than 24 fish in the aggregate or 7 1/2 pounds of landlocked salmon, togue, trout and bass.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill will permit fishermen to accumulate the daily bag limit for 3 days when fishing for 3 or more consecutive days. Presently, they are not allowed to possess more than the daily bag limit, even on long fishing trips in remote areas.