

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 1507

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S.P. 506

In Senate, February 25, 1999

**An Act to Limit Fishing Regulations for a Portion of the Big Machias River.**

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Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Joy J. O'Brien'.

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KIEFFER of Aroostook.  
Cosponsored by Representative WINSOR of Norway and  
Senators: KILKELLY of Lincoln, MICHAUD of Penobscot, NUTTING of Androscoggin,  
PARADIS of Aroostook, Representatives: CROSS of Dover-Foxcroft, GILLIS of Danforth,  
KNEELAND of Easton, MARTIN of Eagle Lake.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7035, sub-§1, ¶A**, as amended by PL 1985, c.  
369, §3, is further amended to read:

6 A. Fishing rules as set forth in the 1986 Open Water  
8 Fishing Regulations folder and the 1986 Ice Fishing  
10 Regulations folder, as printed and distributed to the  
12 public, are declared to be official consolidations of  
fishing rules. Each subsequent biennial revision of these  
publications shall, upon filing with the Secretary of State,  
~~constitute~~ constitutes an official consolidation as printed.

14 (1) Rules adopted under this paragraph may not  
16 establish any special regulations for the Big Machias  
18 River in Aroostook County from its confluence with the  
South Branch of the Machias River in T10R7 WELS  
downstream to the Aroostook River in Ashland. This  
subparagraph is repealed on September 1, 2004.

20 **Sec. 2. Applicable existing rules repealed.** Any special  
22 regulations in the 1998-99 open water fishing regulations or  
24 subsequent biennial revisions of those regulations adopted by the  
Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife that are in conflict  
26 with Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 7035, subsection  
1, paragraph A are repealed.

28 **SUMMARY**

30 Current fishing laws establish general open water fishing  
32 seasons and general standards for such things as minimum lengths  
and bag limits for certain types of fish. Those general laws  
34 apply to all inland waters unless special regulations are adopted  
by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

36 This bill repeals the special fishing regulations currently  
38 in effect on a segment of the Big Machias River in Aroostook  
County. This leaves those waters subject only to the seasons and  
40 limits established in general law. The bill also prohibits the  
department from adopting new special regulations for that segment  
42 of river for a period of 5 years.