

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 537

H.P. 342

House of Representatives, February 9, 2023

An Act to Remove the Limits on Bass Fishing in Washington County Rivers

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DAVIS of East Machias. (BY REQUEST)

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12458, sub-§3** is enacted to read:

3 **3. Washington County rivers.** A person may not be limited in the number, amount,
4 weight or size of largemouth bass or smallmouth bass fished in the rivers of Washington
5 County. A person may not be limited in the possession of largemouth bass or smallmouth
6 bass fished in the rivers of Washington County. For purposes of this subsection, the rivers
7 of Washington County include, but are not limited to, all or portions of Dennys River, St.
8 Croix River, Machias River, East Machias River, Pleasant River, Narraguagus River,
9 Union River, Tunk Stream and Orange River.

10 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12602, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 150, §5, is further
11 amended to read:

12 **1. Fish in violation of certain rules.** Fish in violation of the number, amount, weight
13 or size limits established by rules adopted by the commissioner, except that a person may
14 not be limited in the number, amount, weight or size of largemouth bass or smallmouth
15 bass fished in the rivers of Washington County, including, but not limited to, all or portions
16 of Dennys River, St. Croix River, Machias River, East Machias River, Pleasant River,
17 Narraguagus River, Union River, Tunk Stream and Orange River;

18 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §12602, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 224, §1, is further
19 amended to read:

20 **2. Possess fish in violation of certain rules.** Possess fish in violation of the number,
21 amount, weight or size limits established by rules adopted by the commissioner, except that
22 a person may not be limited in the possession of largemouth bass or smallmouth bass fished
23 in the rivers of Washington County, including, but not limited to, all or portions of Dennys
24 River, St. Croix River, Machias River, East Machias River, Pleasant River, Narraguagus
25 River, Union River, Tunk Stream and Orange River;

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This bill removes the limit on the number, amount, weight and size of largemouth bass
28 and smallmouth bass fished in the rivers of Washington County. The bill also removes the
29 limit on possessing largemouth bass or smallmouth bass fished in the rivers of Washington
30 County. The bill specifies that the rivers of Washington County include, but are not limited
31 to, all or portions of Dennys River, St. Croix River, Machias River, East Machias River,
32 Pleasant River, Narraguagus River, Union River, Tunk Stream and Orange River.