

Chapter 1 – Open Water and Ice Fishing Regulations

NOTE TO SECRETARY OF STATE:

Amendments to Chapter 1 rules will be in effect for the 2020 fishing season and will be printed in the 2020 Maine Open Water and Ice Fishing regulations booklet and posted on the Department's website at: <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/fishing/laws-rules/index.html>

Proposed changes to North Region General Law:

TERMINAL GEAR

NORTH REGION

Use or possession of live fish as bait is PROHIBITED. The use of all other legal forms of bait (including worms, and dead baitfish/dead smelts), artificial lures, and artificial flies is permitted.

SOUTH REGION

Use of all legal forms of bait (including live baitfish/live smelts), artificial lures, and flies is PERMITTED.

SEASONS

LAKES & PONDS

NORTH REGION

- **From April 1 to September 30:** Open to open water fishing, under general law bag and length limits. The use of all legal forms of bait, artificial lures, and artificial flies are permitted.
- **From October 1 to March 31:** Closed to all fishing.

SOUTH REGION

- **From January 1 to December 31:** Open to ice and open water fishing, under general law bag and length limits. The use of all legal forms of bait, artificial lures, and artificial flies are permitted.

RIVERS, STREAMS, & BROOKS

NORTH & SOUTH REGIONS

- **From April 1 to August 15:** Open to open water fishing, under general law bag and length limits. The use of all legal forms of bait, artificial lures, and artificial flies are permitted.
- **From August 16 to September 30:** Open to open water fishing using artificial lures or flies only. General law length and bag limits apply, except daily bag limit one landlocked salmon and one brook trout.
- **From October 1 to March 31:** Closed to all fishing.

Proposed new S-Code:

S-11: The use or possession of live baitfish/live smelts is permitted.

Three (3) lists of proposed waters affected:

Lakes and ponds in the north region where the use of live fish as bait will be retained.pdf

Rivers, streams, and brooks in the north region where the use of live fish as bait will be retained.pdf

Flowing waters and sections in the north region where the S-4 will be removed.pdf