

MDIFW Fishing Regulation Proposals

For the 2025 fishing season



The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is proposing regulation changes for the upcoming ice fishing and open water fishing seasons. These regulations are needed to provide for the effective conservation of Maine’s inland fisheries and to enhance fishing opportunities throughout the State. This rule-making packet includes 23 individual proposals presented in the following “themes”:

Theme	Pages	Proposals
State Heritage Fish Waters	2-5	4
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The goal of presenting the proposals in this manner is to better facilitate the public review process and to increase public understanding of the changes currently proposed.

- Note in each proposal: **Gray Highlighted** Text = Eliminated text.

Underlined Text = New text.



Theme: State Heritage Fish Waters

Description: Proposed additions or removals to the State Heritage Fish Waters List consistent with statutory requirements and MDIFW's Heritage Waters consideration data review process.

Number of Proposals in this Theme: 4

2025 Rule Making Proposals - Statewide Waters

Theme: State Heritage Fish Waters

Water: AZISCOHOS LAKE (INCLUDING SUNDAY POND) AND TRIBUTARIES

Region: D **WATCODE:** 3290_BLNK

Proposal Source: MDIFW

Town(s):

County(ies):

Lincoln Plt, Lynchtown Twp, Parkertown Twp

Oxford (North)

Regulation Change Description:

Amend Chapter 1A by adding Aziscohos Lake to the State Heritage Fish Waters list. (No change to current regulations necessary.)

Purpose of Change:

The Fisheries Division conducted a thorough review of the statewide lake inventory database and newly surveyed waters to identify candidates for potential inclusion as State Heritage Fish Waters. Aziscohos Lake is a wild brook trout water in the Magalloway River drainage containing multiple age classes of brook trout. This water was last stocked in 1999. Given it has now been 25+ years since that last stocking event, Aziscohos Lake meets all Heritage List eligibility criteria and is proposed to be added to the State Heritage Fish Waters List.

NOTE - State Heritage designation is proposed only for Aziscohos Lake and is not proposed for Sunday Pond (watcode 7646).

Proposed Modifications: None

Final Regulations:

AZISCOHOS LAKE (INCLUDING SUNDAY POND) AND TRIBUTARIES, Lincoln Plt, Lynchtown Twp, Parkertown Twp (North Zone). Aziscohos Lake is the impounded portion of the Magalloway River south of a straight line between the 2 red markers on each shore by the Brown Company Landing, so-called, and the area of water south of a straight line between the 2 red markers just north of Sunday Pond on the Little Magalloway River.

General fishing laws apply, except: **CI. S-17** on the lake and all tributaries upstream to the red markers. No size or bag limit on landlocked salmon less than 16 inches. Daily bag limit on salmon over 16 inches: 1 fish. All west shore tributaries from Aziscohos dam to (but not including) the Big Magalloway River: **S-1**.

2025 Rule Making Proposals - Statewide Waters

Theme: State Heritage Fish Waters

Water: HUDSON POND, UPPER, AND OUTLET

Region: G **WATCODE:** 1928

Town(s):

T11 R10 WELS

Proposal Source: MDIFW

County(ies):

Aroostook

Regulation Change Description:

Amend Chapter 1A by adding Hudson Pond, Upper to the State Heritage Fish Waters list. (No change to current regulations necessary.)

Purpose of Change:

The Fisheries Division conducted a thorough review of the statewide lake inventory database and newly surveyed waters to identify candidates for potential inclusion as State Heritage Fish Waters. Upper Hudson Pond is a wild brook trout water located near the border between Aroostook and Piscataquis counties in T11 R10 WELS. This water was last stocked in 1997. Given it has now been 25+ years since that last stocking event, Upper Hudson Pond meets all Heritage List eligibility criteria and is proposed to be added to the State Heritage Fish Waters List.

Proposed Modifications: None

Final Regulations:

HUDSON POND, UPPER, AND OUTLET, T11 R10 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI. FFO, S-19, S-20.**

Theme: State Heritage Fish Waters

Water: SOUTH BRANCH POND, UPPER

Region: F **WATCODE:** 4222

Town(s):

T5 R9 WELS

Proposal Source: MDIFW

County(ies):

Piscataquis

Regulation Change Description:

Amend Chapter 1A by adding South Branch Pond, Upper to the State Heritage Fish Waters list. (No change to current regulations necessary.)

Purpose of Change:

The Fisheries Division conducted a thorough review of the statewide lake inventory database and newly surveyed waters to identify candidates for potential inclusion as State Heritage Fish Waters. Upper South Branch Pond is a well-known wild brook trout water within Baxter State Park containing multiple age classes of brook trout. This water was last stocked in 1998. Given it has now been 25+ years since that last stocking event, Upper South Branch Pond meets all Heritage List eligibility criteria and is proposed to be added to the State Heritage Fish Waters List.

This water will remain a general law water and a new record will not be added to the lawbook. This water is within Baxter State Park and general law regulations are sufficient.

Proposed Modifications: None

Final Regulations: General Law

2025 Rule Making Proposals - Statewide Waters

Theme: State Heritage Fish Waters

Water: THOMAS LAKE

Region: G **WATCODE:** 9285

Proposal Source: MDIFW

Town(s):

County(ies):

T16 R8 WELS

Aroostook

Regulation Change Description:

Amend Chapter 1A by adding Thomas Lake to the State Heritage Fish Waters list. (No change to current regulations necessary.)

Purpose of Change:

The Fisheries Division conducted a thorough review of the statewide lake inventory database and newly surveyed waters to identify candidates for potential inclusion as State Heritage Fish Waters. Thomas Lake is a small wild brook trout water in T16 R8 WELS, southeast of St. Francis. This small 5 acre water contains multiple age classes of brook trout. This water has never been stocked. Thomas Lake meets all Heritage List eligibility criteria and is proposed to be added to the State Heritage Fish Waters List.

This water will not be added to the lawbook with a new record. General law regulations are sufficient.

Proposed Modifications: None

Proposed Final Regulations: General Law



Theme: Special Need

Description: Management initiatives, typically in response to dramatic events, an emerging situation requiring adaptive rule changes, or needs not addressed by other regulatory themes (for example, addressing impacts of summer/winter fish kills, changes in management focus, or more complex and comprehensive initiatives).

Number of Proposals in this Theme: 6

2025 Rule Making Proposals - Statewide Waters

Theme: Special Need

Water: CRAWFORD POND AND TRIBUTARIES AND OUTLET TO TA R10 TOWN LINE

Region: E **WATCODE:** 0520

Proposal Source: MDIFW

Town(s):

County(ies):

TA R11 WELS

Piscataquis

Regulation Change Description:

Add: "No size or bag limit on landlocked salmon."

Purpose of Change:

Crawford Pond (a State Heritage Fish Water) contains populations of wild brook trout and wild lake trout. In addition, there are many other wild brook trout ponds located upstream in the drainage. Since 2013, five landlocked salmon have been caught in Crawford Pond. While salmon can coexist with brook trout and lake trout in larger lakes, they are not native in Crawford Pond and are likely to compete with these native salmonids. Landlocked salmon are stocked and managed in downstream waters providing sport fisheries. There are several waterfalls on the outlet that were thought to be barriers to any upstream fish passage but on certain flows it appears that salmon have been able to navigate the outlet upstream. To date, no reproduction of landlocked salmon in Crawford Pond or its outlet has been documented by MDIFW. The purpose of this regulation is to allow anglers to harvest any landlocked salmon they may encounter.

Proposed Modifications:

Proposed Final Regulations:

CRAWFORD POND AND TRIBUTARIES AND OUTLET TO TA R10 TOWN LINE, , TA R11 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI.** ALO, S-17, S-25. No size or bag limit on landlocked salmon.

CRAWFORD POND AND TRIBUTARIES AND OUTLET TO TA R10 TOWN LINE, TA R11 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI.** ALO, S-17, S-25. No size or bag limit on landlocked salmon.

Theme: Special Need

Water: KINGSBURY POND

Region: E **WATCODE:** 0262

Proposal Source: MDIFW

Town(s):

County(ies):

Kingsbury Plt, Mayfield Twp

Piscataquis, Somerset

Regulation Change Description:

Remove: "S-21."

Add: "S-19."

Purpose of Change:

Kingsbury Pond and Mayfield Pond are primarily managed for stocked landlocked salmon and are connected by a short thoroughfare. The ponds were previously stocked with splake, but this program was terminated in 2017 due to poor returns. The S-21 regulation (daily bag limit of one fish, minimum length limit 14 inches) was implemented to improve size quality of splake, but since they are no longer stocked the regulation is unnecessary. The department will be proposing a put-and-take brook trout stocking program to improve winter and spring catch rates for salmonids. The addition of S-19 (two trout limit) will help spread the catch out over the fishing season.

Proposed Modifications:

Proposed Final Regulations:

KINGSBURY POND, Kingsbury Plt., Mayfield Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **B.** S-3, S-11, ~~S-21, S-19~~, S-22. During the open water season pond is closed to taking smelts from midnight to noon. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

KINGSBURY POND, Kingsbury Plt., Mayfield Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **B.** S-3, S-11, S-19, S-22. During the open water season pond is closed to taking smelts from midnight to noon. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

- Thoroughfare from Mayfield Pond: S-1.

- Thoroughfare from Mayfield Pond: S-1.

2025 Rule Making Proposals - Statewide Waters

Theme: Special Need

Water: MAYFIELD POND

Region: E **WATCODE:** 0260

Proposal Source: MDIFW

Town(s):

County(ies):

Brighton Plt, Mayfield Twp

Piscataquis, Somerset

Regulation Change Description:

Remove: "S-21."

Add: "S-19."

Purpose of Change:

Kingsbury Pond and Mayfield Pond are primarily managed for stocked landlocked salmon and are connected by a short thoroughfare. The ponds were previously stocked with splake, but this program was terminated in 2017 due to poor returns. The S-21 regulation (daily bag limit of one fish, minimum length limit 14 inches) was implemented to improve size quality of splake, but since they are no longer stocked the regulation is unnecessary. The department will be proposing a put-and-take brook trout stocking program to improve winter and spring catch rates for salmonids. The addition of S-19 (two trout limit) will help spread the catch out over the fishing season.

Proposed Modifications:

Proposed Final Regulations:

MAYFIELD POND, Brighton Plt, Mayfield Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **B.** S-11, **S-21**, S-19, S-22. During the open water season pond and tributaries closed to taking smelts from midnight to noon. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

- Thoroughfare to Kingsbury Pond: S-1.

MAYFIELD POND, Brighton Plt, Mayfield Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **B.** S-11, S-19, S-22. During the open water season pond and tributaries closed to taking smelts from midnight to noon. Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

- Thoroughfare to Kingsbury Pond: S-1.

Theme: Special Need

Water: SNOWSHOE LAKE

Region: F **WATCODE:** 3028

Proposal Source: MDIFW

Town(s):

County(ies):

T7 R7 WELS

Penobscot (North)

Regulation Change Description:

Remove: "S-11."

Purpose of Change:

Snowshoe Lake contains populations of smallmouth bass and chain pickerel and is quite shallow with an average depth of 14 feet. However, there is one small deep hole with a maximum depth of 44 feet. Snowshoe Lake historically contained a population of lake whitefish (species of greatest conservation need), which until recently had not been encountered in MDIFW sampling events since 1962 (subsequent surveys in 1968 and 1980 failed to capture any whitefish). Recent efforts to better understand our lake whitefish populations prompted a survey in 2019, which resulted in one lake whitefish being caught. A follow up in 2023 resulted in a catch of six lake whitefish. While there is still more work to be done to better understand this population, it appears there has been some sporadic recruitment since the last time whitefish were encountered. The purpose of this proposal is to reduce the likelihood of an accidental introduction of rainbow smelt, which are not currently present in Snowshoe Lake by prohibiting the use of live fish as bait. In other waters, rainbow smelt have been shown to negatively impact lake whitefish populations, particularly those that are already stressed from other factors such as limited habitat and poor water quality.

Proposed Modifications:

Proposed Final Regulations:

SNOWSHOE LAKE, T7 R7 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **A.** S-11.

SNOWSHOE LAKE, T7 R7 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **A.**

2025 Rule Making Proposals - Statewide Waters

Theme: Special Need

Water: SOUTH POND

Region: A **WATCODE:** 9683_BLNK

Proposal Source: MDIFW

Town(s):

County(ies):

Greenwood

Oxford (South)

Regulation Change Description:

Remove: "S-3" and "Areas in the lake within 100 feet of the mouth of any tributary are closed to the taking of smelts."
Add: "All whitefish must be released alive at once."

Purpose of Change:

South Pond is one of the few southern Maine waters that contains a population of lake whitefish (species of greatest conservation need). However, the population is believed to be very low. The purpose of this proposal is an experimental effort to conserve lake whitefish and suppress rainbow smelt. Along with this proposal management priority would shift from landlocked salmon to lake whitefish and would include removal of current protections on the rainbow smelt population. In other waters, rainbow smelt have been shown to negatively impact lake whitefish populations. South Pond is a relatively small water (284 acres) and reductions to the smelt population may be effective at increasing whitefish recruitment. The landlocked salmon stocking program will continue for the next few years as they too will apply pressure to the smelt population. Once salmon growth and condition degrades, the stocking program will be proposed for termination.

Proposed Modifications:

SOUTH POND, Greenwood (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: S-3. Areas in the lake within 100 feet of the mouth of any tributary are closed to the taking of smelts. All whitefish must be released alive at once. From October 1 - December 31: ALO, S-7.

Proposed Final Regulations:

SOUTH POND, Greenwood (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: All whitefish must be released alive at once. From October 1 - December 31: ALO, S-7.

Theme: Special Need

Water: WILSON HILL POND, LITTLE

Region: D **WATCODE:** 0162

Proposal Source: MDIFW

Town(s):

County(ies):

Johnson Mountain Twp

Somerset

Regulation Change Description:

Add: "S-7."

Purpose of Change:

Little Wilson Hill Pond (a State Heritage Fish Water) was first surveyed in 2010 and contained a robust brook trout population representing various ages. Angler use appeared to be high at the time as access is relatively easy. Following angler complaints, a survey conducted in 2023 resulted in only one brook trout being caught. Additionally no fish were observed following the inspection of tributaries that contained numerous young of the year brook trout during the original survey. The cause of this decline is unknown, but may be related to previous drought years in Western Maine. The purpose of this proposal is to add temporary protection to the native brook trout population in Little Wilson Hill Pond by applying S-7 (all trout, landlocked salmon, and togue must be released alive at once.) The expectation is that this population will recover, at which time the regulations will be evaluated with the goal of resuming harvest.

Proposed Modifications:

WILSON HILL POND, LITTLE, Johnson Mountain Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO. S-7.

Proposed Final Regulations:

WILSON HILL POND, LITTLE, Johnson Mountain Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: CI. FFO. S-7.



Theme: Salmonid Growth, Condition, and Performance

Description: This theme includes waters where salmonid size quality, condition, and overall population health has declined or is no longer meeting management goals and objectives, typically associated with populations where reduced angler use, reduced forage, and/or reduced harvest have allowed population growth to exceed carrying capacity and resulting in priority species no longer meeting size quality management objectives.

Number of Proposals in this Theme: 4

2025 Rule Making Proposals - Statewide Waters

Theme: Salmonid Growth, Condition, and Performance

Water: BAKER POND

Region: D **WATCODE:** 0242

Town(s):

Caratunk

Proposal Source: MDIFW

County(ies):

Somerset

Regulation Change Description:

Remove: "S-17."

Add: "S-19, S-22," and "only 1 brook trout may exceed 12 inches."

Purpose of Change:

Baker Pond (a State Heritage Fish Water) currently contains an overabundant population of wild brook. Sampling catch rates have increased in recent years and in 2023 60% of the brook trout captured were observed with high parasite loads, a sign of an overabundant/ unhealthy population. Additionally, the catch of wild landlocked salmon has declined and the population appears to currently be low. The purpose of this proposal is to liberalize the brook trout regulations in an effort to increase harvest and improve the quality and health of brook trout; and to limit the harvest of landlocked salmon by applying a one fish bag limit.

Proposed Modifications:

BAKER POND, Caratunk (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI**, **S-17**, **S-19**, **S-22**. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 12 inches.

Proposed Final Regulations:

BAKER POND, Caratunk (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI**, **S-19**, **S-22**. Only 1 brook trout may exceed 12 inches.

Theme: Salmonid Growth, Condition, and Performance

Water: CONCORD POND, LITTLE

Region: A **WATCODE:** 3468

Town(s):

Woodstock

Proposal Source: MDIFW

County(ies):

Oxford (South)

Regulation Change Description:

Remove: "FFO" and "S-16".

Add: "ALO" and "S-20."

Purpose of Change:

Little Concord Pond was chemically reclaimed in 2011 to eradicate competing fishes and enhance the stocked brook trout fishery. While the project was successful, angler use and harvest are below objectives contributing to an abundance of brook trout and a decline in fish size quality. The purpose of this proposal is to increase harvest of smaller brook trout to improve size quality. In addition, the steep sided nature of this pond makes fly fishing here challenging, particularly when doing so from shore. The secondary purpose of this proposal is to expand angling opportunities by shifting from "fly fishing only," to "artificial lures only" to allow for easier angling for more people.

Proposed Modifications:

CONCORD POND, LITTLE, Woodstock (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI**, **CO**, **ALOFFFO**, **S-20S-16**. Closed to the taking of live baitfish.

Proposed Final Regulations:

CONCORD POND, LITTLE, Woodstock (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI**, **CO**, **ALO**, **S-20**. Closed to the taking of live baitfish.

2025 Rule Making Proposals - Statewide Waters

Theme: Salmonid Growth, Condition, and Performance

Water: DIXON POND

Region: D **WATCODE:** 9911

Proposal Source: MDIFW

Town(s):

County(ies):

Pierce Pond Twp

Somerset

Regulation Change Description:

Add: "S-19" and "only 1 brook trout may exceed 12 inches."

Purpose of Change:

Access to Dixon Pond (a State Heritage Fish Water) has traditionally been difficult, requiring anglers to boat across Pierce Pond to a trailhead and then a hike of approximately 20 minutes. However, recent forestry activity and road construction has improved access and now requires only a short walk of just over 100 yards. Recent surveys indicate that angler use is increasing and that brook trout size quality is declining. The purpose of this proposal is to reduce brook trout harvest by going from general law to a two fish bag limit, with only one exceeding 12 inches.

Proposed Modifications:

DIXON POND, Pierce Pond Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI. ALO. S-19, only 1 brook trout may exceed 12 inches.**

Proposed Final Regulations:

DIXON POND, Pierce Pond Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI. ALO. S-19, only 1 brook trout may exceed 12 inches.**

Theme: Salmonid Growth, Condition, and Performance

Water: SWAN LAKE

Region: B **WATCODE:** 5492

Proposal Source: MDIFW

Town(s):

County(ies):

Swanville

Waldo

Regulation Change Description:

Add: "No size or bag limit on togue."

Purpose of Change:

Recent regulation changes at Swan Lake have focused on increased ice fishing opportunity, with the intent of increasing harvest on togue. In 2018, regulations were changed to allow ice fishing from January 1 through ice out, where previously Swan Lake was open to ice fishing in January and February only. In 2023, the S-8 regulation was removed to allow ice anglers the use of five lines instead of two. Landlocked salmon stocking was temporarily suspended in 2023 and 2024 to reduce predation on the stressed smelt population.

The intent of this proposal is to reduce the overabundant and severely stunted togue population by allowing unlimited harvest of togue. Fish condition is currently poor and is not meeting objectives. The majority of togue are shorter than the current 18 inch minimum length limit.

Proposed Modifications:

SWAN LAKE, Swanville (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: S-1, S-3. **No size or bag limit on togue.** Closed to all fishing from October 1 - December 31.

Proposed Final Regulations:

SWAN LAKE, Swanville (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: S-1, S-3. **No size or bag limit on togue.** Closed to all fishing from October 1 - December 31.



Theme: Expanded Angler Opportunity

Description: Creation of new or expanded seasonal fishing opportunities (including fall fishing, year-round fishing, or winter opportunities) commonly associated with stocked waters and supported by public interest.

Number of Proposals in this Theme: 4

2025 Rule Making Proposals - Statewide Waters

Theme: Expanded Angling Opportunity

Water: BEAVER TAIL POND

Region: G **WATCODE:** 1536

Town(s):

T14 R10 WELS, T14 R9 WELS

Proposal Source: MDIFW

County(ies):

Aroostook

Regulation Change Description:

Remove: "CI." and "open to open water fishing from October 1-November 30: ALO, S-7."

Add: "A." ice fishing season.

Purpose of Change:

The purpose of this proposal is to create a new ice fishing opportunity in an area that is largely devoid of lakes and ponds open to winter angling. Beaver Tail Pond contains a stocked brook trout fishery, that has historically prioritized the open water season and has prohibited ice fishing. This proposal would shift management priority from just one season and would expand angling opportunity to year round. Although this water is relatively remote, it is in closer proximity to Allagash/St. Francis than most other waters open to ice fishing.

Proposed Modifications:

BEAVER TAIL POND, T14 R9&10 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI. A. S-11, S-19.** Open to open water fishing from October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Proposed Final Regulations:

BEAVER TAIL POND, T14 R9&10 WELS (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **A. S-11, S-19.**

Theme: Expanded Angling Opportunity

Water: BIG POND ON SWAN ISLAND

Region: B **WATCODE:** 7797

Town(s):

Richmond

Proposal Source: MDIFW

County(ies):

Sagadahoc

Regulation Change Description:

Remove: "S-9" and revert to general law.

Purpose of Change:

Big Pond is located within the Swan Island Wildlife Management Area. The pond was originally managed as a kids only opportunity and is currently stocked with brook trout. Angler use on Big Pond is low and is no longer meeting objectives. This proposal would remove the "kids only" restriction and allow all anglers to fish. In conjunction, this stocking program will be proposed for cancellation and anglers will have the opportunity to target the abundant largemouth bass population that exists in the pond. General Law provisions are adequate and are expected to increase angler use by allowing kids and adults to fish.

Proposed Modifications:

BIG POND ON SWAN ISLAND, Richmond (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: S-9.

Proposed Final Regulations: General Law

2025 Rule Making Proposals - Statewide Waters

Theme: Expanded Angling Opportunity

Water: LONG POND

Region: C **WATCODE:** 4430

Town(s):

T10 SD

Proposal Source: MDIFW

County(ies):

Hancock

Regulation Change Description:

Remove: "CI. ALO, S-7, S-13" and revert to general law.

Purpose of Change:

Long Pond was historically managed as a put-grow-and-take brown trout water with restrictive regulations and the intent to produce trophy sized individuals. Based on sampling efforts over the last decade or so, year to year survival of brown trout is essentially non-existent. In an effort to improve catch rates, a brook trout stocking program was initiated in 2020. However, angler use is still low and this water is underutilized. This proposal would liberalize tackle/harvest regulations and open this water to ice fishing by reverting to general law.

Proposed Modifications:

LONG POND, T10 SD (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI. ALO, S-7, S-13.**

Proposed Final Regulations: General Law

Theme: Expanded Angling Opportunity

Water: SIX MILE LAKE

Region: C **WATCODE:** 1280

Town(s):

Marshfield, Whitneyville

Proposal Source: MDIFW

County(ies):

Washington

Regulation Change Description:

Remove: "CI. S-4, S-10, S-13, Daily bag limit on brook trout: 5 Fish. From October 1-November 30: ALO, S-7" and revert to general law.

Purpose of Change:

Six Mile Lake has historically been managed as a put-and-take stocked brook trout water, with a focus on open water angling. The purpose of this proposal is to increase angler use and opportunity by liberalizing tackle/harvest regulations and opening this water to ice fishing by reverting to general law.

Proposed Modifications:

SIX MILE LAKE, Marshfield, Whitneyville (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI. S-4, S-10, S-13.** Daily bag limit on brook trout: 5 fish. From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Proposed Final Regulations: General Law



Theme: Errors, Conflicts, and Confusion

Description: A significant effort has been made to correct previously identified issues related to conflicting regulations, inconsistencies, inadvertent omissions, errors, and confusing regulations that have also created challenges for mapping special regulations in the Fishing Laws Online Angling Tool (FLOAT). This theme is retained from year to year to correct any newly identified issues.

Number of Proposals in this Theme: 4

2025 Rule Making Proposals - Statewide Waters

Theme: Errors, Conflicts, and Confusion

Water: ANDROSCOGGIN LAKE (INCLUDING OUTLET DOWNSTREAM TO DAM)

Region: B **WATCODE:** 3836

Proposal Source: MDIFW

Town(s):

County(ies):

Leeds, Wayne

Kennebec

Regulation Change Description:

Add: "Androscoggin Lake (including outlet downstream to dam) - General fishing laws apply."

Purpose of Change:

Androscoggin Lake primarily contains warmwater fisheries and is impounded by a dam. The purpose of this proposal is to clarify that the lake regulations also apply to the impounded portion of the outlet, all the way to the dam.

Proposed Modifications:

Proposed Final Regulations:

ANDROSCOGGIN LAKE (INCLUDING OUTLET DOWNSTREAM TO DAM), Leeds, Wayne (South Zone). General fishing laws apply.

ANDROSCOGGIN LAKE (INCLUDING OUTLET DOWNSTREAM TO DAM), Leeds, Wayne (South Zone). General fishing laws apply.

Theme: Errors, Conflicts, and Confusion

Water: FISH POND

Region: D **WATCODE:** 6910

Proposal Source: MDIFW

Town(s):

County(ies):

Hobbstown Twp

Somerset

Regulation Change Description:

Add: "Daily bag limit on togue: 6 fish; no minimum length limit; only 1 may exceed 23 inches."

Purpose of Change:

Fish Pond is connected to Spencer Lake by a short thoroughfare and both waters are managed with consistent regulations. The text proposed here was added to Spencer Lake in 2022, however the regulation was inadvertently omitted from Fish Pond. This proposal would achieve the desired management consistency and allow increased harvest of this overabundant togue population.

Proposed Modifications:

Proposed Final Regulations:

FISH POND, Hobbstown Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **B. S-11, S-17. Daily bag limit on togue: 6 fish; no minimum length limit; only 1 may exceed 23 inches.**

FISH POND, Hobbstown Twp (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **B. S-11, S-17. Daily bag limit on togue: 6 fish; no minimum length limit; only 1 may exceed 23 inches.**

2025 Rule Making Proposals - Statewide Waters

Theme: Errors, Conflicts, and Confusion

Water: FLAGSTAFF LAKE

Region: D **WATCODE:** 0038

Proposal Source: MDIFW

Town(s):

County(ies):

Bigelow Twp, Dead River Twp, Carrying Place Town Twp,
Eustis, Flagstaff Twp, T3 R4 BKP WKR

Franklin, Somerset

Regulation Change Description:

Add: "Including Dead River, South Branch to the confluence with Reed Brook and Dead River, North Branch to the Flagstaff Road Crossing" to the water name.

Purpose of Change:

Flagstaff Lake is impounded by a dam and the lake elevation changes regularly. The purpose of this proposal is to create a consistent delineation between Flagstaff Lake and two tributaries (South Branch of Dead River and North Branch of Dead River) where this delineation between lake and river has previously been unclear. Flagstaff Lake regulations will apply up to the areas designated in the revised water name.

Proposed Modifications:

Proposed Final Regulations:

FLAGSTAFF LAKE, INCLUDING DEAD RIVER, SOUTH BRANCH TO THE CONFLUENCE WITH REED BROOK AND DEAD RIVER, NORTH BRANCH TO THE FLAGSTAFF ROAD CROSSING,
Bigelow Twp, Dead River Twp, Flagstaff Twp, etc. (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **A. S-11.** From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

FLAGSTAFF LAKE, INCLUDING DEAD RIVER, SOUTH BRANCH TO THE CONFLUENCE WITH REED BROOK AND DEAD RIVER, NORTH BRANCH TO THE FLAGSTAFF ROAD CROSSING,
Bigelow Twp, Dead River Twp, Flagstaff Twp, etc. (North Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **A. S-11.** From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

Theme: Errors, Conflicts, and Confusion

Water: LONG POND

Region: A **WATCODE:** 3084

Proposal Source: MDIFW

Town(s):

County(ies):

Denmark

Oxford (South)

Regulation Change Description:

Remove: "Opens to open water fishing May 15" and "Closed to open water fishing from December 1-May 14."
Add: "S-10."

Purpose of Change:

The May 15th opening date was originally enacted due to social issues/road damage related to smelt dipping. However, this regulation is no longer necessary because Long Pond was closed to smelt dipping many years ago. Additionally, the road has since been improved and springtime angler use is light.

The closed period from December 1-March 31 is better captured under the "S-10" special code.

Proposed Modifications:

Proposed Final Regulations:

LONG POND, Denmark (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI. Opens to open water fishing May 15:** ALO, S-2, S-3, **S-10, S-17.** Closed to fishing from a point at the mouth of brook at north end of pond to a point 150 feet down the pond; points to be plainly marked. Motorboats over 6 horsepower prohibited. From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7. **Closed to open water fishing from December 1 - May 14.**

LONG POND, Denmark (South Zone). General fishing laws apply, except: **CI.** ALO, S-2, S-3, S-10, S-17. Closed to fishing from a point at the mouth of brook at north end of pond to a point 150 feet down the pond; points to be plainly marked. Motorboats over 6 horsepower prohibited. From October 1 - November 30: ALO, S-7.

2025 Rule Making Proposals - Statewide Waters

Theme: Errors, Conflicts, and Confusion

Water: LURVEY BROOK

Region: C **WATCODE:** 3210101

Proposal Source: MDIFW

Town(s):

County(ies):

Mount Dessert, Southwest Harbor

Hancock

Regulation Change Description:

Add: "Spring" to water name.

Purpose of Change:

Within the town of Southwest Harbor there are two similarly named brooks - Lurvey Brook and Lurvey "Spring" Brook. Lurvey Brook is intended to be managed under general law, and Lurvey "Spring" Brook is intended to be, and has been, managed as "Closed to All Fishing" since the early 1980's. However, this regulation is incorrectly listed as Lurvey Brook and therefore was incorrectly mapped in the Fishing Laws Online Angling Tool. This proposal would not change the original intention of this regulation, but would eliminate the opportunity for continued confusion.

Proposed Modifications:

Proposed Final Regulations:

LURVEY <u>SPRING</u> BROOK, Mount Desert, Southwest Harbor (South Zone). Closed to all fishing.	LURVEY SPRING BROOK , Mount Desert, Southwest Harbor (South Zone). Closed to all fishing.
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