

## NOTICE OF STATE AGENCY RULEMAKING

**PUBLIC INPUT FOR RULES** A list of state agency rule proposals is published here each Wednesday. You can get a copy of a proposed rule by contacting the person listed in the notice. You can comment on a proposed rule by submitting a written comment to the agency or by attending the public hearing, if one is scheduled. If no hearing is scheduled, you can request one. The agency must hold a hearing if it receives 5 or more requests. If you have a disability and need assistance to participate in a hearing you should tell the agency at least 7 days before the hearing. **ONLINE INFORMATION** Weekly notices, full text of adopted rules, and a list of agency rulemaking contacts are available at this website:

<https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/index.html>

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### PROPOSALS

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**AGENCY:** 09-137 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE:** Ch. 16, Hunting (Chapter 16.11 – Migratory Game Bird Hunting)

**PROPOSAL TRACKING NUMBER:** 2025-P008

**TYPE OF RULE:** Routine Technical

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is proposing to amend Chapter 16.11 rules pertaining to season dates and bag limits for the hunting of ducks, geese, and other migratory game birds. The population status of these migratory game birds remains unchanged from last year; therefore, season frameworks and harvest limits are similar to the previous hunting season. Of note is the proposed increased bag limit for northern pintails from a daily limit of 1 per day to 3 per day. This increase was allowed at the Atlantic Flyway scale. No significant impact to the northern pintail population is expected, due to the very low annual harvest of northern pintails in Maine each year. A complete copy of the proposed rule may be obtained from the agency contact person.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Tuesday, March 4, 2025 @ 4:00pm – Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, 353 Water Street, Room 400, Augusta

**COMMENT DEADLINE:** March 14, 2025

**CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS FILING:** Becky Orff, Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, 41 State House Station, 353 Water Street, Augusta, ME 04333; Tel: 207-287-5202; [becky.orff@maine.gov](mailto:becky.orff@maine.gov)

**CONTACT PERSON FOR SMALL BUSINESS INFORMATION** (if different):

**IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES OR COUNTIES:** No fiscal impact is anticipated.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THIS RULE:** 12 MRSA, Sections 10104 and 11855

**SUBSTANTIVE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW BEING IMPLEMENTED** (if different):

**E-MAIL FOR OVERALL AGENCY RULE-MAKING LIAISON:** [Becky.Orff@maine.gov](mailto:Becky.Orff@maine.gov)

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**AGENCY:** 09-137 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE:** Chapter 16, Hunting (Chapter 16.12 – Upland Game and Furbearer Animal Hunting (Gray Squirrels))

**PROPOSAL TRACKING NUMBER:** 2025-P009

**TYPE OF RULE:** Routine Technical

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is proposing a change to Chapter 16 rules to adjust the gray squirrel hunting season. The Department regularly adjusts hunting and trapping regulations in response to emerging scientific information, changes in hunter and trapper participation, and biological data. The proposed rule would lengthen the gray squirrel hunting season by one month to provide additional opportunities to pursue this species. If adopted, the gray squirrel hunting season would open the last Saturday in September and close January 31. No changes are proposed for the gray squirrel (falconry) hunting season that runs from the last Saturday in September to February 28th. The daily (4) and possession (8) limits for gray squirrel would remain the same. A complete copy of the proposed rule may be obtained from the agency contact person.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Thursday, March 6, 2025 @ 4:00pm – Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, 353 Water Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> fl conference room, Augusta

**COMMENT DEADLINE:** March 17, 2025

**CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS FILING:** Becky Orff, Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, 41 State House Station, 353 Water Street, Augusta, ME 04333; Tel: 207-287-5202; becky.orff@maine.gov

**CONTACT PERSON FOR SMALL BUSINESS INFORMATION (if different):**

**IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES OR COUNTIES:** No fiscal impact is anticipated.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THIS RULE:** 12 MRSA, Sections 10104 and 10954

**SUBSTANTIVE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW BEING IMPLEMENTED (if different):**

**E-MAIL FOR OVERALL AGENCY RULEMAKING LIAISON:** [Becky.Orff@maine.gov](mailto:Becky.Orff@maine.gov)

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**AGENCY:** 18-125 Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE:** Ch. 202, Tree Growth Tax Law Valuations - 2025

**TYPE OF RULE:** Routine Technical

**PROPOSAL TRACKING NUMBER:** 2025-P010

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** MRS is proposing to repeal and replace Rule 202 (“Tree Growth Tax Law Valuations”). The following changes are being made to the proposed Rule. The rule is being replaced to provide updated valuation rates for each forest type by region. 36 M.R.S. § 576 requires that the State Tax Assessor annually establish the value per acre for each forest type, by economic region, for parcels classified under the Tree Growth Tax Law.

**PUBLIC HEARING (if any):** N/A

**COMMENT DEADLINE:** March 14, 2025

**CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS FILING:** Alex Weber, General Counsel, Maine Revenue Services, 51 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine 04330, (207) 624-9712, alexander.j.weber@maine.gov

**CONTACT PERSON FOR SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT (if different):**

**FINANCIAL IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES OR COUNTIES (if any):** The rule has minimal impact on municipalities. The valuation amounts for the Tree Growth Tax Law program vary from year to year, which impacts the property tax assessed on land in the program. Fluctuations in local taxes due to valuation changes in this program are partially offset by reimbursement and state subsidy provisions.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THIS RULE:** 36 M.R.S. § 576

**SUBSTANTIVE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW BEING IMPLEMENTED** (*if different*):

**AGENCY WEBSITE:** [www.maine.gov/revenue](http://www.maine.gov/revenue)

**EMAIL FOR OVERALL AGENCY RULEMAKING LIAISON:** [anya.trundy@maine.gov](mailto:anya.trundy@maine.gov)

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**AGENCY:** 10-144 Department of Health and Human Services -Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE:** Ch. 266, Certification Standards For Persons Conducting Chemical Analyses For The Detection And Identification Of Drugs

**TYPE OF RULE:** Routine Technical

**PROPOSAL TRACKING NUMBER:** 2025-P011

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** The Department is proposing this routine technical rule change to amend Chapter 266, to coincide with the expiration of the emergency rule effective January 2, 2025, ensuring competency requirements and accreditation standards remain the standard for labs analyzing controlled substances seized by law enforcement and used in Maine's courts' procedures. The proposed non-emergency rule changes incorporate those emergency changes adopted by emergency rule to update the oversight authority and certification standards, including the educational and training requirements. Consistent with the emergency rule, the Department is proposing to require accredited labs and personnel to comply with international standards for forensic testing and calibration laboratories (ISO 17025 standards), shorten the time a certificate is valid from five years to one year, and permit the certified analyst to perform examinations, analyze forensic casework, and technically review other certified analyst's case reports. Additionally, the Department is proposing non-emergency amendments, including the repeal of the semiannual reporting requirement; an increase to the current two-year preservation period for test results to be available for inspection for 20 years; and removes the allowance for an exception for a laboratory analyst to be qualified as an expert witness prior to 1976. These proposed rule amendments also include a revised rule format and an amended rule title.

**PUBLIC HEARING** (*if any*): No public hearing is scheduled. A public hearing may be requested by emailing the contact person identified below for this filing. (5 MRS § 8053(3)(B).)

**COMMENT DEADLINE:** Saturday, March 15, 2025

**CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS FILING:** Bridget Danis; 11 SHS, 286 Water St., Augusta, ME 04333; Tele: 207-287-9394; Fax: 207-287-5807; TTY: 711; [Bridget.Danis@maine.gov](mailto:Bridget.Danis@maine.gov)

**CONTACT PERSON FOR SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT** (*if different*): Same

**FINANCIAL IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES OR COUNTIES** (*if any*): None anticipated.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THIS RULE:** 17-A MRS §1112 (1) and 22 MRS §42(1)

**SUBSTANTIVE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW BEING IMPLEMENTED** (*if different*):

**AGENCY WEBSITE:** <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/about/rulemaking>

**EMAIL FOR OVERALL AGENCY RULEMAKING LIAISON:** [emily.cathcart@maine.gov](mailto:emily.cathcart@maine.gov)

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**AGENCY:** 13-188-Department of Marine Resources

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: Chapter 34, Groundfish Regulations****TYPE OF RULE: Routine Technical****PROPOSAL TRACKING NUMBER: 2025-P012**

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** This proposed regulation seeks to align expected halibut catch in Maine's territorial waters with the state waters sub-component established in the New England Fishery Management Council's Framework 69 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. This regulation proposes to prohibit fishing for Atlantic halibut in Maine's territorial waters on Wednesdays and Thursdays. It also proposes reducing the number of allowable hooks for commercial vessels from 250 to 200 hooks, and clarifies that individuals fishing for halibut recreationally are limited to 100 hooks both per person and per vessel. Finally, this regulation adds a prohibition on the use of gaffs to land Atlantic halibut.

**PUBLIC HEARING** *(if any)*:

March 3, 2025 at 4:00 pm in DMR's Conference Room 118, Marquardt Building, 32 Blossom Lane, Augusta ME, and remotely via Microsoft Teams. Remote access information is posted to <https://www.maine.gov/dmr/home> under "meetings".

March 5, 2025 at 4:00 pm at the Yarmouth Town Hall Community Room, 200 Main St Yarmouth ME

If either hearing must be cancelled due to inclement weather, an alternate hearing will be held on March 6 at 4:00 pm in DMR's Conference Room 118, Marquardt Building, 32 Blossom lane, Augusta ME, and remotely via Microsoft Teams. Remote access information is posted to <https://www.maine.gov/dmr/home> under "meetings".

**COMMENT DEADLINE:** March 17, 2025**CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS FILING:**

NAME: Deirdre Gilbert

MAILING ADDRESS: 21 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0021

E-MAIL: [dmr.rulemaking@maine.gov](mailto:dmr.rulemaking@maine.gov)

TELEPHONE: 207-624-6553

FAX: 207-624-6024

TTY: 207-624-6500 (Deaf/Hard of Hearing)

Hearing facilities: If you require accommodations due to disability, please contact Meredith Mendelson at 207-624-6553.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT** *(if different)*: Same**FINANCIAL IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES OR COUNTIES** *(if any)*: None**STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THIS RULE:** 12 MRS §6171**SUBSTANTIVE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW BEING IMPLEMENTED** *(if different)*: Same**AGENCY WEBSITE:** <https://www.maine.gov/dmr>**E-MAIL FOR OVERALL AGENCY RULE-MAKING LIAISON:**[dmr.rulemaking@maine.gov](mailto:dmr.rulemaking@maine.gov)

**AGENCY: 13-188-Department of Marine Resources**

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: Chapter 42, Striped Bass**

**TYPE OF RULE: Routine Technical**

**PROPOSAL TRACKING NUMBER: 2025-P013**

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** This regulation proposes expanding the special hook and release season/area and the waters seasonally closed to the use of bait regulations on striped bass from May 1 to June 30 to the Saco and Presumpscot rivers. This is intended to reduce mortality of Atlantic striped bass in Maine territorial waters in recognition of the current overfished status of the stock. The proposed rule also provides an exemption for for-hire operators and crew to fillet legal striped bass dockside provided specific criteria are met.

**PUBLIC HEARING** *(if any)*:

March 3, 2025 at 5:00 pm in DMR's Conference Room 118, Marquardt Building, 32 Blossom Lane, Augusta ME, and remotely via Microsoft Teams. Remote access information is posted to <https://www.maine.gov/dmr/home> under "meetings".

March 5, 2025 at 5:00 pm at the Yarmouth Town Hall Community Room, 200 Main St Yarmouth ME

If either hearing must be cancelled due to inclement weather, an alternate hearing will be held on March 6 at 5:00 pm in DMR's Conference Room 118, Marquardt Building, 32 Blossom lane, Augusta ME, and remotely via Microsoft Teams. Remote access information is posted to <https://www.maine.gov/dmr/home> under "meetings".

**COMMENT DEADLINE:** March 17, 2025

**CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS FILING:**

NAME: Deirdre Gilbert

MAILING ADDRESS: 21 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0021

E-MAIL: [dmr.rulemaking@maine.gov](mailto:dmr.rulemaking@maine.gov)

TELEPHONE: 207-624-6553

FAX: 207-624-6024

TTY: 207-624-6500 (Deaf/Hard of Hearing)

Hearing facilities: If you require accommodations due to disability, please contact Meredith Mendelson at 207-624-6553.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT** *(if different)*: Same

**FINANCIAL IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES OR COUNTIES** *(if any)*: None

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THIS RULE:** 12 MRS §6171

**SUBSTANTIVE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW BEING IMPLEMENTED** *(if different)*: Same

**AGENCY WEBSITE:** [www.maine.gov/dmr](http://www.maine.gov/dmr)

**E-MAIL FOR OVERALL AGENCY RULE-MAKING LIAISON:**

[dmr.rulemaking@maine.gov](mailto:dmr.rulemaking@maine.gov)

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**ADOPTIONS**

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**AGENCY:** 02-030 Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE:** Ch. 110, Bureau Organization, Administration, And Procedure

**ADOPTION TRACKING NUMBER:** 2025-029

**CONCISE SUMMARY:**

This rule is intended to satisfy the requirements of Title 5 M.R.S. § 8051 and Title 9-A M.R.S. §§ 6-104(1)(E) and (4); to update Bureau protocols for responses to requests for advisory rulings; to clarify the handling of complaints; to establish rules of practice for adjudicatory proceedings; and to establish new protocols for the use of criminal history record information to comply with Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) policies.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Sunday, February 9, 2025

**AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:** Linda Conti

**AGENCY NAME:** Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection

**ADDRESS:** 35 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333

**TELEPHONE:** (207) 624-8527

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**AGENCY:** 18-125 Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Maine Revenue Services

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE:** Ch. 308, Direct Payment Permits

**ADOPTION TRACKING NUMBER:** 2025-031

**CONCISE SUMMARY:**

This Rule establishes a system for combined reporting of purchases by manufacturers and utilities under a direct payment permit.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Saturday, February 15, 2025

**AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:** Alex Weber, General Counsel

**AGENCY NAME:** Maine Revenue Services

**ADDRESS:** 24 State House Station, Augusta ME 04333-0024

**TELEPHONE:** (207) 624-9712