

F. Christman

State fishing regulations are designed to protect sea-run salmon

Sea-run Atlantic salmon are listed Endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Obeying size limits and area closures protects our sea-run salmon!



C. Clark

If you accidentally catch a sea-run salmon: keep it in the water, remove the hook, and release immediately.



N. Nemeth

How does Maine DMR protect Sea-Run Salmon?

Bureau of Sea-Run Fisheries and Habitat biologists monitor sea-run salmon populations, help with recovery by stocking native sea-run salmon into high quality habitat, and are active partners in habitat restoration. To learn more, visit maine.gov/dmr/salmon.html or scan the QR code.



The protection of sea-run salmon is a priority for Marine Patrol. Officers routinely monitor anglers in areas known to hold sea-run salmon for enforcement and education purposes. Marine Patrol Officers can be reached day and night to answer questions.

Law enforcement contacts

DMR Marine Patrol

Division 1 (ME/NH Border–Belfast)
207.633.9595

Division 2 (Belfast–Canadian Border)
207.664.2392

Maine Warden Service

Augusta: 1.800.452.4664
Bangor: 1.800.432.7381
Houlton: 1.800.924.2261

Operation Game Thief

1.800.253.7887

Maine State Police

Augusta: 207.624.7076
Bangor: 207.973.3700
Houlton: 207.532.5400



maine.gov/dmr



maine.gov/ifw/mohf

S. De Neef

Graphic design produced by K. Tenga-Gonzalez, Maine Sea Grant

Did you know...

Maine rivers are home to the last wild sea-run Atlantic salmon in the United States



The same, but different...

Maine's rivers, streams, and lakes are home to two types of native Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*): **Sea-run Atlantic salmon** and **landlocked salmon**. They are the same species and look the same, but live differently:

Sea-run salmon swim from the ocean to our rivers and back each year. They are **protected** because they are federally listed as endangered. ⬇️



Landlocked salmon stay in freshwater lakes and streams their whole life and **can be caught** legally. ⬇️



Because sea-run salmon & landlocked salmon look the same, fishing laws help you protect our wild sea-run salmon.

In many waters, salmon smaller than 14 inches and larger than 25 inches needs to be let go. This is because salmon between 14 inches and 25 inches are likely landlocked.



Watch out for look-alikes!

Small Atlantic salmon can be confused with brook trout.

Brook trout and juvenile salmon both live in rivers and streams. Brook trout have wavy lines on their backs while salmon have dark bands on their sides. Brook trout smaller than 6 inches must be let go.

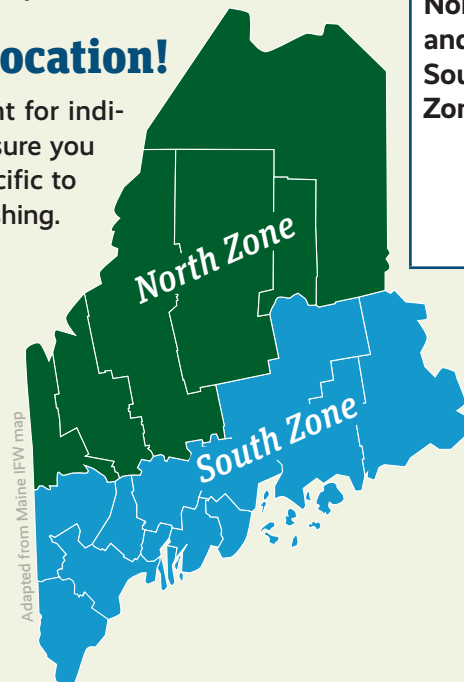


If you don't know, let it go!

If you are not 100% sure of the identity of your catch, release the fish immediately.

Look up your location!

Fishing laws are different for individual water bodies. Be sure you know what laws are specific to the area where you are fishing.



“What can I catch?”

Salmon
14–25"

Brook trout
more than 6"

General Law Fishing Seasons

Lakes and Ponds

North Zone	From April 1 to September 30 Open to open water fishing.
	From October 1 to March 31 Closed to all fishing.
South Zone	January 1 to December 31 Open to ice and open water fishing

Rivers, Streams, Brooks

North and South Zones	From April 1 to August 15 Open to open water fishing.
	From August 16 to September 30 Open to open water fishing using artificial lures or flies only.
	From October 1 to March 31 Closed to all fishing.

For more on fishing regulations and seasons visit maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/fishing/laws-rules/statewide-law or scan the QR code



Juveniles spend **2–3 years** in the river, growing to about **6" long**



May–August
adults return from the sea to rivers

May
tiny 1-inch long salmon emerge from gravel nests

April–June
salmon smolts migrate to sea (usually about 6 inches long)

October–December
adult salmon reproduce

December–May
adult salmon may overwinter in lakes before moving back downstream to the sea