

MAINE *Saltwater* Angler's Guide





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Marine Recreational Fisheries Program
but would not have been possible without the help of the following:**

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STATE OF MAINE
 OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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ANGUS S. KING, JR.
 GOVERNOR

May, 1999

Dear Saltwater Angler,

Whether you are a longtime resident or a short-term guest, welcome to Maine's coast and the wonderful fishing experiences that await you. Maine offers over 5,000 miles of coast where anglers can fish from the rugged rocky shore, expanses of sand beaches, tranquil coves and bays, or in our offshore waters.

Maine has something to offer every saltwater angler, be it your first or hundredth saltwater fishing adventure. To sample our world class striped bass fishery, cast a fly or lure into any number of coastal rivers, coves and bays. Anglers who want a shot at a giant Atlantic bluefin tuna or a blue, mako, or thresher shark should head offshore to our deeper waters. Children, both young and old, can catch mackerel and pollock from just about any shore-side location, public docks, piers and breakwaters included.

I hope you enjoy your experience -- and welcome to the incredible coast of Maine!

Sincerely,

Angus S. King, Jr.
 Governor

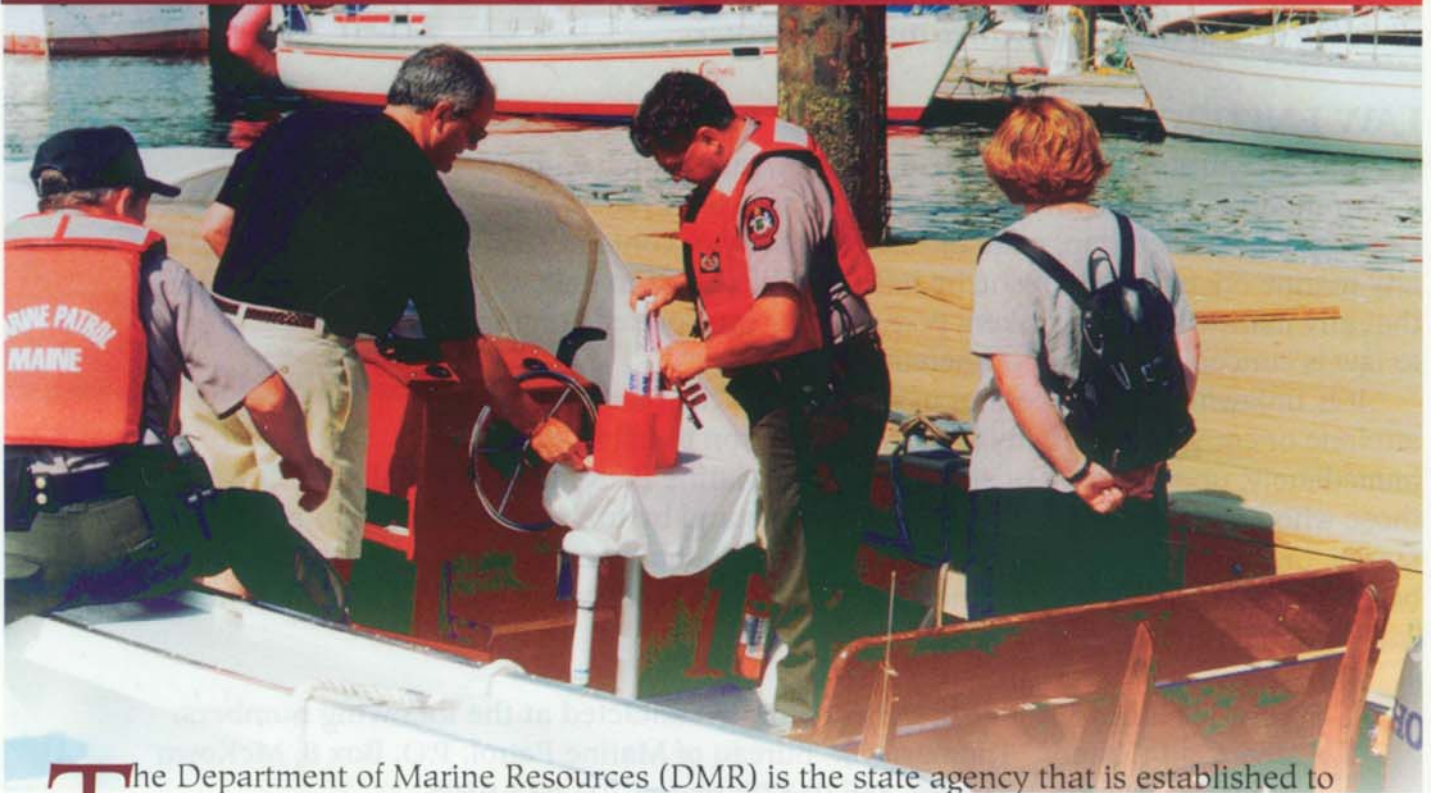
Good fishing!

PHONE: (207) 287-3531 (Voice)

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General Information



The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) is the state agency that is established to conserve and develop marine and estuarine resources. Within the DMR, the Bureau of Resource Management promotes and develops recreational and commercial saltwater fisheries through research, technical assistance and the collection of statistics. The Bureau of Marine Patrol through its Marine Patrol Officers enforces laws and regulations pertaining to saltwater recreational and commercial fishing activities, as well as Maine's boat laws, including operation, registration and safety requirements.

For information please contact the Department of Marine Resources, #21 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333; phone 207-624-6550.

THE MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES PROGRAM

The DMR's Marine Recreational Fisheries Program (MRFP), in conjunction with the National Marine Fisheries Service, collects all Maine marine recreational fisheries statistics data through an access site intercept survey (a type of creel survey) and a supplemental Volunteer Angler Logbook Program.

The MRFP also maintains the Maine State Saltwater Angler Records. The standards to qualify for a State record mirror those set by the International Game Fish Association's All-Tackle category. In addition, we sponsor a Tackle-Busters program that recognizes anglers with outstanding, though not State record, catches.

Outreach efforts aimed at angler education and information include: an annual newsletter, regulation handouts, adhesive fish measuring tapes and weekly newspaper and internet fishing updates during the summer season.

To learn more, look us up at: <http://www.state.me.us/dmr/recreational/homepage.html>
Or: <http://www.destinationmaine.com/fishing/bruce.htm>

The following rules apply to all the waters of the state of Maine within the rise and fall of the tide and within the marine limits of the state, but not including areas above any fishway or dam when the fishway or dam is the dividing line between tidewater and freshwater.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Marine Patrol Officers (MPO), in uniform, may search without a warrant and examine any watercraft, aircraft, conveyance, vehicle, box, bag, locker, trap, crate or tote receptacle or container for any marine organism when she/he has probable cause to believe that any marine organism taken, possessed or transported contrary to law is concealed thereon or therein.

It is unlawful for the operator of a motor vehicle, boat, vessel, airplane or conveyance of any kind, or any person to fail to stop immediately, upon request or signal from any Marine Patrol Officer in uniform. It is unlawful for those who have been requested or signaled to stand by to throw or dump into any water any marine organism or any pail, bag, barrel or other container of any type, or the contents thereof, before the MPO has inspected the same. Failure to comply is a criminal offense (Class E crime) with a minimum \$100 fine.

Your local Marine Patrol Officer can be contacted at the following numbers:

- Division I (Kittery - Thomaston): Bureau of Marine Patrol, P.O. Box 8, McKown Point, W. Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575; phone 207-633-9595
- Division II (Thomaston - Calais): Bureau of Marine Patrol, RFD #2, c/o Lamoine State Park, Ellsworth, ME 04605; phone 207-667-3373
- For emergencies, 24 hours per day, Marine Patrol Officers are available through the Maine State Police by phoning:

1-800-452-4664, Augusta Barracks

1-800-228-0857, Gray Barracks

1-800-432-7381, Orono Barracks

1-800-432-7303, Washington County Regional Communications, Machias

MARINE RECREATIONAL FINFISHING INFORMATION

Saltwater angling licenses are not required for recreational saltwater angling. A commercial license is required when any marine species is sold and when more than the recreational bag limits are in the possession of the angler. There are recreational regulations covering methods of taking, size, bag limits and possession limits for - but not limited to - the following species: Atlantic salmon, Atlantic bluefin tuna, bluefish, cod, haddock, halibut, pollock, redfish, shad, sharks, smelt, striped bass, sturgeon, and winter/summer flounder. Current saltwater fishing information can be obtained by contacting the Marine Recreational Fisheries Program, Maine DMR, P.O. Box 8, W. Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575; phone 207-633-9500.

Recreational fishing in coastal waters for freshwater species is governed by regulations that conform with the Maine general law open water fishing regulations for methods of taking, size, bag limits and possession limits. It is unlawful to jig for freshwater fish (brown trout, large mouth bass, small mouth bass, black crappie, rainbow trout, brook trout, chain pickerel and

Atlantic salmon are regulated by the Atlantic Salmon Authority. License and regulation information can be obtained directly from the Atlantic Salmon Authority, 650 State Street, Bangor Mental Health Facility Complex, Bangor, ME 04401; phone 207-941-4449.

Atlantic bluefin tuna are regulated by the Federal Government. Permit information can be obtained from the National Marine Fisheries Service Atlantic Tunas Program, Northeast Regional Office, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone 508-281-9370.

OTHER MARINE RECREATIONAL HARVESTING INFORMATION

Recreational shellfishing (clams, quahogs, oysters, mussels) is permitted in designated open areas. Harvest of **soft shell clams** is generally regulated by the individual towns; contact your town for local regulations and permits.

- For updated information on Red Tide closures, call the Red Tide Hotline at 1-800-232-4733.
- For information on shellfishing areas closed due to pollution or contamination call the DMR labs at: 207-633-9500 (for Kittery to Stockton Springs) or 207-667-5654 (for Stockton Springs to Eastport).

Statewide regulations pertaining to shellfish possession limits for personal use only are as follows:

- **soft shell clams** (*Mya arenaria*) - Any person may take and possess up to 1/2 bushel per day, that conform with 2" minimum size law.
- **surf/hen clams** (*Spisula solidissima*) - Any person may take and possess up to 3 bushels per day.
- **mahogany quahogs** (*Arctica islandica*) - Any person may take and possess up to 3 bushels per day.
- **quahogs** (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) - Any person may take and possess up to 1/2 bushel per day.
- **oysters** (*Crassostrea virginica* & *Ostrea edulis*) - Any person may take and possess 1/2 bushel of oysters per day. Note: For specific regulations on **European oysters** please contact your local Marine Patrol Officer.
- **mussels** (*Mytilus edulis*) - Any person may take and possess up to 2 bushels per day.

Other statewide possession limit regulations for personal use only are as follows:

- **marine worms** (blood, sand and clam worms) - An individual may take and possess 125 marine worms per day for bait.
- **scallops** - An individual must have a non-commercial scallop license to fish for scallops (by hand or drag). Further, a noncommercial license holder may not sell scallops and may not take or possess more than 2 bushels of shell stock or 4 quarts of shucked scallops.
- **lobster/crab** - A non-commercial lobster and crab license is available and allows up to five traps for personal use only (no sale of lobsters or crabs). All other provisions of lobster and crab laws otherwise apply to this recreational license.



For further information please call the Maine DMR at 207-624-6550.

PROHIBITIONS

Selling marine species without a commercial permit is prohibited.

Striped bass - Please refer to striped bass regulations for general statewide Catch and Release season and special Kennebec watershed Catch and Release season and gear restrictions.

Sturgeon - It is unlawful to take, catch, possess or destroy any shortnose or Atlantic sturgeon from the coastal waters of Maine.

Lobster or crab - It is illegal for anyone, except the owner, to handle, destroy or molest any lobster or crab trap, or other fishing gear, including any gear swept up on the shore, beaches or flats, whether public or private, or to take fish therefrom. To take crabs by trap without a permit is prohibited.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

The Maine Department of Human Services, Bureau of Public Health has issued a health advisory for two saltwater species, striped bass and bluefish. Due to the presence of PCB's and mercury, consumption of striped bass and bluefish should be limited as follows:

- Pregnant women, nursing mothers, women who may become pregnant and children less than 8 years old are advised to limit consumption of both species to one fish meal per month.
- All other individuals should limit consumption of striped bass to 2 to 3 meals per month (the lower limit for larger fish) and should limit consumption of bluefish to 1 meal per month.

Anyone wanting further information concerning fish consumption advisories should contact the Bureau of Public Health directly at 207-287-6455.



Photo Credits, clockwise, from upper right: Capt. Satch MacMahon, Ian Bexon, Capt. Ben Garfield, Capt. Adam Littell, Capt. Satch MacMahon, Capt. Tim Tower, Capt. Tim Tower.

Where to Saltwater Fish Along Maine's Coast

The following section includes information about and directions to many of Maine's saltwater boat ramp and shore fishing sites. All tidal water boat ramps that have received State assistance are listed here, along with many municipal and some privately owned facilities. During the compilation of this section, State agencies, town offices, harbor masters, marine patrol officers and private businesses were contacted, as well as staff physically investigating many sites, in an attempt to collect the most current and relevant information. Most Maine coastal towns have some sort of public town landing, some of which were not included here due to space limitations. Other sites were omitted at the request or suggestion of a town, owner, or regional officer.

This section looks at the coast in three sections: western, midcoast, and downeast. Maps shown are for general reference; more detailed road maps and navigation charts should be consulted for land or water navigating, respectively.

Note: Strong currents can be found around river mouths, within rivers and along shores, with tidal effects magnifying currents as one heads downeast. Anglers and boaters should always exercise caution when on or along Maine's tidal waters. Also, please respect all public and private property!

Kittery to Cape Elizabeth

The Piscataqua River, which separates coastal New Hampshire from coastal Maine, is known for its heavy commercial and recreational use. Currents in the river run strong and caution should always be used when near the river.

SOUTH BERWICK

The South Berwick boat ramp is located off Route 101 at the **William A. Bray Memorial Park**. This town maintained facility has a gravel boat ramp, not usable at low tide, and limited boat trailer parking. A nearby bridge is a popular shore fishing location.

ELIOT

The town operated **Piscataqua Boat Launch Facility**, found off Route 103 on Hammond Lane in Eliot, is easily the busiest boat ramp on the Piscataqua River. This site offers a cement boat ramp, a float, restrooms, recreational playing fields, picnic tables and large parking lot. A small sand beach borders the boat ramp where shore fishing is permitted. A fee is charged for use of the ramp.

KITTERY

Two other Piscataqua River boat ramps, also located along Route 103, but closer to open water, are at Traip Academy and Kittery Point. At **Traip Academy**, on Williams Avenue, the boat ramp is paved and there is limited parking. The **Kittery Point Boat Ramp** (or Frisbee's Pier) is found along Route 103 behind Frisbee's Supermarket. This site offers a blacktop boat ramp (not usable at low tide), temporary docking space, limited car parking and no trailer parking (unless you get permission from Frisbee's); however, parking at the nearby Mitchell Elementary School is satisfactory. Restrooms are available next to the boat ramp and shore fishing is permitted. This site is a popular mackerel and winter flounder fishing spot.

Fort McClary, Fort Foster and Seapoint Beach (all located off Route 103 east of Kittery) offer only shore fishing. At **Fort McClary**, anglers can fish from the surrounding rocky shoreline. Parking is limited, so



plan accordingly. A fee is necessary to get into **Fort Foster**, but a larger parking area, playground and fishing pier make this site an attractive alternative. If you head further east on Route 103 toward York Harbor, you will come to a popular surf fishing spot at **Sea Point Beach**, on Sea Point Road. Parking here is also limited.

YORK (YORK HARBOR)

There are several sites used by shore fishermen in the York area, including **Town Docks #1 and #2** (where only daytime fishing is permitted). The **Route 103 bridge**, which crosses the York River and is visible from the Town Docks, is also popular, as is a **causeway** just east of the bridge. Farther up the coast, off Route 1A, **Long Beach** offers surf fishing opportunities. Roadside parking is available at this site. By continuing north on Route 1A you will come to Cape Neddick where **Sohier Park** and Cape Neddick (Nubble) Light are located. The rocky shoreline skirting the park is a productive site for shore fishermen. Park facilities include restrooms, however parking is congested and there is a two hour time limit. **Short Sands Beach**, located still farther north on Route 1A, is another shore fishing site that offers restrooms and ample metered parking in a town lot.

OGUNQUIT

Situated within the Ogunquit region are several popular fishing sites. The **Ogunquit Beach** area, located off Route 1, offers surf and river fishing, restrooms and ample parking in the town lot (a fee is charged). Next, located farther north off Route 1 on Ocean Street, is the **Footbridge Boat Launch**, which offers a boat ramp and shore access. This site, on the Ogunquit River, has a blacktop boat ramp suitable only for launching small boats. Be forewarned that this ramp is not usable at low tide and passage beneath the bridge at high tide is restricted. Restroom facilities are a short walk from the footbridge and a large town parking lot services this site. An alternate shore fishing site lies further north along Route 1, where Ogunquit Beach ends and **Moody Beach** begins. At this latter site, town parking is also plentiful and restrooms are available.

WELLS

Wells Beach has some great shore fishing and is easy to get to by following Mile Road from Route 1. Parking is free in a small town lot, however if this lot is full, additional parking is available in an adjacent lot for a fee.

If fishing from a jetty is preferred, try the ones at the mouth of the Webhannet River, off Wells Beach and Drakes Island Beach. To get to the **Wells Jetty** from the Wells Beach town parking area, follow Atlantic Avenue until the road ends. A fee is charged to park in a large town lot where restrooms are available. Across the channel, anglers can find equally good shore fishing off the opposing **Drakes Island Jetty** and adjoining **Beach**. This area can be accessed by going back to Route 1 and travelling north, until turning onto Drake's Island Road, which eventually terminates in a small parking lot. Restrooms are located next to this lot.

Between Wells Beach and Drakes Island

is the **Wells Harbor Boat Launch**. This site has a single blacktop boat ramp (not usable at low tide), a float and charges a user fee. Fishing from the town dock is permitted. Restrooms are located next to the large parking lot. To find this site from Route 1, turn onto the Harbor Road at the Wells fire station.

KENNEBUNK / KENNEBUNKPORT

At the mouth of the Mousam River is **Parsons Beach**. This site, considered by many to be a hot striper fishing spot, has limited parking. The road leading to this beach is located off Route 9, east of Wells. Prior to crossing the bridge that spans the Mousam River, take a right onto Parson's Beach Road and follow it to the end.

If one is looking for a boat ramp, the **Mousam River Boat Ramp** is located next to the aforementioned Route 9 bridge on the east bank of the river. Some downfalls of this site include a blacktop ramp in poor repair (not usable at low tide) and hazardous down river passage beneath the bridge at high tide. The Route 9 bridge itself and surrounding river banks are also popular shore fishing sites. Parking for both vehicles and trailers is along the road and is very limited.

Kennebunk Beach offers anglers shore fishing along a sand beach. Parking is available for about one dozen vehicles.

The **two jetties at the mouth of the Kennebunk River** are popular shore fishing sites. The jetty along the west side of the river can be accessed from Gooch's Beach, which is located off Route 9 in Kennebunkport. The east side jetty can be approached by traveling down Ocean Avenue, along the east side of the river. Note that parking is limited at both spots.

Also on Ocean Avenue are privately owned **Chick's Marina** and **Kennebunkport Marina**. Each have a paved boat ramp with nearby float that can be used for a fee. The ramp at Chick's Marina is not usable at low tide and only the Kennebunkport Marina has parking for boat trailers.

CAPE PORPOISE

The **Cape Porpoise Pier** is an active shore fishing site, especially when mackerel are running. This pier is located at the end of Pier Road, off of Route 9. Parking is limited and there is no fee.

Additional shore fishing can be found at **Goose Rocks Beach** and **Fortunes Rocks Beach**, both of which can be found off Route 9, as one proceeds east from Cape Porpoise, on roads bearing the appropriate beach names. Seasonal parking restrictions apply at both locations.

SACO / BIDDEFORD

The Saco River is one of the busiest sportfishing rivers in the state. The most active boat ramp on the river is the state operated **Meeting House Eddy (Marblehead) Boat Launch**, located on the west side of the river on Routes 9 and 208. The site has two paved ramps, a float and an outhouse. Upper and lower parking lots provide plenty of space for both vehicles and trailers. This site also provides anglers with some excellent shore access.

Further down river lies **Vines Landing** in Biddeford Pool. The boat ramp here is made of gravel and has only a few spots for parking.

Biddeford Pool, which is also a popular shore fishing area, can be reached by continuing south on Route 208 where it leaves Route 9.

Below the head-of-tide dam, on the east side of the river, is Saco's **Front Street Boat Ramp**. This site, located on Front Street just off Route 9, has a single paved boat ramp, a float and a large parking lot. Boaters should exercise caution around this ramp at low water. Shore anglers may follow the path along the river bank that leads to a popular fishing spot just below the dam. (Please note that there are legal restrictions regarding how close one can fish to a dam.)

Traveling further east on Route 9 leads one to the **Camp Ellis Pier** boat ramp. Although this ramp is paved, it is unusable for larger boats at low tide. Shore anglers can fish from the nearby dock, beach or jetty at this locale. Ample parking and outhouse facilities help make this a popular site. Note that the town charges for general parking with an additional fee for ramp use. **Ferry Beach**, adjacent to Camp Ellis (where anglers should park), also offers excellent open beach fishing.

OLD ORCHARD BEACH

Old Orchard Beach offers shore fishing along the **Ocean Park** section, **Old Orchard Beach** proper and **Surfside Beach**. As with almost all public beaches, seasonal restrictions apply to both parking and angler access.

SCARBOROUGH

Located along the western bank of the Scarborough River, on King Street, lies the **Pine Point Co-op** boat ramp. This facility offers a paved ramp, a dock, ample parking and public restrooms. Fishing off the dock or along the beach is permitted.

Just a short walk from here lies the **Scarborough River Jetty**, a proven spot for striper fishing. Situated farther north along Route 9 is the **Scarborough pipeline**, which extends across Scarborough Marsh. Shore fishing along the pipeline path is popular.

Located along the eastern bank of the Scarborough River is the **Clay Pitts Boat Ramp** (sometimes called the Nonesuch Boat Ramp). This ramp provides access to both the Nonesuch River and the Scarborough River, and can be located by taking the Clay Pitts Road from Route 207. This municipally maintained site has a single cement boat ramp in fair condition (with an upgrade scheduled for the 1999 season) that is not usable at low tide. There is adequate parking at this site.

Another launching facility, located on the east bank of the Scarborough River, is the town of Scarborough's **Ferry Beach Boat Ramp**. Follow Route 207 toward Prouts Neck to find this location. Ferry Beach, which charges a fee, offers ample parking, outhouse facilities, a swimming area and a paved boat ramp (unusable at low tide). A prime striper fishing area is located a short walk down the river (next to a ledge marked by a navigational day marker).

CAPE ELIZABETH

Shore fishing can be had at **Crescent Beach State Park**, **Two Lights State Park** and the **Portland Head Light** (Fort Williams). As with all state Facilities, seasonal restrictions will apply.

South Portland to Blue Hill



SOUTH PORTLAND

The **South Portland Municipal Boat Ramp**, located off Route 77 next to Bug Light, is a popular site. Two cement ramps, a float, an outhouse and a large parking lot can be found here. If launching a boat, be prepared to pay a fee. The area around **Bug Light** is also a favorite shore fishing site.

Spring Point Ledge Light, also off Route 77 and close to the Southern Maine Technical College campus, provides access with plenty of shore access. Spring Point Ledge Light sits at the end of a jetty that extends into the Portland Harbor channel. Parking here is limited.

PORTLAND

Located in the center of the city's historic waterfront district is **Portland's Public Pier**. This site is popular among shore anglers, especially when mackerel are in. Parking at this location is limited.

Another city facility is the **Eastern Promenade Boat Launch**, located on Cutter Street just off Portland's Eastern Promenade. This facility offers two cement boat ramps, a float, adequate trailer parking, restrooms, a family swimming beach and fishing along the shore line. In addition, an attendant supervises this facility. A fee is charged to use the boat ramps.

FALMOUTH

The **Falmouth Town Landing** can be found on Town Landing Road off Route 88. This boat ramp was recently redone, but remains unusable at low tide. A float is on site and there is limited parking. Be prepared to pay a ramp use fee if you are not a town resident.

YARMOUTH

The **Yarmouth Town Landing**, which provides access to the Royal River, has a cement boat ramp (a fee is charged for out-of-town residents) and a dock. Parking is plentiful and an outhouse is available. To find this site, take Bayview Drive (on the east side of the river) and follow the access signs to the shore.

This river also supports several busy marinas, one of which, the **Yarmouth Boat Yard** (located on Route 88), permits the use of their private boat ramp for a fee. Their gravel ramp (unusable at low tide) has a float. Parking is adequate and there is an outhouse on site.

FREEPORT

Located on the Freeport Road in South Freeport (off Route 1, near the giant Indian) is a sign that will direct you to the town operated Winslow Park. **Winslow Park** has a paved boat ramp (not usable at low tide) with a float. In addition, this site has adequate parking,

restrooms, wooded picnic areas, campsites, nature trails and a swimming beach. A fee is charged to enter the park.

BRUNSWICK

Water Street Landing, located close to the center of downtown Brunswick just off Route 1 on Water Street, provides access to the Androscoggin River below the Brunswick dam. This facility, which opens 1/2 hr before sunrise and closes 1/2 hr after sunset, has a cement boat ramp and a large parking lot. At this location, the Androscoggin River flows into Merrymeeting Bay, which then links with both the upper and lower portions of the Kennebec River.

Sawyer Park, located on the Bath Road between Brunswick and Bath, provides excellent access to the New Meadows River. This facility offers anglers a cement ramp, float, large parking area, picnic tables and an outhouse.

Another site in Brunswick is **Simpson Point Boat Ramp**, located at the head of Middle Bay. To find this town maintained site, take Route 24 south from parking lot 1 in Brunswick, continue south along Main Street to the Mere Point Road, from there to the Simpson Point Road and follow this road until it ends. This single cement boat ramp, which is not usable at low tide, is not recommended

for boats over 24 feet. There is minimal parking, if any, along the roadside.

HARPSWELL

Other sites in the Brunswick region that are closer to open water can be found in South Harpswell and on Bailey Island. One can get to the Harpswell sites from Route 1 by taking Route 24 south, then Route 123 south. At the end of Route 123 lies the **South Harpswell Boat Ramp**. This site has a boat ramp, but car and boat trailer parking are not permitted. Privately owned **Dolphin Marine Service**, located nearby, has a paved boat ramp, dock, ample parking, restrooms and charges a ramp fee.

Following Route 24 all the way south out of Brunswick leads to Great (Sebascodegan), Orrs and Bailey Islands.

Turkey Bridge Boat Ramp is on the Prince Point Road just before you leave the mainland and cross over Gurnet Strait to Great Island. This cement boat ramp (not usable at low tide) is town maintained. Parking is in a small dirt lot as well as along the roadside.

Further south on Route 24, a private blacktop boat ramp and float are at the **Great Island Boat Yard** on Great Island. A fee is charged, parking is limited and a restroom is located here.

Another private boat ramp is located at the **S. J. Prince & Son Store** on Orrs Island, just before the Bailey Island bridge. The ramp at this site is gravel and can be difficult to use on extreme low tides. Parking here is limited and a ramp use fee is charged at the store.

If you are looking for shore access in this area, check out the end of Bailey Island. This area is sometimes referred to as **Lands End** and is where Route 24 terminates. Anglers can park in the large lot next to the gift shop.

The Kennebec River's tidal waters hold one of Maine's most cherished saltwater sport-fisheries. From Augusta to Phippsburg and Georgetown, the Kennebec's striped bass fishing is currently recognized as being "World Class."

AUGUSTA / CHELSEA

Edwards Dam in Augusta (to be removed in the summer of 1999) currently marks the Kennebec River's head-of-tide. Sportfishing in the waters below the dam is popular, with rough shore access provided along the west side of the river. Parking is available in a large gravel lot found in front of the Edward's Power Plant facility, located on Water Street off Route 104. Look for a metal stairway along the edge of the parking lot that leads to the shore.

A short distance down river (along the same Route) is the **Augusta Boat Landing**. Not only is this a good place to temporarily land your boat, but it is also an easily accessed shore fishing site for striped fishing. This landing is situated next to a large municipal parking lot in the city's old business district. (Note: there is no boat ramp at this location)

On the east side of the river, next to Fort Western, is Augusta's **Eastside Boat Landing**. This site has a single cement ramp serviced by a float, large parking lot, restrooms, picnic tables and a children's playground. Shore fishing at this site is excellent.

Further down river lies the **Butternut Park boat ramp** in Chelsea. Follow Route 9 south out of Augusta into Chelsea, turn right onto Ferry Road and continue down the winding road to reach this site. This town operated park has a single gravel boat ramp that is in

poor condition and not usable at low tide. On site parking is limited.

HALLOWELL / GARDINER / RANDOLPH

Other boat ramps found further down the west side of the Kennebec lie in the cities of Hallowell and Gardiner. The **Hallowell Boat Ramp** is on Routes 201 & 27 in the downtown area. It has one cement boat ramp serviced by a float and adequate parking. Shore anglers occasionally fish from the float. The **Gardiner Public Town Landing** is located just below the Gardiner and Randolph bridge, with access from Route 24. This site has two cement boat ramps serviced by a float. Parking for boat trailers (in a large city lot) is limited. Picnic tables and restroom facilities are available. This site is a popular shore fishing spot, specifically where the Cobbosseecontee Stream flows into the Kennebec River.

Another shore fishing spot in this area is just across the river at the **Randolph Town Landing**. This site can be found a short distance down the east side of the river from the Gardiner/Randolph bridge, behind a large three story brick building.

RICHMOND

Further south on Route 24, on the Kennebec's west side, lies the **Richmond Waterfront Park**. This park has a single cement boat ramp, a float, limited parking and an outhouse. The Steve Powell Wildlife Management Area on Swans Island is just across the channel and this site serves as its ferrying point.

BOWDOINHAM

Continuing south on Route 24, the next public boat ramp is found in the town of Bowdoinham. The **Bowdoinham Town Landing** is part of a town park, has a paved boat ramp, a dock, ample parking, an outhouse and picnic tables. This site provides access to the Cathance River which flows into Merrymeeting Bay. Should you choose to follow the Cathance into Merrymeeting Bay, note that this bay is shallow and can be a challenge to navigate. Merrymeeting Bay eventually drains into the Kennebec River where conditions improve.

BATH

The city of Bath has a public dock and two public boat ramps. On Commercial Street in the city's waterfront district is the **Bath Public Boat Landing**, (there is no boat ramp here) situated between two private marinas. The city's **Northend Boat Ramp** is located farther up river on Bowery Street, adjacent to a waste treatment plant. This site has two cement boat ramps, a float, an outhouse, plus plenty of parking for both cars and boat trailers. The city's second public boat ramp is found down river just past the historic Bath Iron Works shipyard on Washington Street. The state operated **Washington Street Public Launch** is new in 1999, has a single cement boat ramp, a float, outhouse and plenty of parking.

PHIPPSBURG

Morse Cove Public Launch, one of the busiest boat ramps in the state, is located farther down the Kennebec River in Phippsburg. This state maintained site has a single cement boat ramp, a float and an outhouse. Both upper and lower parking lots generally offer ample parking. To get to this facility, take Route 209 south from Bath, turn left onto Fiddler Reach Road and follow signs.

One of the most productive surf fishing sites found in Maine is along the shoreline of **Popham Beach State Park** in Phippsburg, near the end of Route 209. An entrance fee is

charged at the park gate, but the on-site restrooms, changing rooms, picnic tables, swimming beach and adequate parking can make the fee worth paying. Shore fishing at nearby **Fort Popham** is also popular. Fort Popham is a few miles beyond the Popham Beach State Park entrance. People can fish from the shoreline as well as off a dock, across from the Fort's entrance. Parking at this site is limited. Outhouse facilities are located next to the parking lot.

WISCASSET

Wiscasset Town Landing, off Route 1 on Water Street in Wiscasset's downtown, offers access to the Sheepscot River. Restrooms, two blacktop boat ramps, plus several docks with attached floats are on site. Fishing from the town dock (not to be confused with the nearby Wiscasset Yacht Club dock) is permitted. Parking is limited, especially spaces for boat trailers.

Another public boat ramp, **Wiscasset's Ferry Landing**, provides access to the west Back River (off the Sheepscot River). From this site boaters can get to the Sheepscot River and the Sasanoa River. To get to this boat ramp, follow Route 144 off Route 1 until Route 144 bends at a crossroad. Proceed straight through the crossroad and bear left at the "Y" in road just before you reach the front gate of the Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant. Amenities at this site include one blacktop and one cement ramp (both are very steep), a float and a large parking lot (located above the ramp site).

BOOTHBAY

Knickerkane Island Park has a blacktop boat ramp that is in good condition. In addition, a swimming float, outhouse, picnic tables and large parking lot are on site. Situated on the east Back River (off the Sheepscot, separating Barters Island from Boothbay), this ramp provides access to the lower Sheepscot River and Sheepscot Bay. To get to the site, follow Route 27 to Boothbay; turn right onto Corey Lane at the Boothbay town common and follow the signs toward Barters Island. The park is on the left just before Barters Island.

Townsend Gut Boat Ramp (redone in 1998) is located on McKown Point Road in the village of West Boothbay Harbor, off Route 27. This town maintained boat ramp is on the right at the base of a hill. This site shares space with a small private landing; there is no public float here and parking for boat trailers is along McKown Point Road only.

A third boat ramp in the Boothbay area is located off Route 96 in the village of East Boothbay. The **Murray Hill Boat Ramp**, on Murray Hill Road, is paved and provides access to Linekin Bay. This ramp is in good condition, however it is generally not usable one hour before and after low tide and is difficult to use with a strong SW wind. Parking for boat trailers on site is adequate.

DAMARISCOTTA

The only public boat ramp servicing the Damariscotta River is found at the **Damariscotta Town Landing**. This site has a single blacktop boat ramp and a float. Parking is in the large town lot where specially marked parking spaces are reserved for boat trailers. To get to this location, go to Damariscotta's downtown business district (on Route 1B) and enter the large municipal parking lot that borders the river. The nearby small bridge and surrounding area are also known to offer good shore fishing for targeting stripers.

BRISTOL (NEW HARBOR / ROUND POND)

The historic state owned **Fort William Henry** in Colonial Pemaquid includes a public boat ramp. The fort is located off Route 130 on Huddle Road in the village of New Harbor. On site are several parking lots and a blacktop/gravel boat ramp. Fishing from the dock behind the restaurant is a popular activity, particularly when mackerel are running. Parking and ramp use are free and restrooms are near the museum. If you wish to enter the fort's exhibit buildings, there is a fee.

Another public ramp in the Bristol area, off Route 32, is at the village of **Round Pond's Town Landing**. This site has two blacktop ramps serviced by a float. A fee is charged for ramp use. There is no immediate parking for boat trailers at this site, as space is tight with several busy lobster businesses sharing the location. An outhouse is located nearby. Shore fishing from the Town Dock is popular.

WALDOBORO

The **Waldoboro Marine Park** is located along the west side of the Medomak River, off Route 32 on Dutch Neck Road. This town maintained site has a paved boat ramp and adequate parking.

The **Waldoboro Town Landing** is farther up river in the town of Waldoboro and has a blacktop boat ramp. Parking is in a spacious lot. This facility is on Pine Street, which also runs along the west bank of the Medomak River.

THOMASTON

The **Thomaston Boat Landing** is situated along the east bank of the St. George River on Water Street in Thomaston's waterfront district. This facility, heavily used by both clam harvesters and recreational fishermen, has a cement boat ramp and a float. An adequately sized parking lot can be found at this site.

ST. GEORGE (PORT CLYDE / TENANTS HARBOR)

Where Route 131 ends on the St. George peninsula, lies the **Port Clyde Boat Ramp**. This site is often crowded, especially when the ferry is in from Monhegan Island. Due to this congestion, parking is limited with no spaces reserved for boat trailers. A single cement boat ramp services the site and outhouses can be found at the ferry dock. Mackerel fishing from the town dock is a popular activity.

Traveling north on Route 131 brings you to the village of Tenants Harbor. Along the shore on Commercial Street lies the **Tenants Harbor Town Landing**. This facility has a single cement boat ramp serviced by a float. Parking in the small lot is limited to 4 hours with no spaces for boat trailers.

SOUTH THOMASTON

Access to the Weskeag River and its locally known striped bass fishery can be had via the **South Thomaston Town Landing**. This site, located off Route 73, has a single blacktop boat ramp and adequate parking. Shore fishing here can be excellent, especially below the Route 73 bridge.

ROCKLAND

Snow Marine Park, on Mechanic Street (off Route 73) in Rockland's south end, is the busiest boat ramp in the area. Two cement ramps, a float, an outhouse and large parking lot can be found here. Be prepared to pay a fee if you plan to use the ramp.

One of the most visited attractions in this region is the **Rockland Breakwater Light**. This mile long breakwater, which is construct-

ed of large granite blocks, is used by both sightseers (the light house at the end of the breakwater is the chief draw) and fishermen. The catch of shore anglers fishing off the breakwater consists mostly of mackerel and pollock, with the occasional striped bass, cunner and black sea bass mixed in. To get to this site, take Waldo Avenue off Route 1 at the north end of town and follow shore access signs until you arrive at the breakwater. Parking here is limited at best.

ROCKPORT

Rockport Marine Park lies at the foot of Rockport Harbor. The park has one blacktop boat ramp, picnic tables, benches, outhouses and several floats. Parking for this facility is adequate with a few places set aside for boat trailers. A fee is charged to use the ramp. Fishing off the Harbor Master's dock is permitted, but fishing off several other docks in the park is not allowed.

LINCOLNVILLE

In the town of Lincolnville, next to the Maine State Ferry Landing and along Route 1, is the **Lincolnville Beach Boat Ramp**. This is a town maintained boat ramp. A launching fee is charged for use of the blacktop ramp, there is limited free parking in the town lot and an outhouse is nearby. When the town lot is full, paying to park in the state owned lot is an option.

NORTHPORT (BAYSIDE)

The **Northport Public Landing** (no boat ramp here) is a popular shore fishing location, especially when mackerel are running. To get here, take the Shore Road off Route 1 at Northport and follow signs to the landing. Parking here is adequate.

Another good shore fishing site is off the **Bayside Town Dock** in the village of Bayside. Follow the Shore Road north to Bayside Road to arrive at this location. Parking here is limited at best.

BELFAST

The **Belfast Town Landing** is located in Belfast's waterfront district. An excellent extra-wide blacktop boat ramp, a large pier with floats, picnic tables, restrooms and large parking lot make this site user-friendly. A launching fee is charged to use the ramp and, due to boat traffic, shore fishing is not permitted off the dock. If you need assistance or information about the harbor, check in at the Harbor Master's office next to the ramp.

SEARSPORT

The **Searsport Town Landing** offers both shore fishing and a boat ramp. The town pier, float, a blacktop ramp, large parking lot, picnic tables and an outhouse can be found here. To locate the landing, look for a shore access sign on the right as you enter Searsport on Route 1 from the south.

The **Searsport Causeway** connects Sears Island with the mainland. At this site parking is along a side road and shore fishing for stripers is possible off both sides of the causeway. To get to site, take a right onto Kidder Road when traveling north on Route 1 from Searsport.

STOCKTON SPRINGS

Providing access to Stockton Springs Harbor is the **Cape Docks Boat Ramp**. To get to this site, follow Route 1 north into the town of Stockton Springs; proceed to the center of town and turn right onto Cape Road; follow Cape Road until making a right onto West Cape Road; then turn onto Dock Road and continue to the site. This town maintained facility has a single cement boat ramp that is in good condition. Parking is adequate. This

site is mostly used by commercial fishermen and pleasure boat owners whose vessels are moored in the harbor.

The Penobscot River has a history as one of Maine's most noted Atlantic salmon rivers and still supports several Atlantic salmon fishing clubs near its head-of-tide. Please note that fishing for Atlantic salmon in Maine requires an Atlantic salmon fishing stamp. In addition, this is a hook and release fishery and only fly fishing gear can legally be used.

The Penobscot River is also experiencing growth in its striped bass fishery. Several boat ramps on the lower reaches of the river provide good access to anglers with this species in mind.

HAMPDEN / FRANKFORT

Two boat ramps provide access from the west side of the Penobscot River. The northern-most is **Turtle Head Marina Boat Ramp** off Route 1A in the town of Hampden. This ramp is in good condition and is serviced by a float. Parking is not a problem and restrooms are available. The second boat ramp is at **Grist Mill Park**, down river along Route 1A in the town of Frankfort. Available here are a paved boat ramp (not usable at low tide) and a large parking lot.

EDDINGTON / BREWER / ORRINGTON / VERONA

Anglers targeting Atlantic salmon may try their luck shore fishing at the Penobscot River's **head-of-tide in Eddington**. From Brewer, follow Routes 9 and 178 east; turn left with Route 178 where Route 9 separates; immediately take Monument Drive; follow to the dirt and cobble access road on the left, just before Monument Drive reconnects with Route 178; walk or carefully drive to the shore.

Located farther down river along the east bank are two more boat ramps. Just off Routes 9 and 178 in Brewer is the **North Main Street Boat Ramp** with a large cement ramp (not usable at low tide) and large parking lot.

Still farther down river is the **South Orrington Boat Ramp** (unusable at low tide) which has adequate parking. In the village of South Orrington, turn onto Blake Road from Route 15, cross Settlers Way Road and continue to the site.

Verona Park boat ramp is at the lower reaches of the Penobscot River on Verona Island. This ramp is in good condition, there is plenty of parking and this site has the added benefit of being a fine shore fishing spot for stripers. To get to the park, take a left off Route 1 north prior to going over the bridge connecting Verona Island and Bucksport.

PENOBSCOT

The **South Penobscot Boat Ramp** provides access to the Bagaduce River. To get to this site, follow Route 1 north out of Bucksport and connect with Route 175 south; just before entering the village of South Penobscot, look for the boat launch on the right. This town maintained cement ramp is in poor condition, is not usable around low tide and has limited parking.

BLUE HILL

Next to the Fire Station in the center of downtown Blue Hill lies the **Blue Hill Town Landing**. This boat ramp provides access to Blue Hill Harbor and Blue Hill Bay. To get to the site, take Route 15 south off Route 1, just north of Bucksport. This site has a single cement boat ramp (unusable at low tide) serviced by a float. Parking for the site is adequate.

Ellsworth to Calais



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ELLSWORTH

Union River Harbor boat ramp, located along Route 230 in Ellsworth, provides public access to the Union River. A cement boat ramp (unusable at low tide), a dock and large parking lot can be found here. Restrooms are across from the Harbor Master's office.

TRENTON

A paved seaplane ramp, also serving as a boat ramp, is located behind the **Hancock County Airport** in Trenton. A large lot provides ample parking. To get to this site, take the second right after starting down the airport driveway from Route 3. This launch facility provides access to Eastern Bay and Mt. Desert Narrows.

MOUNT DESERT ISLAND

There are several boat ramps located on Mt. Desert Island. **Seal Cove Boat Ramp**, which provides access to Blue Hill Bay, is a paved ramp found on the west side of the island. To get to this site, pick up Route 102 as you enter onto the island and continue south until you get to Cape Road (look for Cape Road on the left just before entering Seal

Cove). Parking at this site may be a problem.

Located several miles further along Route 102 on Bernard Road is the **Tremont Town Pier**. This site has a single cement boat ramp serviced by a dock. An outhouse is on site, parking is limited, but additional space is available in an alternate lot.

Continuing on Route 102 and onto Route 102A will bring you to the village of Manset. Located along the waterfront is the **Manset Town Landing**, a favorite shore fishing spot, especially for mackerel. This facility has a pier with attached float, a boat ramp and an outhouse. Parking for boat trailers is on a dirt covered lot next to the ramp. A fee is charged to use the ramp.

In downtown Bar Harbor, along the waterfront, is the **Bar Harbor Town Landing**. This is a highly congested area! An extra-wide boat ramp found here is not usable around low tide or during and after strong easterly winds. Floats are available alongside the pier. Parking is limited, at best, so make arrangements for parking your boat trailer through the Harbor Master, whose office is located on site. Bathroom facilities are next to

the parking lot. Shore fishing from the pier is permitted.

LAMOINE

Lamoine State Park, which offers its visitors a spectacular view of Cadillac Mountain, is across Eastern Bay from Mt. Desert Island. To get to this site, follow Route 184 out of Ellsworth. Numerous camp sites, picnic tables and outhouses, along with a boat ramp and pier can all be found in the park. Be prepared to pay a user fee at the front gate. Parking is not a problem. This site is also considered to be a popular shore fishing spot.

Another public boat ramp in the immediate area is at the **Lamoine Beach Boat Ramp**. To get to this site, continue south on Route 184 after passing the entrance to Lamoine State Park. This is a town owned single cement and gravel ramp in very poor condition. An outhouse is located next to the parking lot. Parking at this site is not a problem. The town does not recommend use of this boat ramp.

GOULDSBORO

There are three public boat ramps in the town of Gouldsboro. The **South Gouldsboro Boat Ramp** offers access to Frenchman Bay. This is a relatively new paved ramp, town operated, that is usable except on more extreme low tides. Parking is limited. **Bunkers Harbor Boat Ramp** is new, with a paved ramp that is not usable near low tide. Parking is limited at this town maintained site. The third ramp, **Gouldsboro Point Boat Launch**, is paved and in good condition. It is also town operated and has limited parking.

MILBRIDGE / HARRINGTON

The **Milbridge Marina (Millbridge Town Landing)** is located off Route 1A on Bayview Street in Milbridge. This site offers access to the Narraguagus River. A boat ramp (unusable at low tide), float and ample parking can be found here.

Access to the Harrington River is provided at **Harrington's Town Landing (Ripley Moorings)**. Take Route 1 north out of Harrington to Marshville Road, which will bring you to the site. This boat ramp is made of cement and may be difficult to use at dead low tide. Parking is not a problem.

ADDISON

The boat ramp at the **Addison Town Landing** is usable at all but extreme low tides. A dock is on site and there is adequate parking for boat trailers. It is located off Route 1 on the Ridge Road.

Another boat ramp in the area is the **South Addison Town Landing**. This facility

has a paved boat ramp, a nearby dock, outhouse and large parking lot. To get to this site from Route 1, take East Side Road to the Narrows Road.

JONESPORT

Jonesport Marina, off Route 187 on Sawyers Square Road in Jonesport, offers a paved boat ramp, a float and adequate parking.

MACHIAS

Heading north along Route 1 from Machias will bring you to the **Machias Boat Ramp**. This facility is located next to Helen's Restaurant and provides public access to Machias Bay. This site has a cement boat ramp serviced by a float and limited daytime parking.

LUBEC

On Water Street, in the town of Lubec, is the **Lubec Boat Ramp**. This site has a cement ramp, float, outhouse and large parking lot. Currents run extremely fast in this area, so use special care to stay out of harm's way when using this ramp.

EDMUNDS TOWNSHIP / EASTPORT

Cobscook Bay State Park is located off Route 1 on the South Edmunds Road in Edmunds Township. This state and county run facility has a newly constructed paved boat ramp that is usable throughout the tide cycle, except at an extreme low tide. A float, an outhouse and large parking lot are also located on this site.

Another boat ramp is at the **Washington County Technical College**. This site is on

Deep Cove Road, off Route 190 in Eastport. There is a float near the ramp and parking is not a problem.

In downtown Eastport on Water Street is the **Eastport Breakwater Boat Ramp**. A paved/gravel boat ramp, a float and outhouse are on site. Parking for boat trailers is limited, so plan accordingly. Shore fishing is common at this site.

PERRY

The **Perry Launch** is a municipally maintained facility that is located off Route 1 in Perry. This site has a paved boat ramp, usable at all but extreme low tides, and a large parking lot. A scenic beach and views of fish weirs make this site an interesting place to visit.

ROBBINSON / CALAIS

The **St. Croix Boat Ramp** is located on Route 1 in Robbinston. This site has a paved boat ramp (usable at all but extreme low tides), a float, picnic tables and an outhouse. Parking for boat trailers is adequate.

Another boat ramp facility located farther upriver can be found at **Pike's Park** in Calais. This site has a blacktop ramp (unusable at low tide), float, picnic tables and adequate parking. Restrooms are located in a nearby information center.



Locations and Features of Maine's More Popular Saltwater Boat Ramps

The following list of boat ramp sites is not meant to be all-encompassing. Rather, it includes the more accessible boat ramps available to the public along Maine's tidal rivers and coastal waters.

| | BOAT RAMP | | | | BOAT TRAILER PARKING | | | RESTROOM | | | DOCK/FLOAT | | FEE | | OPERATION/ MAINTENANCE | | | | |
|---|-------------|--------|-------|----------|----------------------|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------------|---------|-----------|--------|-------|
| | COMBINATION | GRAVEL | PAVED | ALL TIDE | PART TIDE | ADEQUATE | LIMITED | NONE | OUTHOUSE | RESTROOM | NONE | YES | NO | YES | NO | PRIVATE | MUNICIPAL | COUNTY | STATE |
| WILLIAM A. BRAY MEMORIAL PARK ROUTE 101 SOUTH BERWICK | | • | | | • | • | | | | | • | | | • | | | | | • |
| PISCATAQUA BOAT LAUNCH FACILITY HAMMOND LANE ELIOT | | | • | • | | • | | | • | | | | | • | | | | | • |
| TRAIPI ACADEMY BOAT RAMP WILLIAMS AVENUE KITTERY | | | • | • | | • | | | | | • | | | • | | | | | • |
| KITTERY POINT BOAT RAMP ROUTE 103 KITTERY (KITTERY POINT) | | | • | | • | | • | | • | | | | | • | | | | | • |
| FOOTBRIDGE BOAT LAUNCH OCEAN STREET OGUNQUIT | | | • | | + | • | | | • | | | | • | • | | | | | • |
| WELLS HARBOR BOAT LAUNCH HARBOR ROAD WELLS | | | • | | • | • | | | • | | | | • | • | | | | | • |
| MOUSAM RIVER BOAT RAMP ROUTE 9 KENNEBUNK | • | | | | • | | | | | | • | | • | • | | | | | • |
| CHICK'S MARINA OCEAN AVENUE KENNEBUNKPORT | | • | | | • | | • | | • | | | | • | • | | | | | • |
| KENNEBUNKPORT MARINA OCEAN AVENUE KENNEBUNKPORT | | • | • | | | • | | | • | | | | • | • | | | | | • |
| MEETING HOUSE EDDY (MARBLEHEAD) BOAT LAUNCH ROUTES 9 AND 208 BIDDEFORD | | • | • | | | • | | | • | | | | • | • | | | | | • |
| VINES LANDING OFF ROUTE 208 BIDDEFORD | • | | | | | • | | | | | • | | • | • | | | | | • |
| FRONT STREET BOAT RAMP FRONT STREET SACO | | • | | | Δ | • | | | • | | | | • | • | | | | | • |
| CAMP ELLIS PIER OFF ROUTE 9 SACO | | • | | | Δ | • | | | • | | | | • | • | | | | | • |
| PINE POINT CO-OP KING STREET SCARBOROUGH | | • | | | Δ | • | | | • | | | | • | • | | | | | • |
| CLAY PITTS BOAT RAMP CLAY PITTS ROAD SCARBOROUGH | | • | | | • | • | | | • | | | | • | • | | | | | • |
| FERRY BEACH BOAT RAMP FERRY ROAD SCARBOROUGH | | • | | | • | • | | | • | | | | • | • | | | | | • |
| SOUTH PORTLAND MUNICIPAL BOAT RAMP OFF ROUTE 77 SOUTH PORTLAND | | • | • | | | • | | | • | | | | • | • | | | | | • |
| EASTERN PROMENADE BOAT LAUNCH CUTTER STREET PORTLAND | | • | • | | | • | | | • | | | | • | • | | | | | • |
| FALMOUTH TOWN LANDING TOWN LANDING ROAD FALMOUTH | | • | | | • | | • | | • | | | | • | ▽ | | | | | • |
| YARMOUTH TOWN LANDING BAYVIEW DRIVE YARMOUTH | | • | • | | | • | | | • | | | | • | ▽ | | | | | • |
| YARMOUTH BOAT YARD ROUTE 88 YARMOUTH | • | | | | • | • | | | • | | | | • | • | | | | | • |
| WINSLOW PARK STAPLES POINT ROAD FREEPORT (SOUTH FREEPORT) | | • | | | • | • | | | • | | | | • | • | | | | | • |
| WATER STREET LANDING WATER STREET BRUNSWICK | | • | • | | | • | | | • | | | | • | • | | | | | • |

Δ Not usable at extreme low tide ○ Arrange parking with Harbor Master ▽ No fee for town residents + Small boats only

| | BOAT RAMP | | | BOAT TRAILER PARKING | | | RESTROOM | | | DOCK/FLOAT | | FEE | | OPERATION/ MAINTENANCE | | | | |
|--|-------------|--------------|----------|----------------------|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------------|---------|-----------|--------|-------|
| | COMBINATION | GRAVEL PAVED | ALL TIDE | PART TIDE | ADEQUATE | LIMITED | NONE | OUTHOUSE | RESTROOM | NONE | YES | NO | YES | NO | PRIVATE | MUNICIPAL | COUNTY | STATE |
| SAWYER PARK BATH ROAD BRUNSWICK | | • | • | | • | | | • | | | • | | • | | | | • | |
| SIMPSON POINT BOAT RAMP SIMPSON POINT ROAD BRUNSWICK | | • | | • | | • | | | | • | | • | | • | | | • | |
| SOUTH HARPSWELL BOAT RAMP ROUTE 123 HARPSWELL (SOUTH HARPSWELL) | | • | • | | | • | | | | • | | • | | • | | | • | |
| DOLPHIN MARINE SERVICE BASIN POINT ROAD HARPSWELL (HARPSWELL NECK) | | • | • | | • | | | • | | | • | | • | | • | | | |
| TURKEY BRIDGE BOAT RAMP PRINCE POINT ROAD BRUNSWICK | | • | | • | | • | | | | • | | • | | • | | | • | |
| GREAT ISLAND BOAT YARD ROUTE 24 HARPSWELL (SEBASCODGAN ISLAND) | | • | • | | | • | | • | | | • | | • | | • | | | |
| SJ PRINCE & SON STORE ROUTE 24 HARPSWELL (ORRS ISLAND) | • | | Δ | | | • | | | | • | | • | | • | | | • | |
| EASTSIDE BOAT LANDING HOWARD LANE AUGUSTA | | • | • | | • | | | • | | | • | | • | | | | • | |
| BUTTERNUT PARK FERRY ROAD CHELSEA | • | | | • | | • | | | | • | | • | | • | | | • | |
| HALLOWELL BOAT RAMP ROUTES 27 AND 201 HALLOWELL | | • | Δ | | • | | | | | • | | • | | • | | | | • |
| GARDINER TOWN LANDING ROUTE 24 GARDINER | | • | • | | | • | | • | | | • | | • | | • | | | |
| RICHMOND WATERFRONT PARK ROUTE 24 RICHMOND | | • | • | | | • | | • | | | • | | • | | • | | | |
| BOWDOINHAM TOWN LANDING ROUTE 24 BOWDOINHAM | | • | • | | • | | | • | | | • | | • | | • | | | |
| NORTHERN BOAT RAMP BOWERY STREET BATH | | • | • | | • | | | • | | | • | | • | | • | | | |
| WASHINGTON STREET PUBLIC LAUNCH WASHINGTON STREET BATH | | • | • | | • | | | • | | | • | | • | | • | | | • |
| MORSE COVE PUBLIC LAUNCH FIDDLER REACH ROAD PHIPPSBURG | | • | • | | • | | | • | | | • | | • | | • | | | • |
| WISCASSET TOWN LANDING WATER STREET WISCASSET | | • | • | | • | | | • | | | • | | • | | • | | | |
| FERRY LANDING FERRY ROAD WISCASSET | | • | Δ | | • | | | | | • | | • | | • | | | • | |
| KNICKERKANE ISLAND PARK BARTERS ISLAND ROAD BOOTHBAY | | • | • | | • | | | • | | | • | | • | | • | | | |
| TOWNSEND GUT BOAT RAMP MCKOWN POINT ROAD BOOTHBAY HARBOR (WEST) | | • | • | | | • | | | | • | | • | | • | | | • | |
| MURRAY HILL BOAT RAMP MURRAY HILL ROAD BOOTHBAY (EAST BOOTHBAY) | | • | | • | | • | | | | • | | • | | • | | | • | |
| DAMARISCOTTA TOWN LANDING ROUTE 18 DAMARISCOTTA | | • | • | | | • | | • | | | • | | • | | • | | | |
| FORT WILLIAM HENRY HUDDLE ROAD BRISTOL (NEW HARBOR) | • | | • | | • | | | • | | | • | | • | | • | | | • |
| ROUND POND TOWN LANDING ROUTE 32 BRISTOL (ROUND POND) | | • | • | | | • | | • | | | • | | • | | • | | | |

Δ Not usable at extreme low tide ○ Arrange parking with Harbor Master ▽ No fee for town residents + Small boats only

| | BOAT RAMP | | | | BOAT TRAILER PARKING | | | RESTROOM | | | DOCK/FLOAT | | FEE | | OPERATION/ MAINTENANCE | | | |
|---|-------------|--------|-------|-----------|----------------------|---------|------|----------|----------|------|------------|----|-----|----|------------------------|-----------|--------|-------|
| | COMBINATION | GRAVEL | PAVEL | PART TIDE | ADEQUATE | LIMITED | NONE | OUTHOUSE | RESTROOM | NONE | YES | NO | YES | NO | PRIVATE | MUNICIPAL | COUNTY | STATE |
| WALDOBORO MARINE PARK DUTCH NECK ROAD WALDOBORO | | • | • | | • | | | | • | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| WALDOBORO TOWN LANDING PINE STREET WALDOBORO | | • | • | | • | | | | • | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| THOMASTON BOAT LANDING WATER STREET THOMASTON | | • | • | | • | | | | • | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| PORT CLYDE BOAT RAMP OFF ROUTE 131 ST. GEORGE (PORT CLYDE) | | • | • | | | • | | • | | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| TENANTS HARBOR TOWN LANDING OFF ROUTE 131 ST. GEORGE (TENANTS HARBOR) | | • | • | | | • | | | • | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| SOUTH THOMASTON TOWN LANDING ROUTE 73 SOUTH THOMASTON | | • | • | | • | | | | • | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| SNOW MARINE PARK MECHANIC STREET ROCKLAND | | • | • | | • | | | • | | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| ROCKPORT MARINE PARK OFF ROUTE 1 ROCKPORT | | • | • | | • | | | • | | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| LINCOLNVILLE BEACH BOAT RAMP ROUTE 1 LINCOLNVILLE | | • | Δ | • | | • | | • | | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| BELFAST TOWN LANDING OFF ROUTE 1 BELFAST | | • | • | | • | | | | • | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| SEARSPORT TOWN LANDING OFF ROUTE 1 SEARSPORT | | • | • | | • | | | • | | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| CAPE DOCKS BOAT RAMP DOCK ROAD STOCKTON SPRINGS | | • | • | | • | | | | • | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| TURTLE HEAD MARINA BOAT RAMP MARINA ROAD HAMPDEN | | • | Δ | • | • | | | • | | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| GRIST MILL PARK ROUTE 1A FRANKFORT | • | | | • | • | | | | • | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| NORTH MAIN STREET BOAT RAMP ROUTE 9 & 178 BREWER | • | | | • | • | | | | • | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| SOUTH ORRINGTON BOAT RAMP OFF ROUTE 15 ORRINGTON (SOUTH ORRINGTON) | • | | | • | • | | | | • | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| VERONA PARK OFF ROUTES 1 AND 3 VERONA | • | | | • | • | | | | • | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| SOUTH PENOBSCOT BOAT RAMP ROUTE 175 PENOBSCOT (SOUTH PENOBSCOT) | • | | | • | • | | | | • | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| BLUE HILL TOWN LANDING ROUTE 178 BLUE HILL | • | | | • | • | | | | • | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| UNION RIVER HARBOR OFF ROUTE 230 ELLSWORTH | • | | | • | • | | | • | | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| HANCOCK COUNTY AIRPORT SEA PLANE RAMP ROUTE 3 TREMONT | • | | Δ | • | • | | | | • | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| SEAL COVE BOAT RAMP CAPE ROAD TREMONT (SEAL COVE) | • | | | • | • | | | | • | | • | • | • | | | | • | |
| TREMONT TOWN PIER OFF ROUTE 102 TREMONT | • | | | • | • | | | • | | | • | • | • | | | | • | |

Δ Not usable at extreme low tide ○ Arrange parking with Harbor Master ∇ No fee for town residents + Small boats only

| | BOAT RAMP | | | BOAT TRAILER PARKING | | | RESTROOM | | | DOCK/FLOAT | | FEE | | OPERATION/ MAINTENANCE | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------|-----------|----------------------|---------|------|-------------------|------|-----|------------|-----|-----|---------|------------------------|--------|-------|--|
| | COMBINATION GRAVEL PAVED | ALL TIDE | PART TIDE | ADEQUATE | LIMITED | NONE | OUTHOUSE RESTROOM | NONE | YES | NO | YES | NO | PRIVATE | MUNICIPAL | COUNTY | STATE | |
| MANSET TOWN LANDING MANSELL ROAD SOUTHWEST HARBOR (MANSET) | | • | • | • | | | • | | | • | | | | | | • | |
| BAR HARBOR TOWN LANDING OFF ROUTE 3 BAR HARBOR | | • | | • | | ○ | | • | | • | | • | | | | • | |
| LAMOINE STATE PARK ROUTE 184 LAMOINE | | • | Δ | • | | | • | | | • | | • | | | | • | |
| LAMOINE BEACH BOAT RAMP ROUTE 184 LAMOINE | • | | • | | | | • | | | • | | • | | | | • | |
| SOUTH GOULDSBORO BOAT RAMP SHORE ROAD GOULDSBORO | | • | Δ | • | | • | | | | • | | • | | | | • | |
| BUNKERS HARBOR BOAT RAMP OFF ROUTE 186 GOULDSBORO | | • | | • | | • | | | | • | | • | | | | • | |
| GOULDSBORO POINT BOAT LAUNCH GOULDSBORO POINT ROAD GOULDSBORO | | • | Δ | • | | • | | | | • | | • | | | | • | |
| MILBRIDGE MARINA BAYVIEW STREET MILBRIDGE | | • | | • | | • | | | | • | | • | | | | • | |
| HARRINGTON TOWN LANDING MARSHVILLE ROAD HARRINGTON | | • | Δ | • | | • | | | | • | | • | | | | • | |
| ADDISON TOWN LANDING RIDGE ROAD ADDISON | | • | Δ | • | | • | | | | • | | • | | | | • | |
| SOUTH ADDISON TOWN LANDING NARROWS ROAD ADDISON (SOUTH ADDISON) | | • | • | | | • | | • | | • | | • | | | | • | |
| JONESPORT MARINA SAWYERS SQUARE ROAD JONESPORT | | • | • | | | • | | | | • | | • | | | | • | |
| MACHIAS BOAT RAMP ROUTE 1 MACHIAS | | • | • | | | • | | | | • | | • | | | | • | |
| LUBEC BOAT RAMP WATER STREET LUBEC | | • | • | | | • | | • | | • | | • | | | | • | |
| COBSCOOK BAY STATE PARK SOUTH EDMUNDS ROAD EDMUNDS TOWNSHIP | | • | Δ | • | | • | | • | | • | | • | | | | • | |
| WASHINGTON COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE DEEP COVE ROAD EASTPORT | | • | • | | | • | | | | • | | • | | | | • | |
| EASTPORT BREAKWATER BOAT RAMP WATER STREET EASTPORT | • | | Δ | • | | • | | • | | • | | • | | | | • | |
| PERRY LAUNCH OFF ROUTE 1 PERRY | | • | Δ | • | | • | | | | • | | • | | | | • | |
| ST. CROIX BOAT RAMP ROUTE 1 ROBBINSTON | | • | Δ | • | | • | | • | | • | | • | | | | • | |
| PIKE'S PARK ROUTE 1 CALAIS | | • | | • | | • | | • | | • | | • | | | | • | |

Δ Not usable at extreme low tide ○ Arrange parking with Harbor Master ∇ No fee for town residents + Small boats only

Do You Know Your Catch?

One of the most commonly asked questions by anglers, at some point in time, is "What is it?" Knowing what you caught is extremely important for many reasons, including the reason that misidentification can lead to violations of fisheries regulations. This section is meant to guide the angler through thirty-six of Maine's most commonly encountered saltwater species. These fish are grouped into Families as listed in the American Fisheries Society publication, "Common and Scientific Names of Fishes."

Arrangement of the fish identification section

Common names: Other names used in various geographical locations to identify each species.

Description: To properly identify your catch these commonly observed attributes can be used.

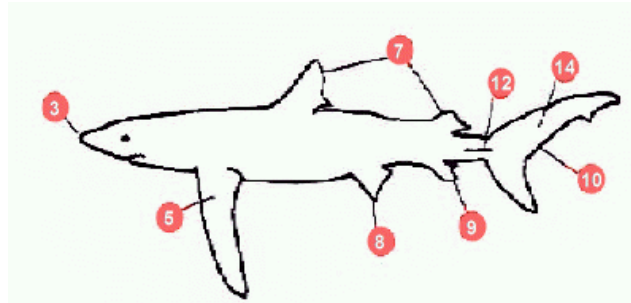
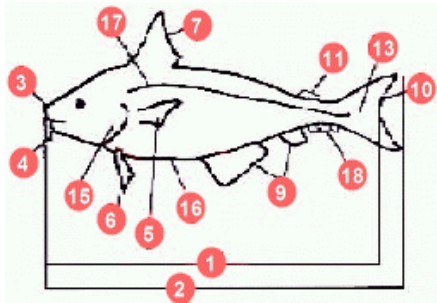
Where found: Though fish often know no bounds, there are general locations where they most commonly may be found.

Similar Gulf of Maine species: Here are listed other fish that resemble this species and may cause identification problems.

Remarks: This includes life history, behavior, feeding habits and angling information.

Records: The current Maine State Saltwater Angler Record (MSSAR)* and the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) records are listed.

** Unless otherwise noted, all Maine State Saltwater Angler Records are in the rod and reel category.*



- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Fork length | 7. Dorsal fin | 13. Caudal peduncle |
| 2. Total length | 8. Pelvic fin | 14. Upper lobe of tail fin |
| 3. Snout | 9. Anal fin | 15. Gill cover |
| 4. Barbel | 10. Tail (caudal) fin | 16. Midline |
| 5. Pectoral fin | 11. Adipose fin | 17. Lateral line |
| 6. Ventral fin | 12. Caudal keel | 18. Finlets |

Index:

Common Names

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Alewife | Haddock | Sculpin |
| Black Sea Bass | Hake | Sea Raven |
| Blueback Herring | Halibut | Shad |
| Blue Shark | Herring | Skate |
| Bluefin Tuna | Mako Shark | Smelt |
| Bluefish | Mackerel | Striped Bass |
| Brown Trout | Menhaden | Sturgeon |
| Cod | Ocean Pout | Tautog |
| Cunner | Pollock | Thresher Shark |
| Cusk | Porbeagle Shark | White Shark |
| Dogfish | Redfish | Winter Flounder |
| Goosefish | Salmon | Wolffish |

Family Alopiidae, THRESHER SHARKS THRESHER SHARK (Alopias vulpinus)



Common names: thresher, spindletail

Description: Thresher sharks are brown to black on top, blending to a shade of white below. These sharks are noted for the extraordinarily long length of their tail fin, the elongated upper lobe of their tail accounting for over half of their total body length. Their snout is short and they have a blunt rounded nose. They have two dorsal fins, the first of which is located almost squarely in the middle of their back, and an anal fin. A thresher shark's pectoral fins are long and sickle shaped. Their teeth are small, smooth edged and have a single sharp cusp. Thresher sharks normally measure approximately 10 feet in length, although large ones can grow to 15 feet. Average weight for these fish is close to 250 pounds with the heaviest weighing in at 700 pounds. Their length to weight ratio is the lightest of all the sharks because of the unusual length of their tail.

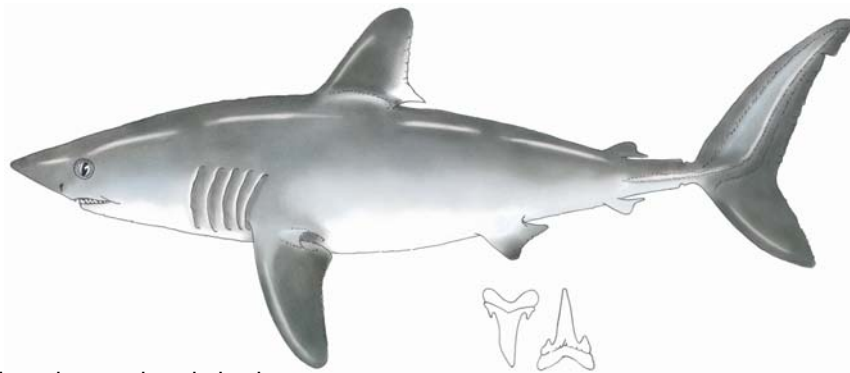
Where Found: offshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: none

Remarks: Thresher sharks feed chiefly on small schooling fish such as herring, mackerel and menhaden. These sharks, usually working in pairs, use their long tails to frighten their prey into a group. Thresher sharks are very active fighters when hooked. Often they are caught by their tail because of the unique way in which they use their tail when feeding. Their meat is of good quality.

Records: MSSAR: John H. Shostak, 07/14/98, 425 lbs., Boothbay Harbor
IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 767 lbs. 3 oz.

Family Lamnidae, MACKEREL SHARKS PORBEAGLE SHARK (Lamna nasus)



Common names: porbeagle, mackerel shark

Description: Porbeagle sharks are dark blue gray above with white on their lower sides and underbelly. A distinctive patch of white can be found at the trailing edge of their first dorsal fin. These sharks have a pointed snout, a stout torpedo shaped body and a crescent shaped tail fin. Porbeagle sharks can be distinguished from white and mako sharks by their teeth, which are smooth edged and have a little cusp present along each side of the base of each tooth, and by the presence of two caudal keels on their tail fin. These sharks can grow to 10 feet and weigh over 450 pounds.

Where found: inshore and offshore

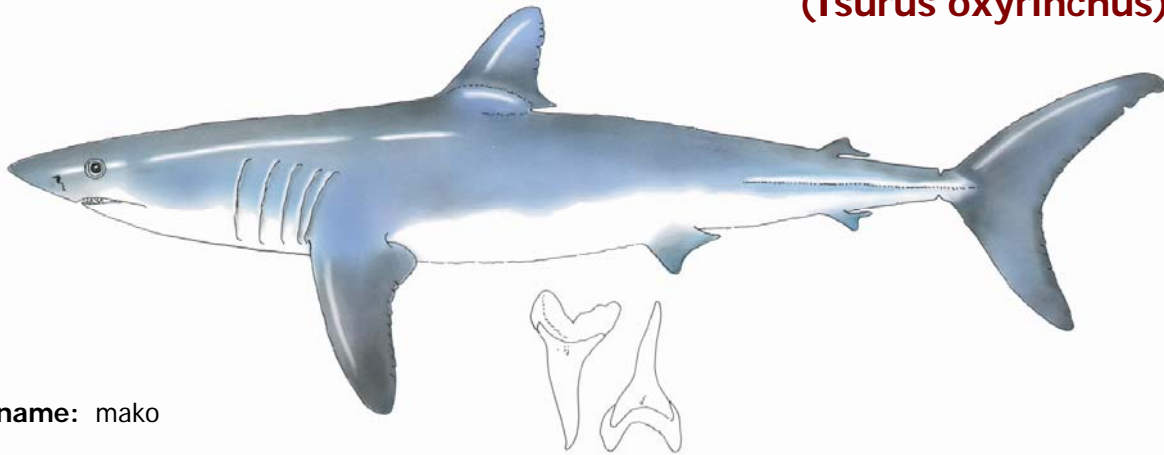
Similar Gulf of Maine species: white shark, mako shark

Remarks: Porbeagle sharks are strong, fast swimmers that are capable of rapid acceleration. A good sportfish, they can put up a determined fight when hooked. Fishing methods include trolling or bait fishing while chumming. Favorite baits are mackerel, herring and squid. The meat of the porbeagle is of good eating quality.

Records: MSSAR: Wesley Hurst, Jr., 07/22/95, 548 lbs., Bailey Island
IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 507 lbs.

Family Lamnidae, MACKEREL SHARKS

**SHORTFIN MAKO SHARK
(*Isurus oxyrinchus*)**



Common name: mako

Description: These sharks are a brilliant blue gray or cobalt blue on top, changing to light blue along their sides and snowy white on their belly and lower jaw. Soon after death their brilliant color fades to grayish brown. Shortfin mako sharks are large, streamline shaped fish that have a conical snout and a crescent shaped tail fin. Shortfin makos, though similar to blue sharks in color, differ in the shape of their snout. Their long slender teeth, which curve inward and have no cusps at their bases or serrations along their edges, easily separate them from white sharks and porbeagles. Shortfin makos can grow to 12 feet in length and weigh as much as 1,100 pounds.

Where found: offshore

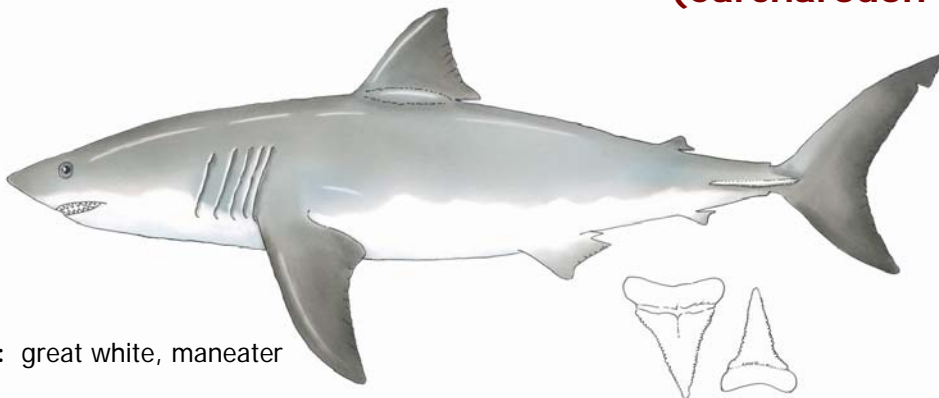
Similar Gulf of Maine species: white shark, porbeagle shark

Remarks: Shortfin makos are pelagic, solitary and fast swimming. They are prized by sport-fishermen because of their large size and great fighting ability. Makos are also known for their acrobatic ability, which enables them to leap up to 20 feet when hooked. Their meat is excellent to eat.

Records: MSSAR: James Hinkley, Jr., 08/15/90, 680 lbs., Saco
MSSAR handline category: Mark Chase, 08/15/92, 724 lbs., Portland
IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 1,221 lbs.

Family Lamnidae, MACKEREL SHARKS

**WHITE SHARK
(*Carcharodon carcharias*)**



Common name: great white, maneater

Description: White sharks are gray to brown above and fade to dirty white around their belly. A distinctive black spot can be found just behind the base of each of their two pectoral fins. White sharks are large, full bodied fish with conical snouts. Their lunate tail fin has caudal keels and lobes of equal length. The teeth of a white shark are large and triangular with serrated edges. These fish average about 15 feet in length and weigh approximately 1,500 pounds, though large examples have been measured at 21 feet and upwards of 4,800 pounds. White sharks, as well as basking sharks, are federally protected species.

Where found: offshore

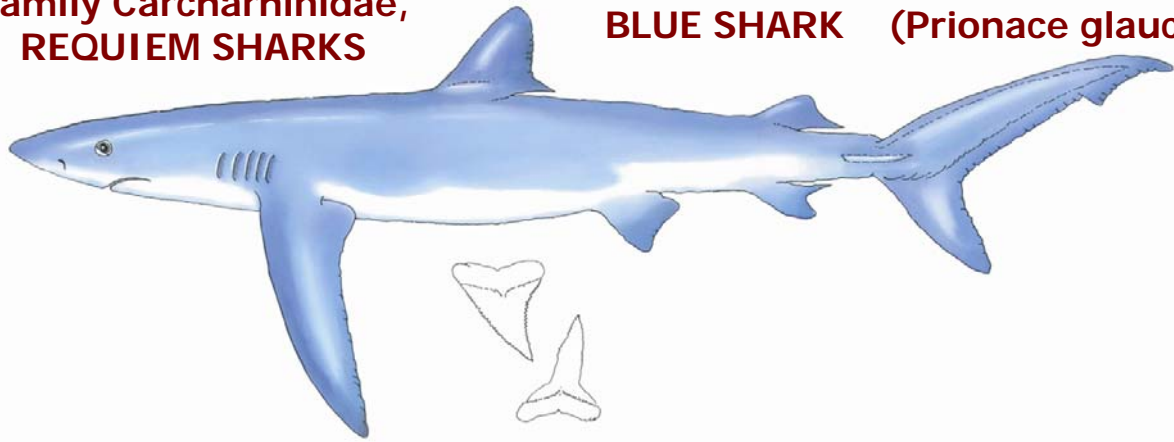
Similar Gulf of Maine species: mako shark, basking shark, porbeagle shark

Remarks: White sharks are strong swimmers and voracious predators. Their diet consists of both large and small prey. These sharks can easily devour marine mammals or other large sharks and have been known to attack humans. In Maine's coastal waters, they may be found where there is a high concentration of seals or a floating dead whale carcass.

Records: MSSAR: Closed
IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 2,664 lbs.

**Family Carcharhinidae,
REQUIEM SHARKS**

BLUE SHARK (Prionace glauca)



Common names: blue shark, blue whaler

Description: Blue sharks are a distinctive dark indigo blue on top, which blends to a lighter bright blue down their sides and ends with a bright white under-belly. Soon after death their blue coloration fades to dark gray. Blue sharks have long slender bodies and pointed snouts. Their pectoral fins are long and sickle shaped. The teeth in their upper jaw are triangular, serrated and curved; their lower teeth are narrower and very sharp. Blue sharks generally attain a length of 6 to 8 feet and weigh from 50 to 200 pounds. Large blues can grow to 12 feet in length and weigh over 400 pounds.

Where found: offshore

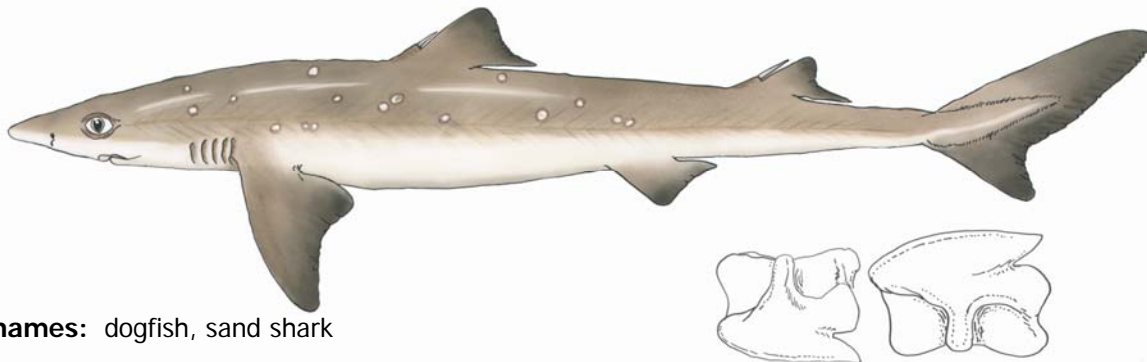
Similar Gulf of Maine species: none

Remarks: Blue sharks are pelagic and migratory in nature. They frequently swim together at the surface and are known to follow boats to get a free meal. Blue sharks are a popular sportfish in the Gulf of Maine because they are plentiful and are easy to catch. Most blue sharks are released when caught because of the poor quality of their meat as food. Chumming with herring, mackerel and menhaden works well when trying to attract these sharks.

Records: MSSAR: Ken Putnam, 08/09/89, 391 lbs., Portland
MSSAR fly rod category: Fred Danforth, 08/30/96, 101 lbs., Bath
IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 528 lbs.

Family Squalidae, DOGFISH SHARKS

**SPINY DOGFISH
(Squalus acanthias)**



Common names: dogfish, sand shark

Description: Spiny dogfish are gray to slate brown with a pale or white belly. They can be differentiated from other small sharks by a row of small white dots running along their sides. If these dots are faded or absent, which can happen with older dogfish, a distinctive single spine found in front of each of their two dorsal fins can be used as an additional identifying feature. The bodies of these fish are slender and their heads slope to a blunt snout. In size, adult females can reach lengths of 3 1/2 feet and weigh around 8 pounds, while males are normally smaller in size.

Where found: inshore and offshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: smooth dogfish

Remarks: Spiny dogfish are voracious eaters, preying on a variety of sea creatures, such as squid, shrimp and crabs, along with almost any species of fish that they can swallow. They mostly travel in large schools made of approximately equal size fish. These fish are known to winter in offshore waters and show up in the Gulf of Maine during the late spring or early summer. They are usually found in water depths ranging from surface waters to 600 feet.

Record: MSSAR: vacant
IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 15 lbs. 12 oz.

Family Rajidae, SKATES

LITTLE SKATE (*Raja erinacea*)



Common name: skate

Description: Little skates are gray to dark brown above and have a pale underbody. Small dark spots usually cover the top half of their body. These fish are about as wide as they are long and have a flattened, disc-like shape. Their pectoral fins, which act as modified wings, gracefully propel them through the water. Three or more rows of thorns run down their back, except in adults where they also run along the midline of their body and tail. Little skates average between 16 and 20 inches in length.

Where found: inshore and offshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: winter skate

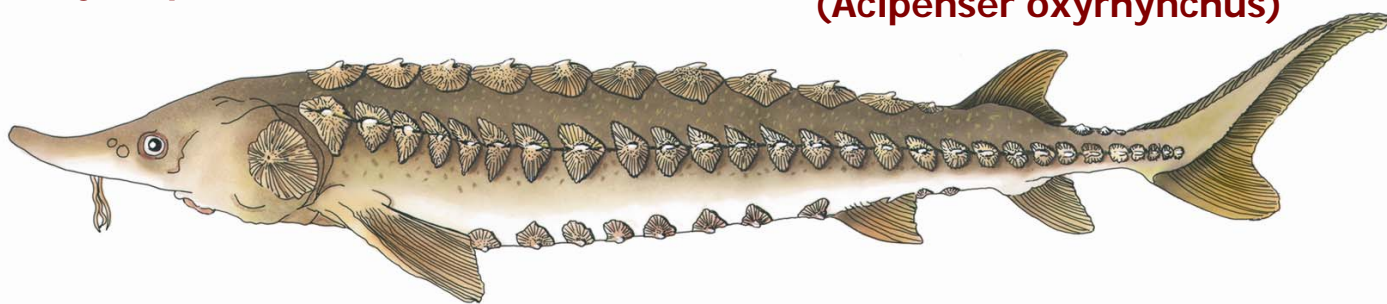
Remarks: Little skates are smaller in size than any other skate species found in the Gulf of Maine. They prefer a sand to gravel type bottom of no deeper than 300 feet. These fish migrate into shallower water as it warms in the spring and then move back to deeper water in the winter as water temperatures drop. Little skates feed on a variety of crustaceans as well as clams, squid and worms. Often, beachcombers will find their dried egg cases along the shore. These cases are dark green to black in color and look like flattened capsules with four points.

Records: MSSAR: vacant

IGFA All-Tackle World Record: vacant

Family Acipenseridae, STURGEONS

ATLANTIC STURGEON (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*)



Common name: sea sturgeon

Description: Atlantic sturgeon are olive green or blue gray above, gradually fading on the sides to a white underbelly. These are large, slow-to-mature fish that can grow to 18 feet in length. Their body is covered with five rows of large bony shields known as scutes. Atlantic sturgeon are designed to be effective bottom feeders. Their toothless mouth, which is located beneath their long snout, is capable of being thrust outward, allowing them to suck food off the bottom like a vacuum cleaner. Four barbels in front of their mouth help them to sense food. Their tail fin resembles the tail fin of some sharks in that their upper lobe measures much longer than their lower lobe.

Where found: inshore and offshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: shortnose sturgeon

Remarks: Atlantic sturgeon are primitive looking fish that are best known for the caviar (fish eggs) they produce. Being anadromous in nature, they return to their natal rivers to spawn. Most of their growth is believed to occur out at sea where they feed on various invertebrates and small fish. In Maine waters, law protects both the Atlantic sturgeon and the shortnose sturgeon.

Records: MSSAR: closed

IGFA All-Tackle World Record: vacant

Family Clupeidae, HERRINGS

ALEWIFE (*Alosa pseudoharengus*)



Common names: River herring, sawbelly, kyak, branch herring, freshwater herring

Description: Alewives are an iridescent gray green or violet shade on top that fades down their sides to a silver underbelly. They usually have a distinct dusky spot just behind the upper margin of their gill cover. Their strongly laterally compressed (skinny) body is three and one-third times as long as it is deep and has a forked tail fin. The midline of their belly is sharp and saw edged. Serrations located on the midline of their belly are much stronger and sharper than the ones found on most other members of their family. Adult alewives normally grow to be 10 to 11 inches in length and 8 to 9 ounces in weight.

Where found: Inshore and offshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: blueback herring, Atlantic herring, American shad, Atlantic menhaden

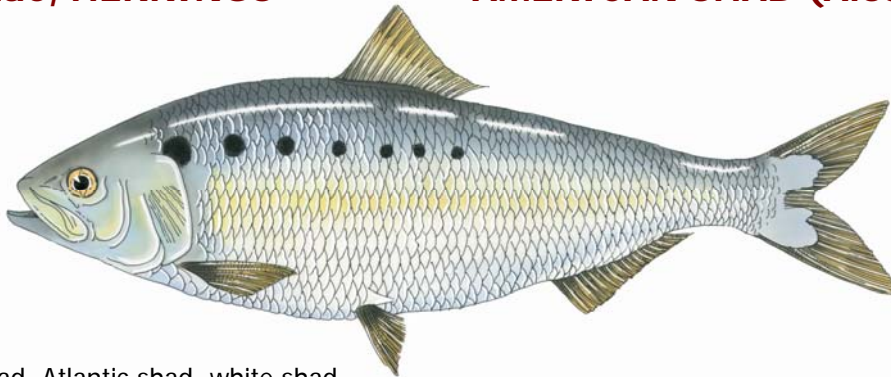
Remarks: Alewives are anadromous fish, living in saltwater and seasonally returning to freshwater to spawn. Throughout most of the year they travel the coast in large schools, foraging on plankton. Then, in the spring, they run up coastal streams and rivers toward ponds and lakes where they spawn. As a rule, alewives spawn in slack water. Because they are not jumpers, manmade or natural barriers sometimes block their spawning migration. Generally, alewives are only an incidental catch for saltwater recreational fishermen. However, they are harvested commercially both for human consumption and for bait.

Records: MSSAR: vacant

IGFA All-Tackle World Record: vacant

Family Clupeidae, HERRINGS

AMERICAN SHAD (*Alosa sapidissima*)



Common names: shad, Atlantic shad, white shad

Description: American shad are dark blue to green above with paler sides and a silver underbelly. Behind the upper edge of their gill cover is a large dusky spot that is usually followed by several small, less distinct, dusky spots. These fish have a laterally compressed body and a deeply forked tail fin. The midline of their belly is saw edged and sharp and their scales are large. They have only one dorsal fin and one anal fin. American shad are the largest members of the true herring family and can grow to 30 inches in length and weigh over 9 pounds.

Where found: inshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: Atlantic herring, alewife, blueback herring, Atlantic menhaden

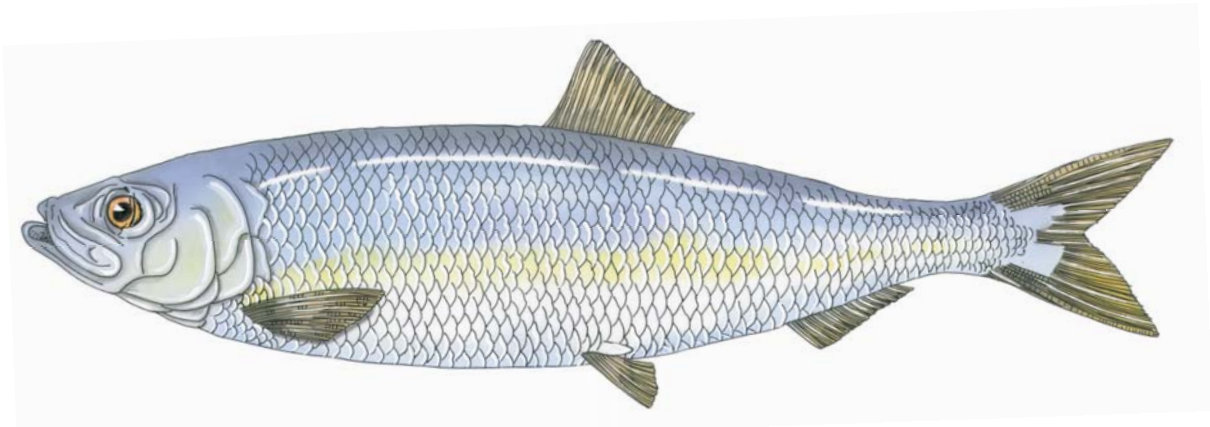
Remarks: American shad are anadromous fish. Commonly known as "the poor man's tarpon," shad are highly sought after as a sportfish because of their feisty nature and their ability to leap. The most popular time of year to go shad fishing is in the spring when these fish are returning to their coastal streams and rivers to spawn. Although shad are primarily plankton feeders, they will take a variety of baits, lures and flies. Either light spinning or fly fishing gear is recommended.

Records: MSSAR: vacant

IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 11 lbs. 4 oz.

Family Clupeidae, HERRINGS

ATLANTIC HERRING (*Clupea harengus*)



Common names: brit, labrador herring, sardine, sea herring

Description: Atlantic herring are deep blue or blue green above with silver sides and underbody. They are laterally compressed, making them much deeper than they are wide, with only a slightly saw toothed belly midline. Their lower jaw protrudes beyond their upper lip when their large mouth is closed, creating a moderately pointed snout. Unlike their relatives (the American shad, Atlantic menhaden, blueback herring and alewife), the Atlantic herring's dorsal fin starts at about the middle of its back. These fish have a deeply forked tall fin and large scales that easily come free when touched. Atlantic herring can grow to about 17 inches in length and weigh up to 1/2 pound.

Where found: inshore and offshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: Atlantic menhaden, blueback herring, alewife, American shad

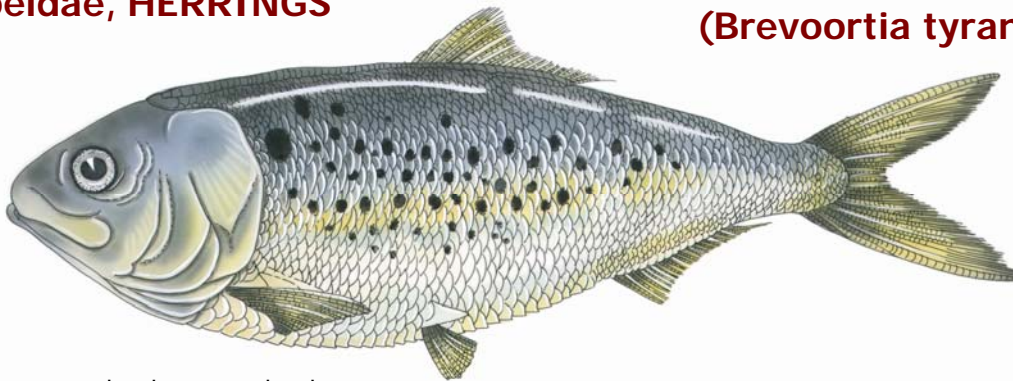
Remarks: Atlantic herring are a schooling, zooplankton eating fish which are heavily preyed upon by a variety of marine mammals, sea birds and fish. Many of the most popular gamefish are dependent upon herring as a food source.

Records: MSSAR: vacant

IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 1 lb. 8 oz.

Family Clupeidae, HERRINGS

ATLANTIC MENHADEN (*Brevortia tyrannus*)



Common names: poggy, bunker, mossbunker

Description: Atlantic menhaden are blue to green above with silver sides and underbelly. A distinct dusky spot is located behind their upper gill cover, followed by a varying number of smaller spots arranged in irregular rows. Atlantic menhaden have a laterally compressed body. Their large head has a mouth that gapes as far back as the rear edge of their eyes. These fish have a deeply forked tail fin and, like other members of the herring family, have only one dorsal and one anal fin. Overall body length is about three times their depth. Adult Atlantic menhaden average from 12 to 15 inches in length and 2/3 to one pound in weight.

Where found: inshore and offshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: Atlantic herring, alewife, blueback herring, American shad

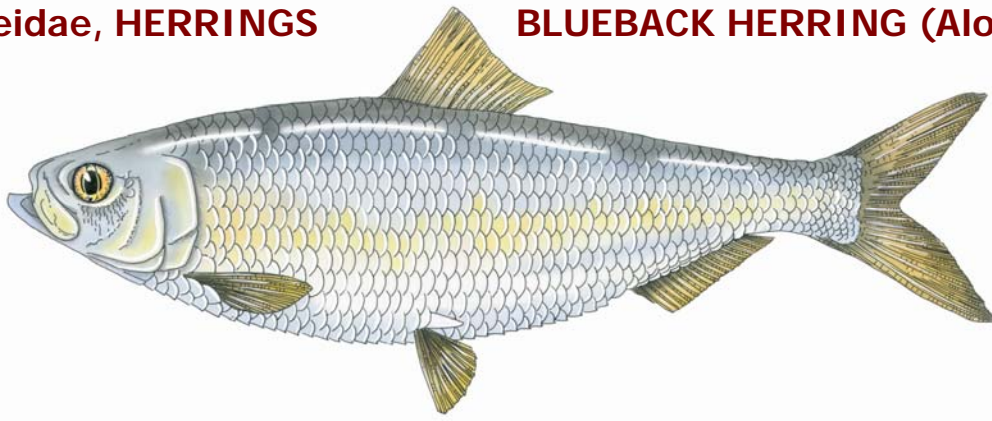
Remarks: Atlantic menhaden travel in large schools of equal size fish. They tend to swim near the surface and often congregate in locales with extensive estuarine systems. These fish are extremely efficient plankton eaters. They, in turn, are preyed upon by a vast number of saltwater fish, birds and marine mammals, as well as by man. Atlantic menhaden will not bite a baited hook. When available, menhaden are often used as bait for catching a variety of saltwater sportfish.

Records: MSSAR: vacant

IGFA All-Tackle World Record: vacant

Family Clupeidae, HERRINGS

BLUEBACK HERRING (*Alosa aestivalis*)



Common names: river herring, glut herring, summer herring, kyack, blackbelly

Description: Blueback herring are gray green to blue green on top, which fades down their sides to a silver underbelly. Their body is laterally compressed with the midline of their belly being sharp and saw edged. Their tail fin is forked. Because of the difficulty in visually separating blueback herring from alewives, the two species are often lumped together and referred to as "river herring". Blueback herring can be distinguished from alewives by the facts that alewives have a larger eye and, if you were to cut each open, the body cavity in the blueback herring is black while the alewife's is pink gray. On average, blueback herring grow to be 10 to 11 inches in length and 8 to 9 ounces in weight.

Where found: inshore and offshore.

Similar Gulf of Maine species: alewife, American shad, Atlantic menhaden

Remarks: Like their relatives the alewives, blueback herring are anadromous, living in saltwater and returning to freshwater to spawn. They travel along the coast in large schools, feeding on plankton for most of the year. In the spring, bluebacks run up coastal streams and rivers to spawn. Unlike alewives, blueback herring will spawn in moving water.

Records: MSSAR: vacant

IGFA All-Tackle World Record: vacant

Family Osmeridae, SMELTS

RAINBOW SMELT (*Osmerus mordax*)



Common name: Atlantic smelt

Description: Rainbow smelt are mostly a dark blue green with bright silver sides. These fish possess a slender body with a pointed head and deeply forked tail fin. A small adipose fin is located between their single dorsal fin and tail fin. Their large mouth contains numerous teeth that they use to catch and hold their prey. Rainbow smelt rarely grow over 13 inches with the average adult measuring between 7 and 9 inches.

Where found: inshore and offshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: capelin

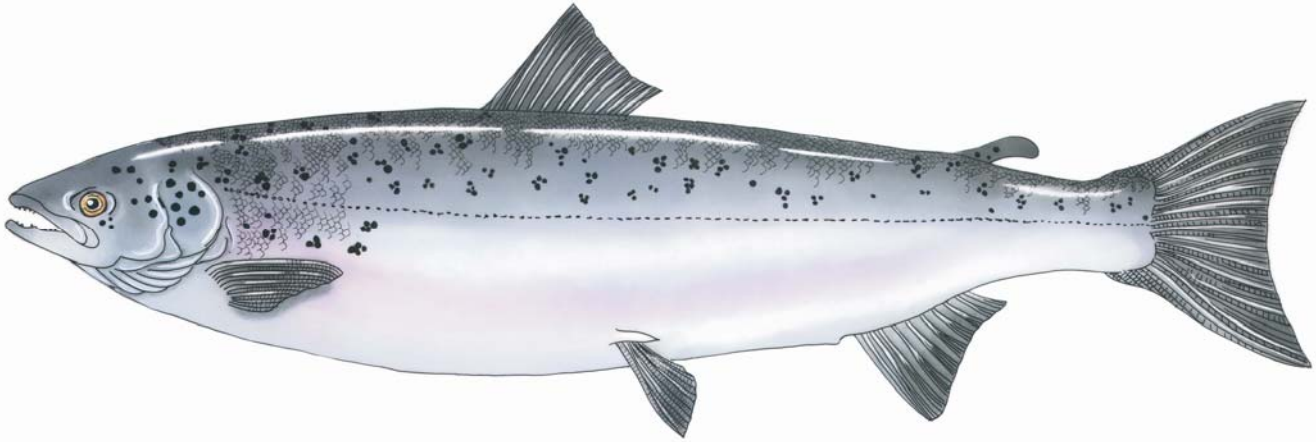
Remarks: In Maine, rainbow smelt are a prized food fish that are harvested in three distinct fisheries. During the spring months, as these anadromous fish move into their natal streams to spawn, fishermen use dip nets to capture them. The fall season supports a riverine and coastal bay hook and line fishery. A lightweight spinning rod and reel is considered the equipment of choice for smelt. Common baits used are mummichogs, marine worms and clams. In winter, anglers fish for smelt through the ice. The most popular baits used in this fishery are marine worms. To protect themselves from the winter cold, fishermen frequently fish from shanties or shacks. This latter manner of fishing has proven to be very popular on many of the state's tidal rivers and saltwater bays.

Records: MSSAR: vacant

IGFA All-Tackle World Record: vacant

Family Salmonidae, TROUTS

ATLANTIC SALMON (*Salmo salar*)



Common names: sea salmon, silver salmon, black salmon, eastern salmon

Description: When in the ocean, Atlantic salmon are silvery with a brown tinted back. Their upper body, head and fins are often marked with small black crosses and dots. Both their head and eyes are small. This fish's body depth generally measures one-fourth of its total body length. Like other members of the trout family, they possess a small fleshy adipose fin, located between their single dorsal fin and tail fin.

Where found: inshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: sea-run brown trout, rainbow smelt

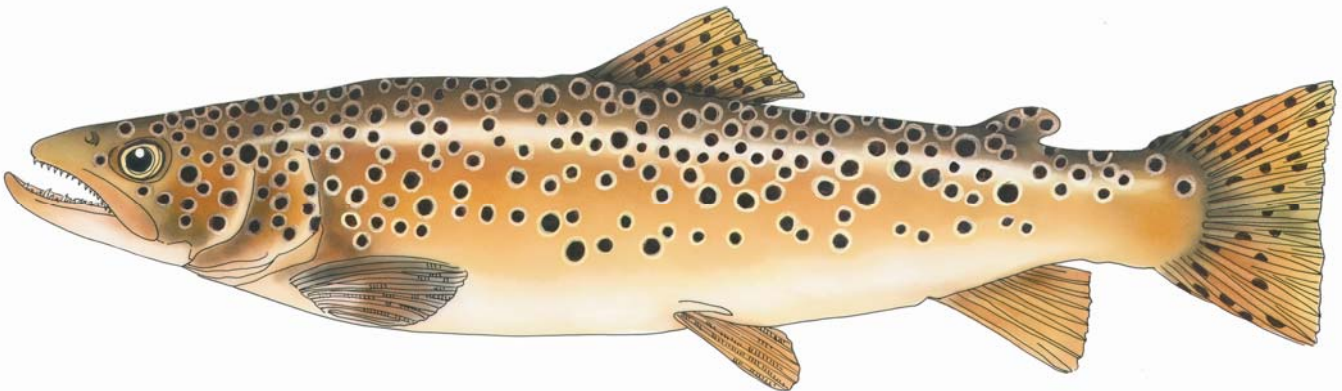
Remarks: Atlantic salmon are another anadromous species. Many saltwater sport-fishermen consider these fish to be "the king of fish" because of their great leaping ability and determined fight when hooked. In Maine, fishing for Atlantic salmon is currently prohibited. A variety of fly patterns such as the Brown Bomber and the Green Machine were successfully used, when there was a Maine fishery for Atlantic salmon, and some designs, like the Green Highlander and Jock Scott, go back to the origin of fly fishing history.

Records: MSSAR: closed

IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 79 lbs. 2 oz.

Family Salmonidae, TROUTS

BROWN TROUT (*Salmo trutta*)



Common names: sea-run brown trout, Scotch sea-trout, brownie, German brown trout

Description: Brown trout are yellow brown to tan and may have numerous large brown or black spots on their sides, back and dorsal fin. These fish are slender in shape and have a squarish tail fin. An adipose fin is located between their dorsal fin and tail fin. Sea-run brown trout closely resemble Atlantic salmon, both in shape and coloration. A sure way of telling the two apart is by looking at the teeth located on the roof of their mouth. Brown trout possess a well developed double row of teeth, while salmon and other native salmonids have only a single row. Adult brown trout generally are 1 to 5 pounds in weight but can grow to 30 pounds or more.

Where found: inshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: Atlantic salmon, brook trout, rainbow trout

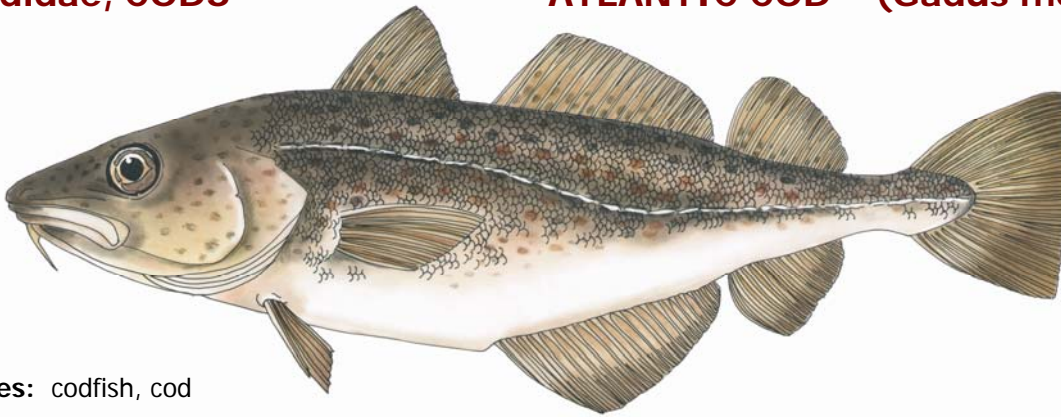
Remarks: Brown trout can tolerate higher water temperatures and poorer water quality than most other species of salmon and trout. These fish are not native to North America, having been brought here from Europe. Brown trout are considered by many anglers to be a difficult fish to catch. Since they are active at night, both late evening and early morning are considered the best times to fish for browns.

Records: MSSAR: vacant

IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 40 lbs. 4 oz.

Family Gadidae, CODS

ATLANTIC COD (Gadus morhua)



Common names: codfish, cod

Description: The color of Atlantic codfish can vary from gray to gray green to reddish brown. They are usually covered with reddish brown spots. Their lateral line is pale, almost white. Cod are streamline in shape, have a broad square tail fin, three rounded dorsal fins, two anal fins and no fin spines. Their upper jaw is blunt and extends beyond the lower jaw. A prominent chin whisker (barbel) is attached to their lower jaw. These fish are four to five times as long as they are deep, being deepest just behind the head.

Where found: inshore and offshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: hake, pollock, haddock

Remarks: Atlantic cod are bottom dwelling fish that prefer substrates ranging from rock to fine gravel. Cod are the target species of many of Maine's headboat anglers. A 5 to 8 foot medium to heavy action rod, equipped with a heavy reel and spooled with 50-pound test dacron line is considered standard gear. Successful anglers use either a jig (10 ounces and up) coupled with a teaser (plastic worm), which are fished off the bottom with a jerking motion, or bait (clams and shrimp).

Records: MSSAR: Neil Downey, 09/08/92, 80 lbs. 7 oz., Perkins Cove

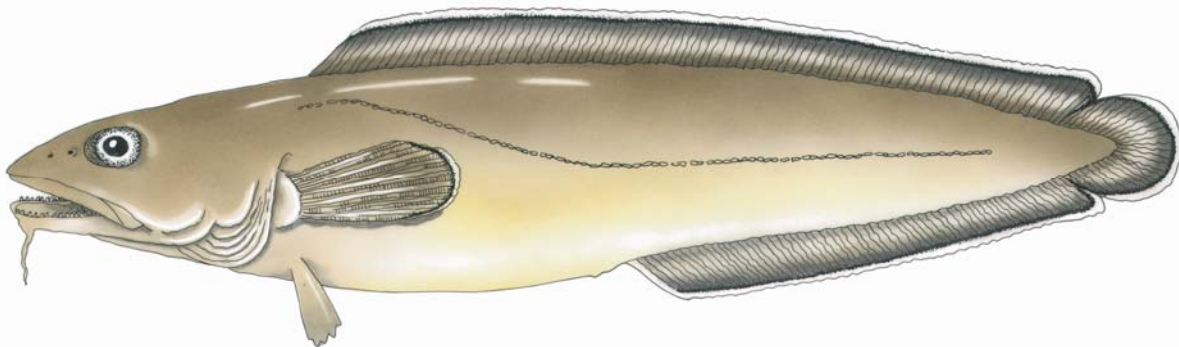
MSSAR junior male: Willy Goldsmith, 06/05/05, 46.12 lbs., Perkins Cove

MSSAR junior female: Rebecca Ranta, 07/09/00, 26.5 lbs., Perkins Cove

IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 98 lbs. 12 oz.

Family Gadidae, CODS

CUSK (Brosme brosme)



Common name: cusk

Description: Cusk are dark slate to red brown above with yellowish sides and a dirty white underbody. They have an elongated, taper shaped body with a blunt snout and a single barbel on their chin. Their dorsal and anal fins are exceptionally long and they have a rounded tail fin, all of which are bordered with a black stripe that is edged in white. Cusk can grow to a size of about 3 1/2 feet in length and to 30 pounds in weight. Their average size in the waters of the Gulf of Maine, however, is closer to 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 feet in length and 5 to 10 pounds in weight.

Where found: offshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: wolffish, eel pout

Remarks: Cusk are exclusively bottom dwellers that inhabit moderately deep waters of 60 to 90 feet. They prefer a hard rough substrate made up of rocks or boulders. These fish are solitary in nature and are not particularly abundant. Cusk are excellent table fare, particularly in chowders and stews. Occasionally, anglers will hook onto a cusk while fishing for cod or haddock. Although these fish are considered to be weak and sluggish swimmers, they have a powerful body. Both clams and herring work well as bait when fishing for cusk.

Records: MSSAR: Kenton Geer, 10/11/02, 33.42 lbs., Perkins Cove

IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 35 lbs. 14 oz.

Family Gadidae, CODS

**HADDOCK
(*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*)**



Common name: haddock

Description: These fish are dark gray above with silvery sides and a white underbody. They have a black lateral line and show no spots. A distinctive large black blotch, referred to as "the devil's thumbprint," is located behind and above their pectoral fins. Haddock, like cod, have three dorsal fins and two anal fins. With haddock, the first dorsal fin is visibly pointed. A small chin barbel can be found on their lower jaw and they have a shallowly forked tail fin. At three years of age, haddock typically measure 19 to 20 inches in length.

Where found: offshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: pollock, cod

Remarks: Haddock are bottom feeders that generally inhabit water depths ranging from 100 to 500 feet. Unlike cod, they often avoid the rocky bottom and prefer a bottom of clay, smooth hard sand or fragmented shells. Haddock are known to bite as freely as cod and when hooked are considerably more active. The fishing tackle and baits used for cod also work well for haddock. Haddock is a sweet tasting fish, making it a prized food item.

Records: MSSAR: Jared Keniston, 05/11/04, 15.61 lbs., Perkins Cove
MSSAR junior female: Allyson Fuehrer, 06/03/04, 5.73 lbs., Perkins Cove
IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 14 lbs. 15 oz.

Family Gadidae, CODS

SILVER HAKE (Merluccius bilinearis)



Common names: silver hake, New England hake, whiting

Description: Silver hake are iridescent gray brown above, fading to a silvery shade below. Their large mouth, with a projecting lower jaw, is lined with two or more rows of sharp curved teeth. Silver hake have no chin barbel. Being slender fish, they are five to six times as long as they are deep. They have two separate and well developed dorsal fins, the second being much longer than the first. They also have an extended anal fin, and their ventral fins lack the long feelers that are so obvious on other hakes. Adult silver hake normally measure around 14 inches in length.

Where found: inshore and offshore

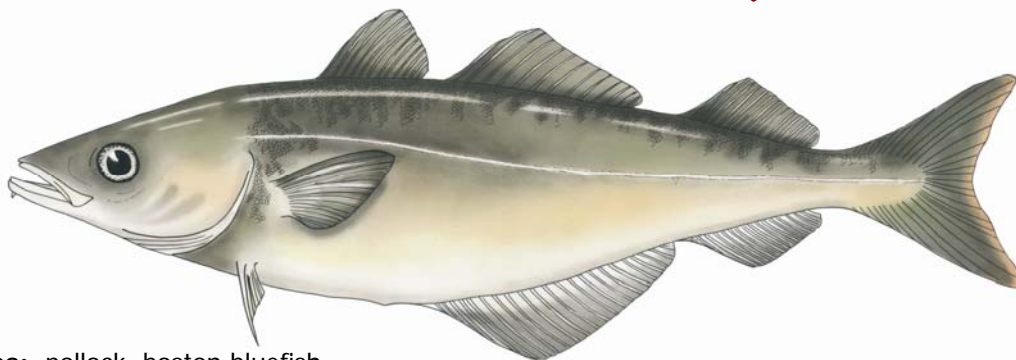
Similar Gulf of Maine species: white hake, red hake, longfin hake

Remarks: Silver hake are strong, swift swimmers and voracious feeders. Their prey includes a variety of fish such as herring, mackerel, menhaden and silversides. Silver hake is usually a bycatch of anglers who are fishing for cod or haddock. They bite readily, but don't put up much of a fight. Their meat is delicate and, if chilled right away, is tender and sweet tasting.

Records: MSSAR: Erik M. Callahan, 08/08/95, 4 lbs. 8 oz., Perkins Cove
IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 4 lbs. 8 oz.

Family Gadidae, CODS

AMERICAN POLLOCK (*Pollachius virens*)



Common names: pollock, boston bluefish

Description: Pollock are olive green or black to brown above with paler sides and a silver belly. Their fairly straight lateral line is light colored. Pollock are deep, plump bodied fish that have three dorsal fins, two anal fins and a forked tail fin. They have a slightly projected lower jaw. Their chin barbel is considered minute and may be completely missing in older fish. Pollock average between 4 and 15 pounds in weight, although large ones can weigh to 35 pounds.

Where found: inshore and offshore

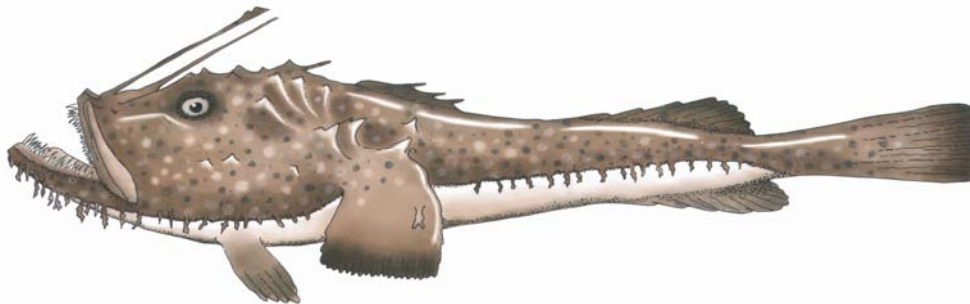
Similar Gulf of Maine species: cod, haddock

Remarks: Pollock are considered the most active members of the Cod family. When hooked, they make strong, powerful runs, thus making them fun to catch on light tackle. Their diet consists of small pelagic fish, comb jellies and various crustaceans. Good baits include shrimp, herring, squid, clams and marine worms. Fishing methods such as jigging, trolling and casting all work well when trying for pollock. Their meat is of good quality, but is not rated as high as that of cod or haddock.

Records: MSSAR: Linda Paul, 10/24/90, 46 lbs. 10.9 oz., Perkins Cove
MSSAR junior male: Andrew Tuttle, 08/11/97, 34.0 lbs., Perkins Cove
MSSAR junior female: Dawn Hersom, 08/14/86, 38.0 lbs., Perkins Cove
IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 50 lbs.

Family Lophiidae, GOOSEFISHES

GOOSEFISH (*Lophius americanus*)



Common names: anglerfish, monkfish, goosefish

Description: Goosefish are tan to chocolate brown above, fading to a white shaded underbody. Their body is narrow and tapered with a flattened, broad head that supports an enormous mouth. Both of their jaws are armed with numerous long needle like teeth that point inward. Their lower jaw, head and sides are edged with a unique fringe of fleshy flaps and they lack gill slits. Distinctive pectoral fins, resembling a pair of small arms, help them to move along the bottom. Several slender spines and two well developed dorsal fins can be found on top of their body. The first spine serves as a modified fishing lure that attracts their unsuspecting prey toward their mouth. Goosefish can grow to a length of over 4 feet and weigh up to 50 pound

Where found: inshore and offshore

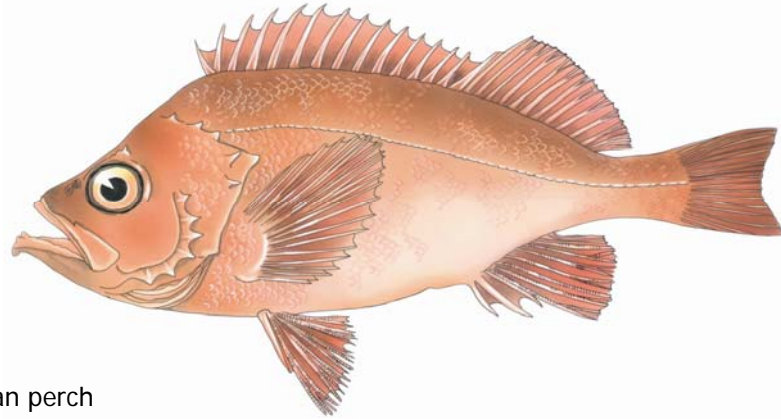
Similar Gulf of Maine species: none

Remarks: Goosefish have enormous appetites and are capable of eating almost any kind of fish, bird or invertebrate that they can catch. Being bottom dwellers, they inhabit waters as shallow as a few feet to depths exceeding 1,200 feet. They can be found on all kinds of bottom types but prefer soft or sandy bottoms. Occasionally, anglers who are using live bait in search of other groundfish haul up a goosefish. Extra care should be taken when handling these fish because of the potential danger of their bite. The meat from a goosefish, sometimes referred to as "poorman's lobster," is both firm and free of bones and is considered a culinary treat.

Records: MSSAR: Nancy Lee Regimbald, 07/09/91, 49 lbs. 12 oz., Perkins Cove
IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 49 lbs. 12 oz.

**Family Scorpaenidae,
SCORPIONFISHES**

**ACADIAN REDFISH
(*Sebastes fasciatus*)**



Common names: redfish, ocean perch

Description: Redfish are an orange to flame red above, fading to a paler hue below. These fish with large eyes are perch-like in appearance. Redfish have a flattened body that is three times longer than it is deep. Their mouth is large and is lined with many small teeth. One continuous dorsal fin runs from the nape of their neck to their caudal peduncle. Their tail fin is noticeably small.

Where found: inshore and offshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: rosefish

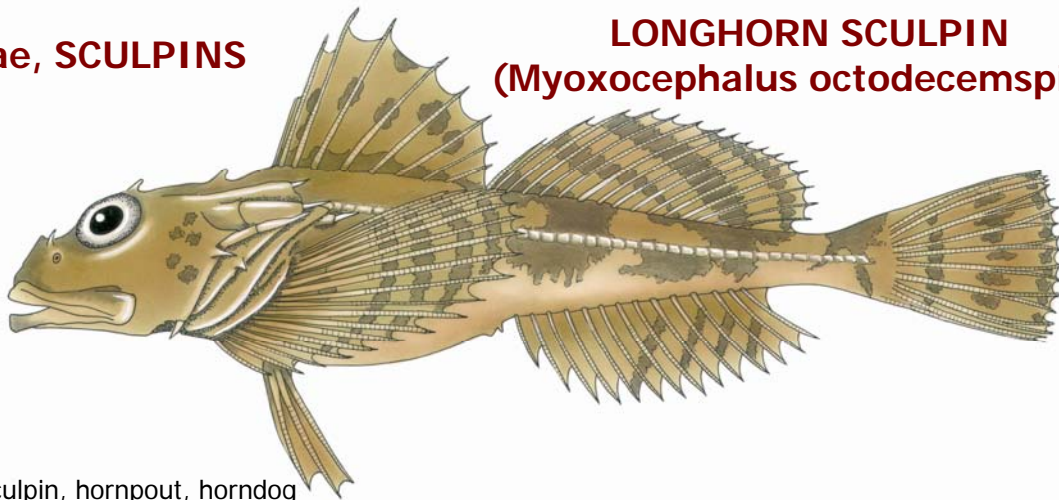
Remarks: Redfish are slow growing fish. Ages in excess of 50 years and lengths of up to 18 to 20 inches have been noted. Considered a deep water fish, redfish can be found in shallower waters during the colder winter months. Redfish prefer a rocky bottom. Their diet includes a variety of crustaceans, mollusks and small fish. They are known to hit almost any bait. Although they are considered to be an excellent food fish, they offer the angler little in the way of a struggle when caught.

Records: MSSAR: vacant

IGFA All-Tackle World Record: vacant

Family Cottidae, SCULPINS

**LONGHORN SCULPIN
(*Myoxocephalus octodecemspinosus*)**



Common names: sculpin, hornpout, horndog

Description: Longhorn sculpin differ in color according to their surroundings. Their coloration may vary from dark olive to pale green yellow to green brown. As a rule, they are marked with three or four indefinite, irregular dark crossbars which run down their sides. Their underbelly is white. These fish have a large head and a slender body which is five and one-half times as long as it is deep. They also have large eyes, fan-like pectoral fins, two dorsal fins and a comparatively small tail fin. Their skull is covered with numerous sharp spines, the longest of which starts at their cheek and goes as far back as the edge of their gill cover. Longhorn sculpin can grow to 18 inches in length, although few of them ever get any longer than 10 to 14 inches.

Where found: inshore and offshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: shorthorn sculpin

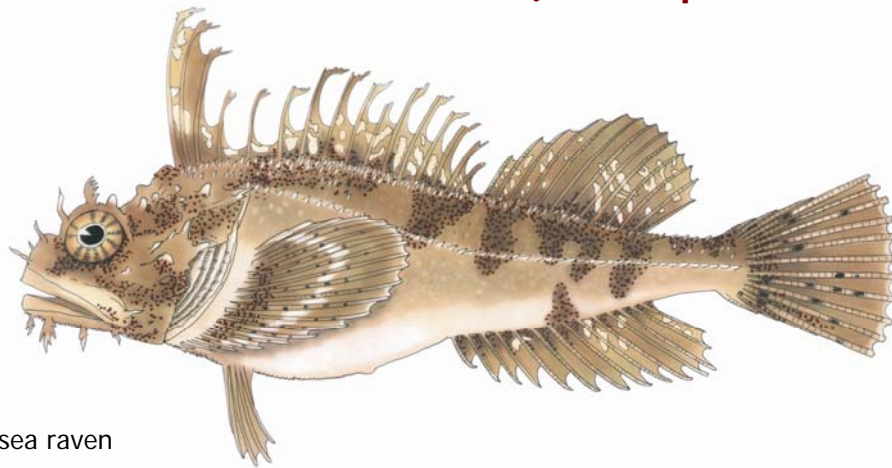
Remarks: Of the several species of sculpin living in the Gulf of Maine, longhorn sculpin are the most numerous. They are found at depths ranging from a few feet to over 300 feet. These fish have a voracious appetite and will readily take any type of bait that is presented. They are considered a nuisance by anglers who are after more desirable species of fish. Because their head is covered with spines, extra care should be taken when handling them.

Records: MSSAR: vacant

IGFA All-Tackle World Record: vacant

Family Cottidae, SCULPINS

SEA RAVEN (*Hemitripterus americanus*)



Common names: raven, sea raven

Description: Sea ravens may vary in color from blood red to reddish purple to yellow brown. Their belly is usually a shade of yellow. They have a large head and a stout, tapering body. Distinctive tabs of flesh hang from their head and lower jaw. A curious ragged layer of skin is also present on the first dorsal fin. Their pectoral fins are large and fan-like and they have a small tail fin. These fish have a broad mouth that is lined with several rows of very sharp teeth. Sea ravens often grow to be 18 to 20 inches in length.

Where found: inshore and offshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: none

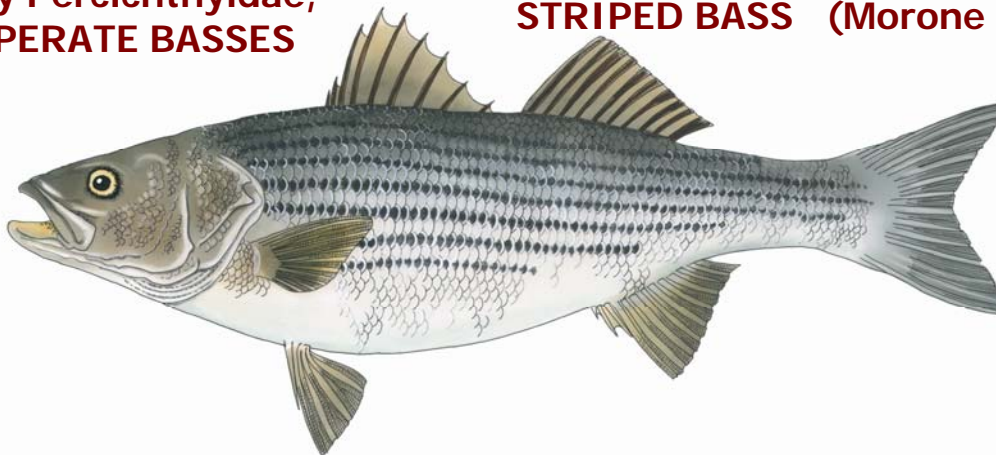
Remarks: Sea ravens frequent rocky or hard substrates at depths ranging from 6 feet to 300 feet. They are present throughout the water column and are considered voracious feeders. Their diet includes a variety of mollusks, crustaceans and fish. Sea ravens will take almost any bait. They are edible, but few are kept because of their ugly appearance.

Records: MSSAR: vacant

IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 3 lbs. 4 oz.

Family Percichthyidae, TEMPERATE BASSES

STRIPED BASS (*Morone saxatilis*)



Common names: striper, linesider, rockfish, sea bass

Description: Striped bass are dark olive green to steel blue on top, with silver colored sides and a white underbelly. Seven to eight dark stripes run longitudinally across their body giving them a distinctive appearance. Striped bass are usually three and one-third times as long as they are deep. They have a long head, protruding lower jaw and a moderately forked tail fin. Their dorsal fins are separated, unlike the dorsal fins of white perch, which they resemble when they are young.

Where found: inshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: white perch

Remarks: Striped bass are one of Maine's most important saltwater gamefish, being renowned for their powerful fight and excellent flavor. Inhabiting shallow bays, rocky shores, coastal rivers and the surf line of barrier beaches, they can be caught anytime during daylight hours but seem to be most active between sunset and sunrise. Stripers will hit a variety of baits, lures and flies. Mackerel, eels, marine worms, herring and menhaden are commonly used baits. Proven lures include spoons, lead-headed jigs and surface and deep diving plugs.

Records: MSSAR: Douglas Dodge, 09/20/78, 67 lbs., Sheepscot River

IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 78 lbs. 8 oz.

Family Serranidae, SEA BASSES

BLACK SEA BASS (*Centropristis striata*)



Common names: black bass, blackfish

Description: Black sea bass are smoky gray to dusky brown to blue black above, with a belly that is only slightly paler than their sides. These colors may be more or less mottled. Several distinct whitish spots or bands mark their dorsal fin. These fish have a moderately stout body that is three times as long as it is wide. Their head is large and includes a mouth with a lower jaw that sticks out beyond their upper lip. A continuous, high dorsal fin is located on top of their body. Their tail fin is rounded and larger fish may possess an elongated filament that extends beyond their tail. Black sea bass can grow to 8 pounds in weight and measure more than 24 inches in length, although the average size is closer to 1 1/2 pounds.

Where found: inshore and offshore

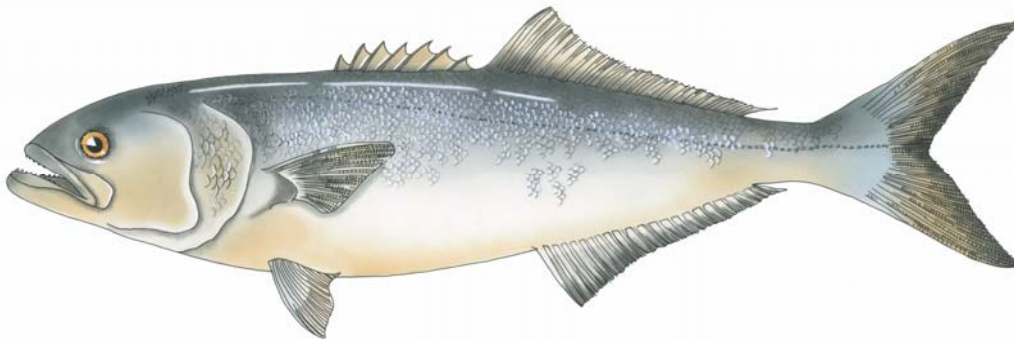
Similar Gulf of Maine species: white perch, striped bass

Remarks: Throughout the coastal mid-Atlantic states black sea bass are prized as a valuable food and sportfish. Occasionally, they are known to enter into Maine's coastal waters. Their inshore/offshore range extends from depths of only a few feet out to waters as deep as 420 feet. These fish prefer a rocky bottom and especially like to congregate around piers, jetties and wrecks. Being bottom feeders, they are known to eat both crustaceans and mollusks as well as several kinds of small fish. Good baits include marine worms, shrimp, crabs, clams and cut fish. Mackerel jigs are also effective. When hooked black sea bass are determined fighters, making them a delight to catch on light tackle. Their meat is especially good to eat.

Records: MSSAR: David Hutchins, 06/08/02, 1.75 lbs., Ogunquit
IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 10 lbs. 4 oz.

Family Pomatomidae, BLUEFISHES

BLUEFISH (*Pomatomus saltatrix*)



Common names: blue, chopper, snapper

Description: Bluefish are a blue green shade above with silver sides and underbelly. A single dark blotch can be found at the base of each of their pectoral fins. They have large powerful jaws that are lined with a single row of small, razor-sharp teeth. Their bodies are stout and powerful. These fish have two dorsal fins, the first being much lower and rounder than the second which, in turn, is similar in size to the anal fin. Bluefish have a large forked tail fin that pushes them swiftly through water.

Where found: inshore and offshore

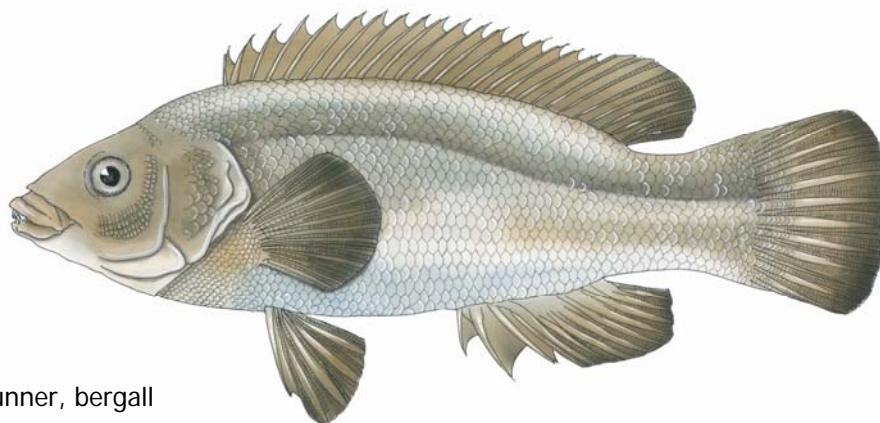
Similar Gulf of Maine species: none

Remarks: Swimming together in large schools, bluefish migrate north with warming water temperatures and generally, but not always, appear along Maine's coast during the summer months. They frequently follow other schools of fish, such as menhaden, mackerel and butterfish, upon which they feed. The preferred rig for blue fishing is a medium duty rod and reel equipped with at least twenty pound test line, coupled with a coated steel or heavy monofilament leader. Effective artificial lures include spoons, plugs and tube lures. Baits, either alive or cut, include mackerel, menhaden, butterfish and eels. An assortment of flies are also known to work well. Anglers should take extra care when handling bluefish because their bite can cause serious injury.

Records: MSSAR: Dennis Moran, 08/08/94, 19.68 lbs., Boothbay Harbor
IGFA All-Tackle World 31 lbs, 12 oz.

Family Labridae, WRASSES

CUNNER (*Tautoglabrus adspersus*)



Common names: cunner, bergall

Description: Cunnners range in color from mottled reddish to bluish brown on top, fading to slightly paler hues along their sides. These fish have a pointed snout and are moderately slender and deep bodied in shape. They have a single long dorsal fin and a very deep caudal peduncle. Their small mouth is lined with several rows of uneven cone shaped teeth. Cunner rarely grow over one foot in length. Their usual size is between 6 and 10 inches in length and less than 3 pounds in weight.

Where found: inshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: tautog

Remarks: Cunnners are considered a coastal fish with the majority of them living within 5 to 6 miles from shore. They are most often found around piers, rock jetties and eel grass beds. Being omnivores, they eat a variety of both plant and animal matter, including small lobsters, mussels, shrimp and sea urchins. Due to the small size of their mouth, the use of a very small hook is a must for anglers. Bits of clams, crabs, sea worms and even canned corn kernels work well as bait for these fish. Although cunnners have a tough skin, their meat is tasty, making them a popular pan fish.

Records: MSSAR: vacant

IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 2 lb. 3 oz.

Family Labridae, WRASSES

TAUTOG (*Tautoga onitis*)



Common names: tautog, blackfish, tog

Description: Tautog are usually a mottled brown to black shade on top with a white or gray chin and underbelly. They are stout in shape and have a blunt snout, long dorsal fin and a broad caudal peduncle. These fish are three times as long as they are deep. Their lips are thick and they have 2 to 3 canine teeth located toward the front of their mouth. Found at the rear of their mouth are more rounded molar-like teeth that they use for grinding. Tautog can grow to 3 feet in length and to around 22 pounds in weight, but their average size is closer to 2 to 4 pounds in weight.

Where found: inshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: cunner

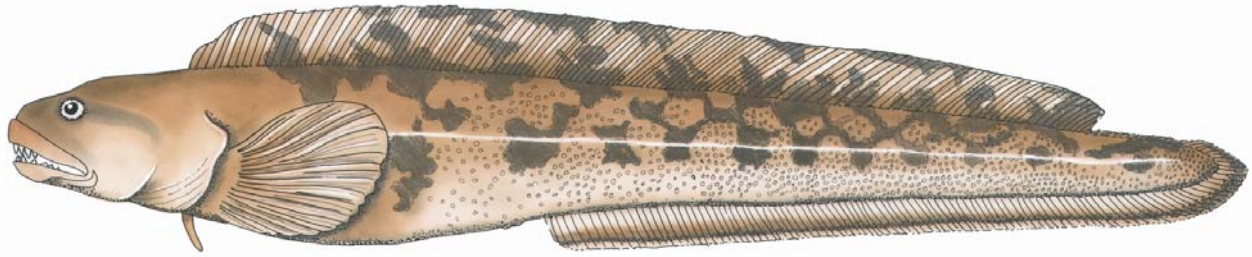
Remarks: Tautog are occasionally caught along Maine's southwest coast. Common in the mid-Atlantic states, they are a popular inshore sportfish. These fish seldom frequent waters deeper than 60 feet and prefer a rocky bottom to set on. Areas around boulders, submerged wrecks, breakwaters and docks are all good places to fish for this species. Good baits include crabs, shrimp, clams, mussels and marine worms. Tautog are not an active fish, but when hooked put up a determined fight. Their firm white meat is considered to be of good quality, especially when used to make a chowder.

Records: MSSAR: vacant

IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 25 lbs.

Family Zoarcidae, EELPOUTS

OCEAN POUT (*Macrozoarces americanus*)



Common names: ocean pout, eel pout, conger eel

Description: Ocean pout have a muddy yellow to mottled reddish brown upper body that blends to a dirty white or yellowish underbody. They are eel-like in shape with a continuous dorsal fin that runs from the nape of the neck back to the tail fin, but does not connect to it. Conversely, the anal fin, which starts at mid body and runs back toward the tail fin, is connected to the tail fin. These fish have a wide, gaping mouth with thick, fleshy lips and jaws armed with strong, blunt, conical teeth. Their body is 8 times as long as it is deep. Ocean pout can grow to 42 inches in length and weigh around 12 pounds.

Where found: inshore and offshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: cusk, wolffish

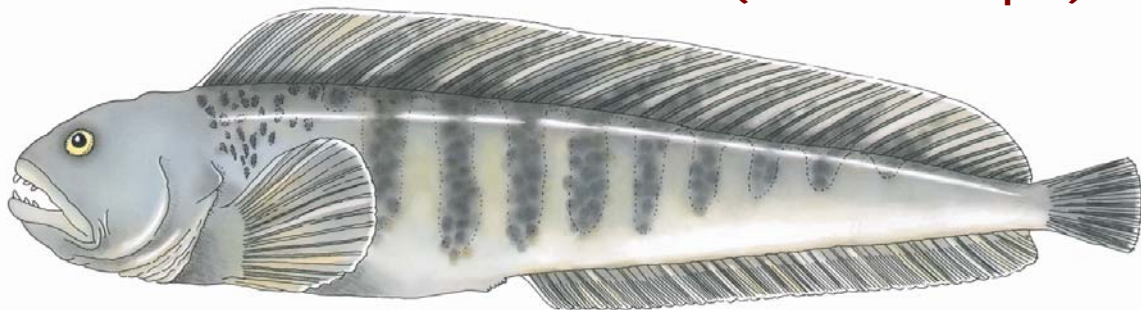
Remarks: Ocean pout are bottom dwellers that generally inhabit sand, mud or rocky substrate. They can be found in both inshore and offshore waters at depths ranging from 30 to 630 feet. These fish feed on a wide variety of mollusks, crustaceans and echinoderms, as well as other invertebrates. They will eat other fish, but lack the swimming skills to be effective hunters. Anglers who are trying for more popular species, such as cod or haddock, sometimes catch ocean pout. Their meat is reported to be sweet tasting.

Records: MSSAR: vacant

IGFA All-Tackle World Record: vacant

Family Anarhichadidae, WOLFFISHES

ATLANTIC WOLFFISH (*Anarhichas lupus*)



Common names: wolffish, ocean catfish

Description: Atlantic wolffish range in color from brownish olive (prior to sexual maturity) to light blue gray (sexually mature). Distinct, dark, irregular bands run transversely along their sides. Atlantic wolffish have an elongated shape. Their body, which is deepest at the nape of their neck, tapers back to a slender caudal peduncle and small weak tail fin. These fish have large, rounded pectoral fins, lack pelvic fins and do not have a lateral line. Their dorsal fin is uniform in height and extends from their neck area back to the base of their tail fin. Their anal fin is about half as long as their dorsal fin. Atlantic wolffish have exceptionally strong jaws equipped with large canine teeth and massive molars. These fish can grow to 5 feet in length, with the average size closer to 3 feet.

Where found: inshore and offshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: spotted wolffish, cusk, eel pout

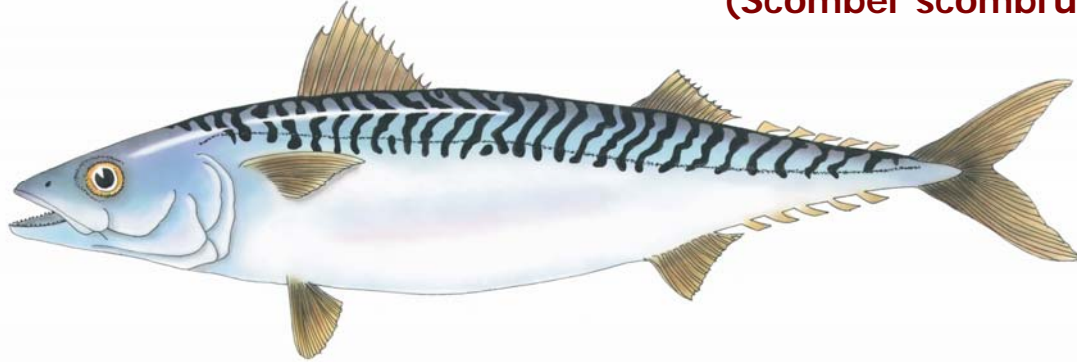
Remarks: Atlantic wolffish are solitary fish that are only found over a hard bottom at depths varying from a few feet to over 500 feet. They eat a variety of mollusks, echinoderms and crustaceans. Occasionally, anglers will hook onto one while fishing for more desirable species. Atlantic wolffish should not be ignored as table fare, for their sweet, firm meat has lobster-like qualities. Extra care should be taken when handling them, because their bite can cause serious injury.

Records: MSSAR: Gunther Schulz, 08/21/90, 30 lbs. 0 oz., Perkins Cove

IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 52 lbs.

Family Scombridae, MACKERELS

ATLANTIC MACKEREL (*Scomber scombrus*)



Common names: Mackerel, Boston mackerel, tinker

Description: Atlantic mackerel are iridescent blue green above with a silvery white underbelly. Twenty to thirty black bars run across the top half of their body, giving them a distinctive appearance. The efficient spindle shape of their body and their strong tall fin give this fish its ability to move swiftly through the water. Atlantic mackerel have two separate large dorsal fins and, like their relatives the tunas, they possess several dorsal and anal finlets. On average, Atlantic mackerel weigh less than one pound, but individuals of up to two pounds are not unusual.

Where found: Inshore and offshore

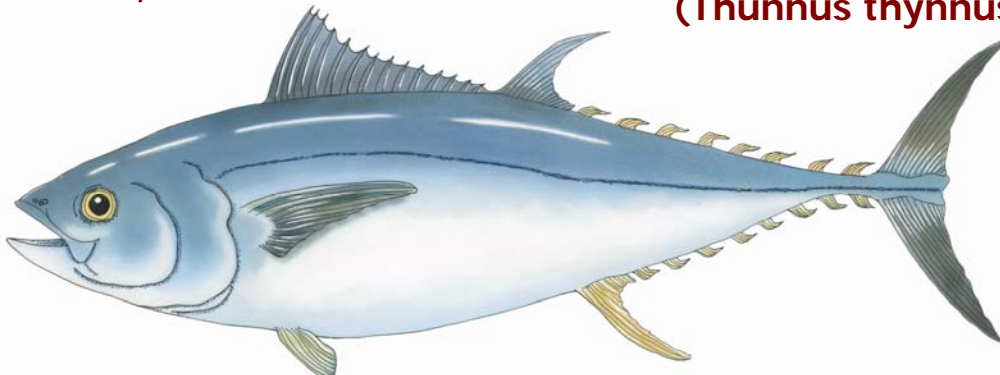
Similar Gulf of Maine species: Chub mackerel, bonito

Remarks: Atlantic mackerel are seasonal migrators that travel in dense schools. They appear in late spring in many of the state's harbors, coves and coastal rivers where they are sought by eager anglers. An ultra-light to light spinning rod outfitted with 10 to 12 pound or less test line provides anglers with the most action. Spoons, spinners, weighted bucktails, jigs and tube lures all work well. Atlantic mackerel are not only enjoyed as table fare, but are especially prized as bait for other game fish.

Records: MSSAR: Ian T. Bexon, 07/25/95, 2.44 lbs., Bailey Island
IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 2 lbs. 10 oz.

Family Scombridae, MACKERELS

BLUEFIN TUNA (*Thunnus thynnus*)



Common names: giant, tuna, horse mackerel

Description: Bluefin tuna are deep blue on top, blending to silver along their sides and belly. Their lack of additional dark markings helps to differentiate them when young from bonito. As with other members of the mackerel family, bluefin tuna have two dorsal fins, one anal fin, plus numerous dorsal and anal finlets. These fish are built for speed, having an efficient torpedo shaped body coupled with a lunate shaped tail fin. Bluefin tuna can grow to an enormous size with the largest examples weighing above 1,500 pounds and measuring close to 12 feet in length.

Where found: offshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: none

Remarks: Bluefin tuna are pelagic fish that often travel in large schools, especially when they are young. Older fish in the 350 to 500 pound range tend to journey in smaller schools numbering from a few to as many as 40 members. The very largest fish tend to be mostly solitary. Bluefin tuna are built for speed and endurance and may reach speeds of over fifty miles per hour. Being seasonal migrators, tuna generally appear off Maine's coast by early summer. Tackle in the 80 to 130 weight class offers an angler the best chance of successfully landing one of these hard-fighting fish. Both trolling and bait fishing are popular ways to catch tuna. Effective baits include herring, butterfish, mackerel and squid.

Records: MSSAR: Jerry Jamison, 08/10/77, 819 lbs., Bath

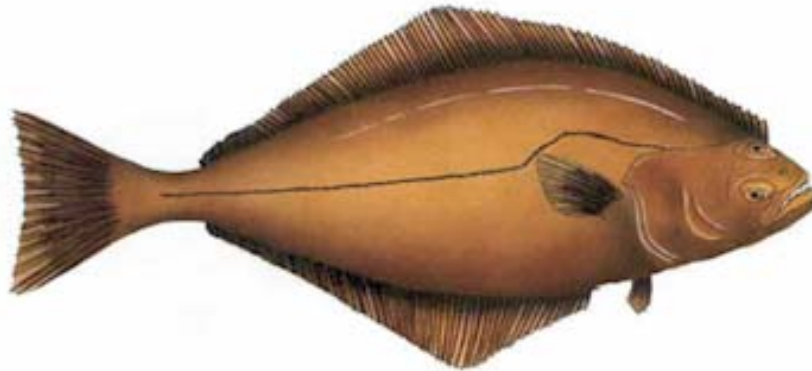
MSSAR handline category: Ian Bexon, 09/07/98, 810.0 lbs., Portland

MSSAR harpoon category: Tim Tower/ Percy Stevens, Jr., 08/20/81, 1,155 lbs., Perkins Cove

IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 1,496 lbs.

**Family Pleuronectidae,
RIGHTEYE FLOUNDERS**

**ATLANTIC HALIBUT
(*Hippoglossus hippoglossus*)**



Common names: halibut, giant halibut, righteye flounder

Description: Atlantic halibut are chocolate to olive or gray brown on their right (upper) side and white on their left (under) side. Larger individuals may have dark blotches on their under side. Atlantic halibut are right-eyed flatfish, meaning both eyes are located on the dark colored, upper side of the fish. These fish have a compressed body, a lateral line that arches strongly above their pectoral fin and a concave shaped tail fin. Their large mouth is armed with sharp, curved teeth. Atlantic halibut can grow to enormous size making them the largest of all the flatfish. Individuals weighing from 600 to 700 pounds have been landed, although fish taken over 100 pounds are rare today.

Where found: inshore and offshore

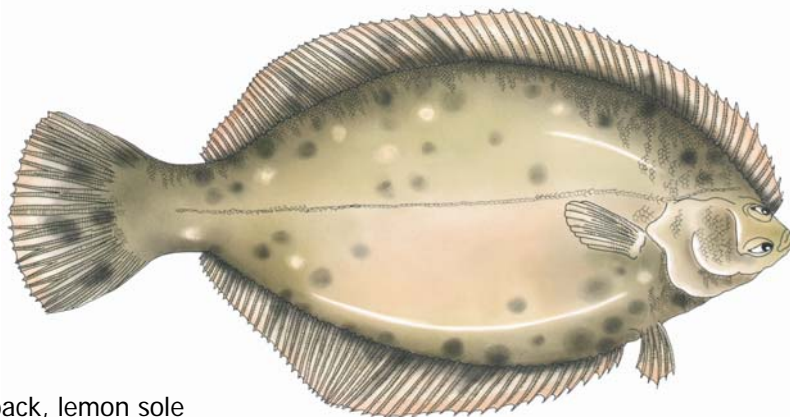
Similar Gulf of Maine species: winter flounder

Remarks: Atlantic halibut are bottom dwellers, preferring a sand, gravel or clay covered substrate rather than one blanketed by soft mud or rock. Halibut, though slow to bite, are known to put up a strong fight and are excellent to eat.

Records: MSSAR: Richard F. Hincman, 08/14/65, 215 lbs., Bailey Island
IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 418 lbs. 13 oz.

**Family Pleuronectidae,
RIGHTEYE FLOUNDERS**

**WINTER FLOUNDER
(*Pleuronectes americanus*)**



Common names: blackback, lemon sole

Description: Their color, which varies with the substrate they occupy, can range from reddish brown to olive green to almost black. Their underside is white. Winter flounder are deeply compressed in shape and have a small mouth. Their eyes are located on their right side, thus making them a right-sided flounder. They have an almost straight lateral line. The maximum size for this species is around 23 inches in length and about 6 pounds in weight.

Where found: inshore and offshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: smooth flounder, witch flounder yellowtail, dab

Remarks: Winter flounder are the most common of the shallow water flounders. They frequent estuaries, coastal waters and offshore fishing banks. In Maine, they are a popular sportfish. A light to medium weight rod equipped with a suitable reel and loaded with 10 to 12 pound test line works well for this species. Lures for the most part have proven to be ineffective for flounder fishing. Favorite baits include marine worms and clams. Being the thickest and meatiest of all the flatfish smaller than the halibut, winter flounder are highly prized as a food fish.

Records: MSSAR: Lisa Boughner, 06/28/89, 4 lbs. 3 oz., Perkins Cove
IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 7 lbs.

The Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund -- Lottery Lifeline for Wildlife

This Maine Saltwater Angler's Guide was published with the help of a \$27,400 grant from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund. This Fund, established by the Maine Legislature in 1995, is a state program awarding grants that conserve Maine's special places, endangered species and important fish and wildlife habitat with proceeds from the sale of Outdoor Heritage instant lottery tickets. As of April 1999, the Fund has awarded more than \$4 million in grants.

A dedicated instant lottery ticket is the sole source of funding for the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Ticket buyers protect Maine's natural resources and could win thousands of dollars at the same time. Tickets are available at most convenience stores, gas stations and other outlets where Maine State Lottery tickets are sold. Ticket designs change every three to six months but Heritage fund tickets can always be identified by the words "Proceeds to Wildlife and Conservation" on the ticket.

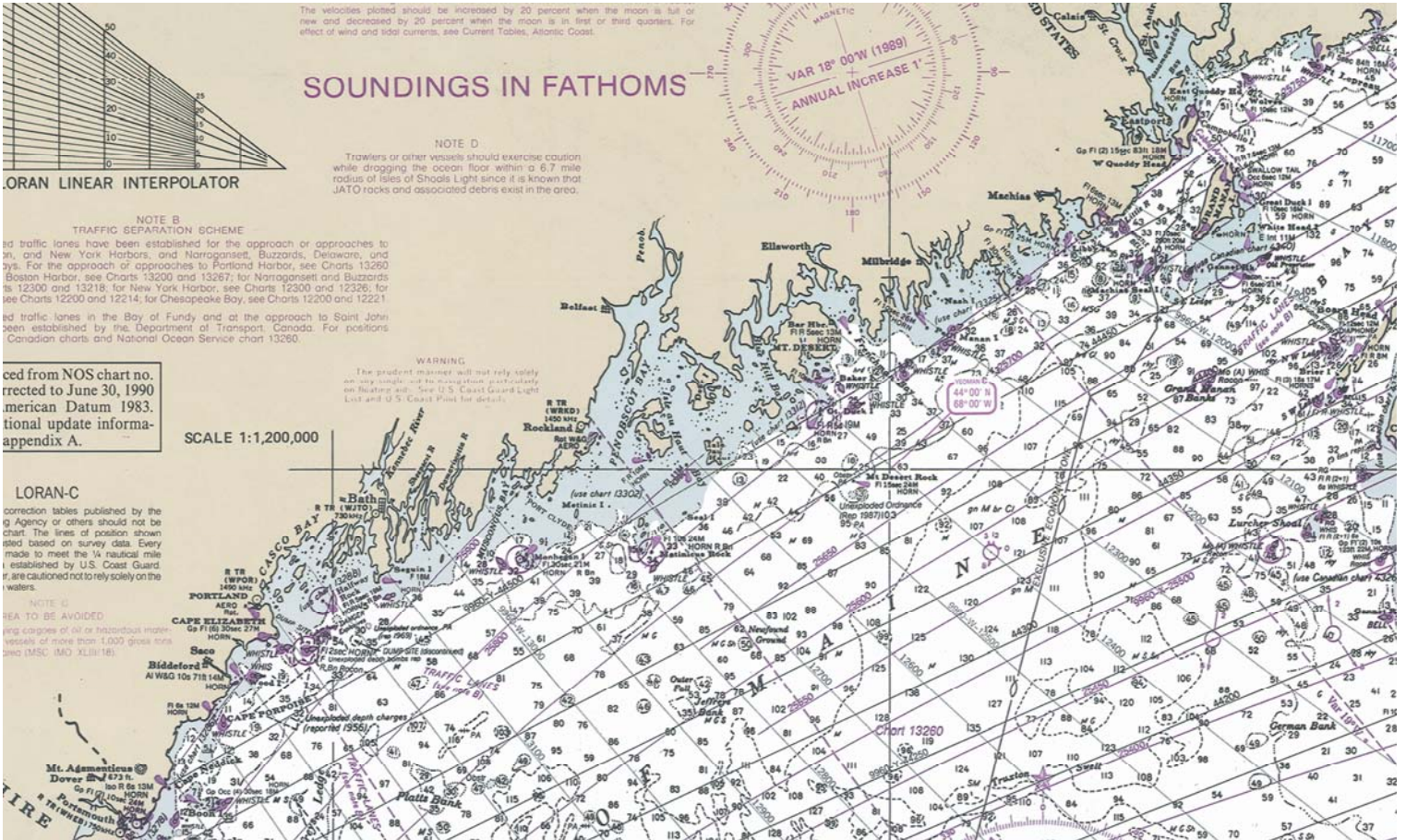
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Your purchase of fishing equipment and motorboat fuel keeps your outdoor traditions alive.

Each time you purchase fishing tackle or motorboat fuels, you are helping Maine restore and manage fisheries. Through the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program, a partnership among the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the fishing tackle and boating industries, and state fish and wildlife agencies, excise taxes on recreational fishing equipment and motorboat fuel taxes contributed to the Maine Department of Marine Resources budget. These funds create more opportunities to fish and boat through:

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