



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE  
284 STATE STREET  
41 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA ME 04333-0041



June 1, 2020

Dear Fishing Derby and Bass Tournament Organizers,

The State of Maine has adopted a staged approach, supported by science, public health expertise and industry collaboration, to allow Maine businesses to safely open and allow regulated activities to resume when the time is right. The plan is available at [www.maine.gov/covid19/restartingmaine](http://www.maine.gov/covid19/restartingmaine).

MDIFW has now developed guidelines for Fishing Derbies and Bass Tournaments consistent with the State's approach. The guidelines for each can be found on the MDIFW page devoted to updates related to COVID-19: [Updates Related to the COVID-19 State of Emergency](#)

Please make sure you pair these documents with the general guidance document that applies to all industries/activities, which is available on [www.maine.gov/DECD](http://www.maine.gov/DECD), and currently includes requirements for social distancing, wearing protective face coverings when social distancing cannot be maintained, using appropriate hand hygiene, and adhering to 14-day self-isolation (quarantine) for nonresident anglers visiting and residents returning to Maine.

This week, we will begin issuing permits for the events that are scheduled from this date forward. Once that is completed, we will be reaching out to the organizers of events that were not permitted earlier this spring to coordinate rescheduling. If multiple events were affected the same water, we will give priority to the event scheduled at the earlier date, second priority to the next date, and so on. Rescheduling will only be permitted on the same water and for the same type of event (for example events cannot change from "Catch, Measure, and Release" to "Weigh-In"). Additionally, full application fee refunds are available upon request if you feel you will be unable to comply with the guidelines.

Please be patient as we begin reaching out to event organizers over the next couple of weeks. We will contact you via email and will need a timely response back. I encourage you to be prepared, by discussing possible rescheduled dates with your organization. We will be working diligently to get this completed as efficiently as possible.

Our goal is to allow organized fishing events, while keeping event staff and participants safe and healthy. Please use common sense and keep this goal in mind. A failure to adhere to these guidelines is a violation of the permit conditions and may result in the loss of privileges to participate in future events.

Thank you for your patience,

Joe Overlock, Fisheries Management Section Supervisor  
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife