



RESTARTING MAINE'S ECONOMY

COVID-19 Fishing Derby Guidelines

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.

This is one of many industry/activity guidance documents that the State is providing for businesses and for regulated activities so they can reopen/resume safely. Please make sure you pair this document with the general guidance document that applies to all industries/activities, which is available on 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.

Everyone's goal is to allow organized fishing events while keeping organizers 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 derby permit and may result in the loss of privileges to participate in future bass tournaments.

Please note: This document may be updated as additional information and resources become available.

Updated July 10, 2020

Pre-Fishing Event Considerations

- People who are not residents of Maine or from [other states exempted from quarantine requirements](#), must have received a negative COVID-19 test result that meets the [Keep Maine Healthy](#) requirements or they must have already completed their 14 day quarantine in Maine.
- Event briefings, communications, and fees should be managed electronically, preferably in advance of events to avoid gatherings and a need to actively manage social distancing. Video recordings for viewing online via Face Book or web link, or other electronic messaging should be sent to all contestants with information about rules and specific times prior to the event day.
- Use of electronic registration (phone, web-based, email, phone apps) is recommended to reduce interpersonal contact.



- Under no circumstances should an angler or organizer participate if they show signs of illness.

Safety/Cleaning

- Participants should provide their own water bottles, sunscreen, insect repellent and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol while on the water.
- Face coverings will be worn by event organizers and participants when unable to maintain physical distancing of 6 feet between individuals. Note that a “buff” or neck gaiter constitutes a face covering but it should be made with of 2 layers of fabric to be effective.

Managing the Fishing Event

- Event staff will actively manage and limit gatherings to not exceed the limit as established within the Governor’s current Executive Order (organizers, participants, spectators, etc.), while practicing social distancing (6 feet of separation).
- Event staff will manage weigh-in stations and waiting lines for anglers submitting fish to ensure social distancing requirements are met.
- Event staff and participants will wear face coverings, gloves, and use appropriate hand hygiene when unable to maintain social distancing and handling shared items.
- Fishing derby staff and participants will clean and disinfect any shared equipment or high touch areas between uses. EPA registered disinfection products should be used. Refer to the following resources for additional guidance on general cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing:
 - [COVID-19 Prevention Checklist General Guidance](#) (State of Maine)
 - [Cleaning and Disinfecting \(CDC\)](#)

Awards ceremony:

- Avoid formal ceremonies and gatherings if possible and certainly do not exceed gathering limits as established within the Governor’s current Executive Order. Utilizing Facebook Live or another digital platform to manage weigh-in results is recommended over an in-person organized ceremony. For more specific information on large gatherings see: [Large gatherings](#) (released 6/17/20).
- All winnings or prizes should be mailed or distributed in a manner to avoid any type of gathering and in-person interactions.



Meal Preparation / Food

- Events will be allowed to provide food in accordance with [Restaurant Guidance](#) (updated June 19, 2020). Although food is not typically provided at fishing derbies, if provided please apply guidelines that fit your specific operation.