2019 MAINE SEA RUN RAINBOW SMELT REGULATIONS

If you are a recreational saltwater fisherman, a Maine law may require you to register with the Maine Saltwater Recreational Fishing Registry. To learn more or to register visit: www.maine.gov/saltwater or call 207-633-9500.

The following Maine saltwater recreational fishing regulations are current as of January 1, 2019. However, they are subject to change. Please contact our office or your local Marine Patrol Officer with questions. All minimum lengths are total length, NOT fork length. The sale of fish by recreational anglers is prohibited.

Statewide: It shall be unlawful to stand in the water of any coastal river, brook or stream while fishing for smelts.

Zone 1: From the New Hampshire border to Owl’s Head Light in Rockland.
- It shall be unlawful to fish for, take or possess smelts, except by hook and line between October 1 and December 31, or by hook and line through the ice, while ice is present. It shall be unlawful to fish for, take, or possess more than 4 quarts of smelts per day.
- From March 15 through June 30, both days inclusive, it is legal to fish for smelts in the coastal waters of the State by hook and line only through the ice, while ice is present. During this season the bag limit is 2 quarts.

Zone 2: East of Owl’s Head in Rockland to Naskeag Point in Brooklin.
- From March 15 to June 30, both days inclusive, it is legal to fish for smelts in the coastal waters of the State using hand dip net or hook and line. During this season the bag limit is 1 quart. No smelt fishing on Tuesday’s and Wednesday’s.
- From July 1 through March 14, both days inclusive, it is legal to fish for smelts in the coastal waters of the State using hook and line. It shall be unlawful to fish for, take, or possess more than 4 quarts of smelts per day.

Zone 3: East of Naskeag Point to the head of tide on the St. Croix River.
- From March 15 through June 30, both days inclusive, it is legal to fish for smelts in the coastal waters of the State using hand dip net or hook and line. It shall be unlawful to fish for, take, or possess more than 2 quarts of smelts per day.
- From July 1 through March 14, both days inclusive, there is no daily limit, but fishermen are limited to hook and line or hand dip net.

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