2022 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/dmr/recreational-fishing/licenses/registry or call 207-624-9550.

The following Maine saltwater recreational fishing regulations are current as of January 1, 2022. 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 fish for or take smelts from the coastal waters by any means other than a dip net or by hook and line as defined by 12 M.R.S. §6001 13-C and (20).

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.
- At no time are you allowed to use a dip net to take smelts in zone 1.
- From January 1- March 14 you may fish for or take smelts by hook and line through the ice, only while ice is present. You may not take or possess more than 4 quarts during this time period.
- If ice is present on/after March 15 you may fish for or take smelts by hook and line through the ice. You may not take/possess more than 2 quarts.
- You may fish for or take smelts by hook and line from October 1-December 31. You may not take or possess more than 4 quarts during this time period.

Zone 2: East of Owl’s Head in Rockland to Naskeag Point in Brooklin.
- From March 15 to June 30, both days inclusive, the season the bag limit is 1 quart of smelts per day. No smelt fishing on Tuesday’s and Wednesday’s.
- From July 1 through March 14, both days inclusive, it is only legal to fish for smelts in the coastal waters of the State using hook and line. This seasons bag limit is 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, the seasons bag limit is 2 quarts of smelts per day.
- From July 1 through March 14, both days inclusive, there is no daily limit.