

EMERGENCY RULEMAKING: 2023 MAINE STRIPED BASS REGULATIONS

If you are a recreational saltwater fisherman, 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 May 18, 2023. **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.

Maine’s striped bass regulations cover all Maine coastal waters up to the head of tide in all rivers. In addition, there are special regulations in effect from December 1 through June 30 in the Kennebec, Sheepscot and Androscoggin Rivers and all related tributaries (see “SPECIAL KENNEBEC REGULATIONS” below).

FEDERAL REGULATION

It is unlawful to fish for, take or possess striped bass in Federal waters (waters greater than 3 miles from shore).

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

OPEN SEASON January 1 through December 31, inclusive (except the Kennebec watershed, see below).

BAG LIMITS A person may take and possess 1 fish per day.

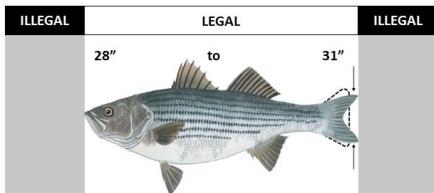
SIZE LIMITS Fish can be harvested between **28 inches and 31 inches** total length.

“TOTAL LENGTH” is a straight line measurement from the lower jaw to the tip of the tail with the tail pinched together.

DISPOSITION Personal use only, sale is prohibited. Fish must remain whole and intact.

GENERAL GEAR RESTRICTIONS

- Hook and line only, no gaffing of striped bass.
- No bait allowed when using treble hooks.
- It is unlawful to use multiple (more than two) barbed or barbless treble hooks on any artificial lure or fly while fishing for striped bass in territorial waters.
- It is unlawful to use any hook other than a non-offset circle hook when using bait. **Exception:** Rubber or latex tube lures may be used without a circle hook as long as they are a minimum of 8 inches long and have a single hook protruding from the end portion of the tubing where bait may be attached.
- Bait is defined as any marine or freshwater organism live or dead, whole or parts thereof, and earthworms, including but not limited to, night crawlers.
- Striped bass incidentally caught on any unapproved hook type must be returned to the water immediately without unnecessary injury.



SPECIAL KENNEBEC** REGULATIONS

(including the Sheepscot and Androscoggin Rivers and all related bays and tributaries)

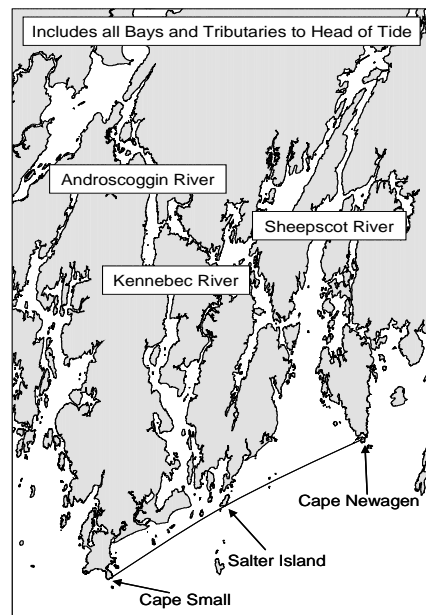
CATCH & RELEASE SEASON WITH SPECIAL GEAR RESTRICTIONS From May 1 through June 30, inclusive. Fishing in this area is restricted to single hooked* artificial lures only and use of or possession of marine bait, dead or alive, is prohibited.

OPEN SEASON July 1 through November 30, inclusive.

CLOSED SEASON Striped bass fishing is prohibited from December 1 through June 30, inclusive (**exception catch & release season with special gear restrictions**).

(* may be a single treble hook)

** The Kennebec watershed is defined as all coastal waters inside and upstream of a line drawn from the outer extremity of Cape Small, in Phippsburg, to the outer extremity of Salter Island, thence to the outer extremity of Cape Newagen, in Southport. This area includes the coastal waters of Popham Beach and the adjoining State Park, Reid State Park, and all riverine waters of the Kennebec, Sheepscot, and Androscoggin Rivers including all bays and tributaries of those rivers to the head of tide. **Due to the removal of Edwards dam, the “head of tide” in the Kennebec River is now at the downstream side of the power line located approximately 4,200 feet upstream of the Calumet Bridge at Old Fort Western in Augusta (formerly the Father Curran Bridge) for enforcement purposes.**



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Marine Resources Laboratory
PO Box 8, West Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575-0008
Telephone (207) 633-9500
Fax (207) 633-9579