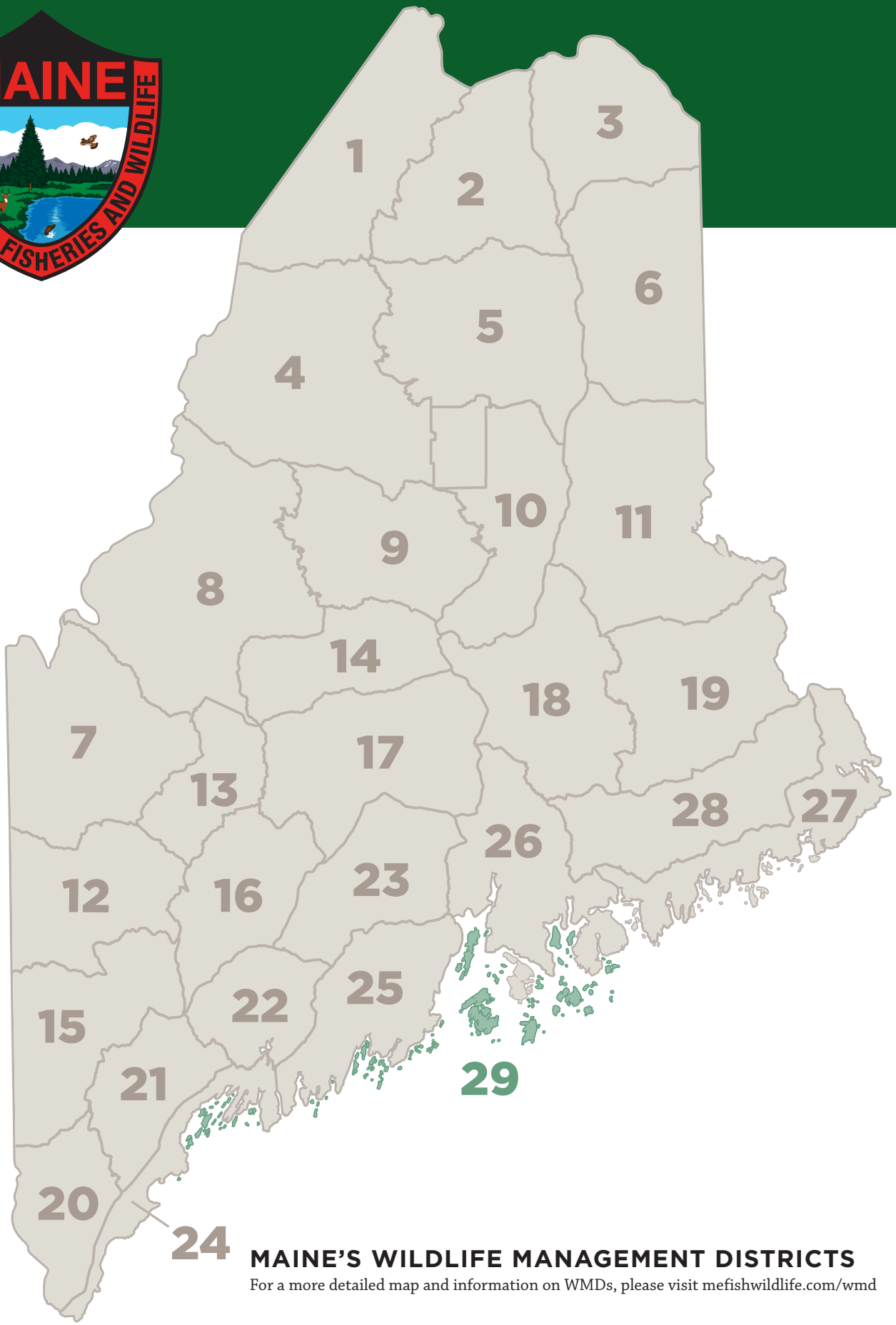
SUMMARY OF

MAINE HUNTING LAWS

MAINE DEPT. OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

2022-2023

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife | *Season dates for hunting are revised annually. Information appearing in this book may not be valid after July 2023.*



MAINE'S WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

For a more detailed map and information on WMDs, please visit mefishwildlife.com/wmd

SUMMARY OF HUNTING LAWS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DIGITAL VERSION AVAILABLE

Download a PDF copy of this book at **mefishwildlife.com/huntinglaws** to easily reference from your computer or mobile device.

LAWS OF THE MAINE OUTDOORS..... 2

2022-23 MAINE HUNTING SEASONS 4

LICENSING INFORMATION 6
Who Needs a License?..... 6
What Are the Requirements? 6
How Are Licenses Obtained?..... 6
Definitions..... 6
Special Licenses 7
Outdoor Safety Courses..... 7
Apprentice Hunter License..... 7
2022-23 Apprentice Hunter License and Permit Fees 7
2022-23 License and Permit Fees 8
Lifetime License Fees..... 9
Maine Lifetime License..... 9
Super Pack License 9
License & Permit Revocation Information 10

GENERAL HUNTING LAWS 11
Prohibition Regarding Selling of Wild Animals..... 11
Night Hunting 11
Raccoon Hunting 11
Placement of Bait 11
Target Identification While Hunting 11
Minimum Shooting Distances..... 12
Possession of Gift Bear, Deer, Moose, or Wild Turkey..... 12
Hunting with Dogs and Dog Training..... 13
Tagging, Transportation & Registration 14
Tagging Requirements 14
Time Limits for Registering..... 14
Condition of Animal Presented for Registration 14
Reporting Accidents & Aiding Victims 14

LAWS PERTAINING TO HUNTING EQUIPMENT.....15
General Laws 15
Municipal Ordinances..... 15
Firearms Laws 15
Disturbing Traps 15
Trail/Game Cameras Law..... 16
Archery Information..... 16
Hunter Orange Clothing Requirement 16
Crossbow Information..... 17
Observation Stands 17

JUNIOR HUNTERS 18
Junior Hunting Licenses 18
Supervision of Junior Hunters.....18
Youth Hunting Days.....18

DEER HUNTING..... 19
Deer Hunting Prohibitions.....19
Areas Closed to Deer Hunting.....19
Areas Open to Deer Hunting.....19
Harassment of Hunters 19
Deer Permits & Licenses.....20
2022 Deer Seasons & Bag Limits 20

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE..... 21
What is CWD? 21
MDIFW Check Stations 21
Regulations on Feeding Deer.....21
Waste of Game 21
Consumption Advisories 21

MOOSE HUNTING.....22
Moose Hunting Permit 22
2022 Moose Permit Hunt Seasons & Bag Limits.....22

WILD TURKEY HUNTING.....23
Landowner Privileges.....23
Wild Turkey Hunting Prohibitions 23
Wild Turkey Legal Hunting Hours 23
Wild Turkey Licensing, Permit, & Who May Hunt 23
Spring Wild Turkey Hunting 24
Fall Wild Turkey Hunting 24
2022-23 Wild Turkey Seasons & Bag Limits.....24

FURBEARERS & OTHER SPECIES HUNTING.....25
Furbearers Permits & Licenses.....25
Gifting Coyotes 25
Other Species Permits & Licenses.....25
New England Cottontail Rabbits.....25

BEAR HUNTING 26
Bear Hunting Permit.....26
Landowner Privileges.....26
Bait.....26
Legal Hunting Equipment 26
Bear Hunting Prohibitions 26
Bear Hunting with a Maine Guide 26
Hunting with Dogs.....27
2022 Bear Seasons & Bag Limits..... 27
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program 27
Releasing Dogs from Traps 27

BEAR TRAPPING 28
Bear Trapping Permit..... 28
Bear Trapping Laws..... 28
Legal Traps 28
Design & Deployment Standards..... 28
Legal Bucket, Tube, or Pipe-Style Traps 28

HUNTING AREAS..... 29
State Parks and Historic Sites 29
Bureau of Public Lands (BPL)..... 29
Wildlife Management Areas 29
National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) 29
White Mountain National Forest..... 30
National Park Service..... 30
Baxter State Park..... 30
Closed and Special Regulation Areas 30
Railroad Tracks..... 30
Maine Indian Territory..... 31

HUNTING/TRAPPING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY..... 31
Commercial Shooting Areas 32

LEGAL HUNTING HOURS 33

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS..... 34
Summary of Federal Regulations 35
Phone Numbers You Might Need..... 35
Maine Migratory Hunting Zones Map..... 35
2022-23 Migratory Game Birds Seasons & Bag Limits..... 36
Laws Specific to Merrymeeting Bay..... 38
Laws Specific to Merrymeeting Bay Game Sanctuary..... 38
Stamp Requirements 38
Field Possession Limit 38
Importation..... 38
Band Recovery Reports..... 39
Harvest Information Program 39
Barrow's Goldeneye..... 39
2022-23 Migratory Bird Hunter's Time 40

MAINE IF&W CONTACTS..... 41

LAWS OF THE MAINE OUTDOORS

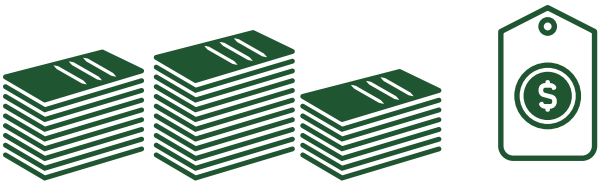
Being a responsible user of the Maine outdoors means staying informed of, and complying with, the current laws and rules.

This book, published by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), is designed to help you quickly find and understand the hunting rules that apply to you. We've also included handy tools to help you stay in compliance, like charts of legal hunting hours already adjusted for sunrise and sunset. And in the back, you'll find MDIFW contact info, including regional game warden communication centers.

Our popular summary guides make it easy to find and follow the laws and rules that apply to you, no matter what outdoor activity you're interested in. Our digital formats allow you to quickly check a technical rule, confirm legal hunting hours, look up best practices and more—from anywhere, anytime.

WHY DIGITAL LAW BOOKS?

In 2016, we printed over 700,000 law books. That's a lot of paper and a lot of money diverted from Maine's fish and wildlife.



With 77% of the U.S. population using smartphones in 2017, our agency's mission clearly directed us to make a shift. And while we are still printing some books (available at license agent locations), we're asking you to do your part and make use of the convenient and responsible digital options.

As a bonus, the digital options are searchable and always on hand, as long as you have your mobile device. If you always keep it on you (and charged) to take photos or use the GPS, this is a no-brainer.

NO CELL COVERAGE IN THE WOODS? NO PROBLEM.

Just go to **mefishwildlife.com/laws** and browse by activity. Before you head into the woods, follow these instructions to save an offline law book or quick-reference guide to your mobile device.

FROM YOUR IPHONE

1. Download the Adobe Acrobat Reader app.
2. In Safari, go to: mefishwildlife.com/laws.
3. Click the link for the PDF you want to download.
4. When it opens, tap on the share icon in the bottom center of the screen, then tap 'Copy to Adobe Acrobat.' The file is now saved in your Adobe Acrobat app and your Files app for offline viewing.

FROM YOUR ANDROID

1. In Chrome, go to: mefishwildlife.com/laws.
2. Select the link for the PDF you want to download.
3. Choose to download the file to your Downloads folder

   OR
4. Download the Adobe Acrobat Reader app and open the PDF.

FROM YOUR COMPUTER

Go to mefishwildlife.com/laws to save a copy and/or print just the pages you need.

Don't have home access to a computer or the Internet?

1. Consider asking a friend or family member to help.
2. Visit your local library.

2022-23 MAINE HUNTING SEASONS

2022-23 MAINE HUNTING SEASONS

DEER	WMDs	SEASONS		LIMITS
		FIRST DAY	LAST DAY	ANNUAL BAG & POSSESSION
Expanded Archery	Designated areas only	September 10, 2022	December 10, 2022	**1 Antlered Deer Per Year*** See exceptions on page 20
Regular Archery and Crossbow	All	October 1, 2022	October 28, 2022	
Youth Deer Hunting Day	All	October 22, 2022		
Maine Resident Only Day**	All	October 29, 2022		
Firearms Season	All	October 31, 2022	November 26, 2022	
Muzzleloader Statewide	All	November 28, 2022	December 3, 2022	
Muzzleloader	12, 13, 15-18, 20-26, 29	December 5, 2022	December 10, 2022	

BEAR	WMDs	SEASONS		LIMITS
		FIRST DAY	LAST DAY	ANNUAL BAG & POSSESSION
Youth Bear Hunting Day	All	August 27, 2022		**2 Bear Per Year** 1 by hunting, 1 by trapping
General Hunting Season	All	August 29, 2022	November 26, 2022	
Hunting with Bait *Bait can be placed July 30, 2022*	All	August 29, 2022	September 24, 2022	
Bear Trapping	All	September 1, 2022	October 31, 2022	
Hunting with Dogs	All	September 12, 2022	October 28, 2022	

MOOSE BY PERMIT ONLY	WMDs	SEASONS		LIMITS
		FIRST DAY	LAST DAY	ANNUAL BAG & POSSESSION
Antlerless-Only	4A (Adaptive Unit Hunt)	October 17, 2022	October 22, 2022	**1 Moose Per Year** by either permittee or sub-permittee
		October 24, 2022	October 29, 2022	
		October 31, 2022	November 5, 2022	
Bull-Only	1- 6, 10, 11, 18, 19, 27, 28	September 26, 2022	October 1, 2022	
Bull-Only	1-14, 17-19, 27, 28	October 10, 2022	October 15, 2022	
Antlerless-Only	1-6, 8	October 24, 2022	October 29, 2022	
Maine Resident Only Day**	15, 16	October 29, 2022		
Any Moose	15, 16	October 31, 2022	November 26, 2022	

Permit application period: February - May of each year.

**Only deer with antlers at least 3 inches long may be taken from October 29, 2022-December 10, 2022, except that antlerless deer may be taken in designated WMDs/subunits by hunters with Antlerless Deer Permits. Please see page 20 for more information on Antlerless Deer Permits.*

***A non-resident who owns 25 or more acres of land in Maine and leaves land open to hunting, holds a valid hunting license, and is not otherwise prohibited by law, may hunt deer on the Resident only day, anywhere in the state. A verification form must be completed and can be located on our website.*

SPRING WILD TURKEY *Bow & arrow, crossbow or shotgun*	WMDs	SEASONS		LIMITS
		FIRST DAY	LAST DAY	SEASONAL BAG & POSSESSION
All Hunters	7 and 9-29	May 1, 2023	June 3, 2023	2 bearded Wild Turkeys*
	1-6 and 8	May 1, 2023	June 3, 2023	1 bearded Wild Turkey*
Youth Spring Wild Turkey Day		April 29, 2023		May take up to 2 bearded Wild Turkeys from WMDs that have a 2 bird limit.

**May take up to 2 turkeys for the spring season, but an individual WMD bag limit cannot be exceeded. The order in which they are taken does not matter.*

FALL WILD TURKEY *Bow & arrow, crossbow or shotgun*	WMDs	SEASONS		LIMITS	
		FIRST DAY	LAST DAY	SEASONAL BAG & POSSESSION	
General Hunting Season	15-17, 20-25	September 19, 2022	November 7, 2022	5 Wild Turkeys**	No more than two wild turkeys (either-sex, any age) may be harvested per permit holder per day, but cannot exceed the WMD bag limit.
	26	September 19, 2022	November 7, 2022	3 Wild Turkeys**	
	28	September 19, 2022	November 7, 2022	2 Wild Turkeys**	
	6-8, 10-14, 18, 19, 27 & 29	September 19, 2022	November 7, 2022	1 Wild Turkey**	
	1-5, 9			Closed to taking of Wild Turkeys	
Youth Fall Wild Turkey Day		September 17, 2022			

***May take up to five wild turkeys for the fall season, but cannot exceed an individual WMD bag limit, the order in which they are taken from a WMD does not matter.*

UPLAND AND MIGRATORY BIRDS	WMDs	SEASONS		LIMITS	
		FIRST DAY	LAST DAY	DAILY BAG	POSSESSION
Ruffed Grouse & Bobwhite Quail	All	September 24, 2022	December 31, 2022	4	8
Pheasant	All	September 24, 2022	December 31, 2022	2	4
Woodcock	All	**More detailed season info on page 36.**			
Common Snipe	All				
Ducks, Geese, Sea Ducks (Scoter, Eider, Long-Tailed Duck)					
Sora & Virginia Rails (and Gallinules)	All				
Crows	1-6	February 6, 2023 August 1, 2023	April 15, 2023 September 23, 2023	No Limit	
	7-29	January 21, 2023 August 1, 2023	March 31, 2023 September 23, 2023		

OTHER SPECIES	WMDs	SEASONS		LIMITS	
		FIRST DAY	LAST DAY	DAILY BAG	POSSESSION
Gray Squirrel	All	September 24, 2022	December 31, 2022	4	8
Gray Squirrel (Falconry)	All	September 24, 2022	February 28, 2023	4	8
Snowshoe Hare	All	September 24, 2022	March 31, 2023	4	8
	Season on Island of Vinalhaven	September 24, 2022	February 28, 2023		
Bobcat	All	December 1, 2022	February 21, 2023	No Limit	
Fox	All	October 17, 2022	February 28, 2023	No Limit	
Raccoon	All	October 1, 2022	December 31, 2022	No Limit	
Skunk, Opossum	All	October 17, 2022	December 31, 2022	No Limit	
Coyote	All	**During daylight hunting hours** No Closed Season for Hunting		No Limit	
		Night hunting December 16, 2022 - August 31, 2023			
Woodchuck, Porcupine, Red Squirrel	All	No Closed Season			
Spruce Grouse, Lynx, Cottontail Rabbit		No Open Season for Hunting			

Note: Except for migratory game birds, there is no hunting season on any species of bird or animal which is not listed above. All dates are inclusive except that hunting is prohibited on Sunday.

LICENSING INFORMATION

Read on to learn how Maine law defines the major hunting license types, what they allow, and how to obtain one.

WHO NEEDS A LICENSE?

In general, anyone who hunts wild birds or animals in Maine needs a hunting license. The type of license you need depends upon your age, resident status, and other factors, and there are some exceptions. See the charts on pages 8 and 9 for all available hunting licenses and fees.

In addition to a license, most hunting activities also require a permit. See individual species pages for details.

Junior and Adult Hunters: Hunters under age 16 must possess a junior license, and those 16 and up need an adult license.

Note: a junior license holder who turns 16 may hunt with that junior license for the remainder of the calendar year.

Exception for Assisting in a Hunt: A person may assist in a hunt without a license or permit for that activity, as long as they do not carry hunting equipment (means to kill) or drive deer.

Exception: See dog training and hunting permit requirement on page 13.

Landowner Privilege: Maine resident landowners and their immediate family members may hunt without a license using firearms, archery, crossbow or muzzleloader on land they own and reside upon, provided the land exceeds 10 acres in size and is used exclusively for agricultural purposes. The landowner privilege is not available to hunters with revoked or suspended licenses, and does not apply to moose hunting, for which a license is still required. See page 23 for information about landowner privilege for turkey hunting.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

To obtain a hunting license in Maine, you generally need to show that you have either (1) held that license in a prior year, or (2) taken a hunter safety course. License-specific requirements and exceptions follow.

Firearms Licenses: When applying for an adult firearms hunting license in Maine, you must show proof of residency, and that you have either possessed an adult license to hunt with firearms in any year beginning with 1976, or successfully completed an approved hunter safety course in any U.S. state, province or country. Convicted felons cannot purchase or possess a firearms hunting license in Maine unless they have been issued a permit to carry a firearm.

Archery Licenses: To obtain an adult archery hunting license, you must show proof of having held an adult license to hunt with bow and arrow in any year after 1979, or successful completion of an archery education course.

Crossbow Permits: To obtain a crossbow permit you must show proof of having held a license or permit to hunt with crossbow in any year after 1979 or successful completion of a crossbow safety course. The applicant must also show proof of successful completion of either a firearms safety course or an archery safety course or must have held either one of these licenses.

Exceptions to Safety Course Requirement

Native American Exception: Native Americans are exempt from the safety course requirement for archery, crossbow, and trapping.

Military Exception: An active-duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces who is permanently stationed outside of the U.S. and home on leave is exempt from hunter, archery, and crossbow safety course requirements if they can show proof at time of license application that their home state of record is Maine.

HOW ARE LICENSES OBTAINED?

From MDIFW: Residents and non-residents may obtain hunting licenses from the MDIFW office in Augusta, either in person, online at **mainefishwildlife.com**, or (for non-residents) by mail.

From Agents: Licenses can also be purchased from agents throughout the state (sporting good stores, many convenience stores, town clerks, and turnpike service centers). Agents who process applications online for moose and antlerless deer permits may charge a fee of $2.00.

Note: Not all town clerks issue non-resident licenses.

A person buying a trapping license for the first time must purchase it at the MDIFW office in Augusta. As of 2021, trapping license renewals including bear permits can be purchased online. Visit **mefishwildlife.com** for more information.

It is unlawful to obtain a license or permit through misstatement or misrepresentation, or to possess a license or permit that has been altered or tampered with in any way.

Guide Required for Big Game Hunters from New Brunswick or Quebec: Any resident of New Brunswick or Quebec who is not a U.S. Citizen and who wishes to hunt bear, deer, moose, or wild turkey in Maine must be accompanied by a Maine Guide unless they can provide documentation to MDIFW that they own or lease land in Maine, are current on property taxes for that land and keep that land open to hunting. That person's family member including a parent, spouse, daughter or son or a grandchild who is less than 18 years of age also qualifies.

DEFINITIONS

RESIDENT means a citizen of the United States or a person who is not a citizen of the United States who has been domiciled in the State for one year who:

- if registered to vote, is registered in this State;
- if licensed to drive a motor vehicle, has made application for or possesses a motor vehicle operator's license issued by the State;
- has registered in Maine any motor vehicles they own that are located within the state;
- is in compliance with the state income tax laws;
- is a full-time student at a Maine college or university who satisfies above requirements.

NONRESIDENT means a person who does not fall within the definition of a resident.

SPECIAL LICENSES

Special Privilege Licenses

Military Currently Stationed in Maine: Anyone serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and permanently stationed at a military base in Maine (including spouse and dependent children if they permanently reside with that person) may purchase a resident license to hunt, trap, or fish.

Maine Resident Military Currently Stationed Outside of Maine: Residents who are on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces and permanently stationed outside of Maine may purchase either a hunting, fishing, trapping, or combination hunting and fishing license for the Maine Resident Serviceman combination price upon verification that Maine is their home of record. Their spouse and any dependent children residing with them are also entitled to discounted rates (see page 8).

Exchange Students: Any citizen of a foreign nation under age 21 who is living with a family in Maine for a cultural or educational exchange program may purchase a resident license to hunt or fish.

Nonresident College Student license: Allows an applicant between the ages of 18 and 23 to obtain a license at the Maine Resident cost. Applicant must be a full-time student, and have completed at least one semester prior to applying for the license. To obtain the license they need to apply through Augusta MDIFW. The student will need to fill out the application, provide us with a current college ID card and last semester's transcripts.

Complimentary Licenses

Disabled Veterans: Maine resident and non-resident veterans (if reciprocal privileges exist in their home state) who have been honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces or the National Guard and have a service-connected disability of 50% or more will be issued, upon application, a complimentary license that entitles the holder to all privileges they are qualified to receive including hunting, trapping, archery, and fishing. The license also includes the following permits: bear hunt, bear trap, muzzleloader, migratory waterfowl, pheasant, spring and fall turkey, coyote night hunt, crossbow, one expanded archery antlerless and one either-sex. Veterans must still apply for antlerless deer and moose permits each year. These licenses may only be obtained from MDIFW's main office in Augusta.

Native Americans: The commissioner shall issue a complimentary lifetime hunting, archery, trapping and fishing license, including permits and other permissions needed to hunt, trap and fish, to a person, who is an enrolled member of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, or the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, if the person presents certification from the respective reservation governor or the Aroostook Micmac Council stating that they are an enrolled member of that federally recognized nation, band or tribe.

Other Licenses

Available at the Augusta Office only. For detailed information on the following licenses, contact MDIFW at (207) 287-5232.

- **Hide Dealers License:** See prohibition regarding selling of wild animals section on page 11.
- **Seasonal Hide Dealers License:** Required for any place of business that butchers wild animals and commercially sells or barters the heads or untanned hides of deer or moose that they have butchered.
- **Taxidermist License:** Allows a place of business to lawfully possess fish or wildlife for the sole purpose of preparing and mounting them and to also buy, sell or barter raw, untanned hides or heads of wild animals. This includes skull and bone mounts, commonly referred to as European mounts, reptile and amphibians, and freeze-dried mounts.
- **Guides License:** Required for anyone who receives any form of remuneration for their services in accompanying or assisting others while hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, snowmobiling, ATVing, or camping at a primitive camping area.

OUTDOOR SAFETY COURSES

Maine law requires all firearms, archery, crossbow, or trapping license applicants to complete an outdoor safety course, unless they have previously held an adult license. For bear trapping education course requirements, please see page 28.

Firearms, bowhunter, bear trapping education, and crossbow hunter safety courses are available in two different formats: online and traditional in-person classes. An in-person skills and exam session is required for students ages 10-15 who take firearms and bowhunter safety courses online.

The in-person classes are sponsored by school districts, sports clubs, civic groups, and others, and are taught statewide by volunteer instructors certified by MDIFW. Pre-registration is typically required.

To begin taking a course online or to register for an in-person course, visit **mefishwildlife.com/safetycourses.** For information on becoming a volunteer instructor, contact your local Regional Safety Coordinator or the Recreational Safety Division Office.

Recreational Safety Division
(207) 287-5220

APPRENTICE HUNTER LICENSE

An apprentice hunter license is available to a resident or non-resident 16 years or older who has never held a valid adult hunting license. A person may not obtain an apprentice hunter license more than five times. A person holding this license may not hunt other than in the presence of an apprentice supervisor at least 18 years of age who has held a valid hunting license for the prior three consecutive years. The supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the holder of an apprentice hunter license follows safe hunting protocol as well as all hunting laws.

2022-23 APPRENTICE HUNTER LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES

APPRENTICE LICENSE	FEE
Apprentice Resident Hunting (includes bear and turkey permits)	$26.00
Apprentice Resident Crossbow Permit	$26.00
Apprentice Resident Archery	$26.00
Apprentice Resident Muzzleloader Permit	$13.00
Apprentice Non-resident Hunting (includes bear & turkey permits)	$115.00
Apprentice Non-resident Small Game (includes turkey permit)	$75.00
Apprentice Non-resident Crossbow Permit	$56.00
Apprentice Non-resident Archery	$75.00
Apprentice Non-resident Muzzleloader	$69.00

Fees listed do not include agent fee.

2022-23 LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES

LICENSE			FEE
MAINE RESIDENTS	Big Game* Hunting (16 and older)		$26.00
	Junior Hunting (0 to 15 years old)		$8.00
	Small Game* Hunting (16 and older)		$15.00
	Combination Hunting & Fishing (16 and older)		$43.00
	Combination Fishing & Archery (16 and older)		$43.00
	Serviceman (resident) Combination Hunting & Fishing		$3.00
	Serviceman (dependent) Combination Hunting & Fishing		$20.00
	Serviceman (dependent) Hunting		$10.00
	Disabled War Veteran (resident)		FREE
	Archery Hunting (16 and older)		$26.00
	Apprentice Hunter License (16 and older)		See info on page 7
	Super Pack		$201.00
NON- RESIDENTS	Nonresident Big Game Hunting (16 and older)		$115.00
	Combination Hunting & Fishing (16 and older)		$150.00
	Small Game* Hunting (16 and older)		$75.00
	3-Day Small Game* Hunting (valid for 3 consecutive days)		$50.00
	Junior Hunting (0 to 15 years)		$35.00
	Archery Hunting (16 and older)		$75.00
	6-Day Archery Hunting (16 and older)		$26.00
	Apprentice Hunter License (16 and older)		See info on page 7
PERMIT AND OTHER FEES	Bear Permits		See page 26 & 28
	Coyote Night Hunting Permit		$4.00
	Crossbow Hunting Permit (16 and older)**	Maine Resident	$26.00
		Non-resident	$56.00
	Antlerless Deer Permit		$12.00
	Deer, Moose, and Bear Registration		$5.00
	Dog Training and Hunting Permit		$12.00
	Duplicate License		$2.00
	Expanded Archery Permits (See page 20)	Antlerless Deer	$12.00
		Either-Sex	$32.00
	Falconry Permit		$26.00
	Moose Permit		See page 22
	Muzzleloader Permit (16 and older)**	Maine Resident	$13.00
		Non-resident	$69.00
	Pheasant Permit (Cumberland and York Counties)		$17.00
	State Migratory Waterfowl Permit (16 and older)***		$7.50
	Outdoor Partners Program		$15.00
	Taxidermist, Hide Dealer, and Guide Licenses		See info on page 7
	Wild Turkey Permit		$20.00

Fees listed do not include the agent fee. The commissioner may revoke all licenses and permits issued to any person who fails to pay the fees due and may recover fees associated with insufficient funds.
**Big game license permits hunting of all legal species, including deer, bear, moose, raccoon, bobcat (additional permits apply for certain species and seasons).*
Small game license permits hunting of all legal species except deer, bear, moose, raccoon, and bobcat (additional permits apply for certain species and seasons).
***A resident and non-resident, under 16 years of age may hunt with a crossbow or muzzleloader if that person holds a valid junior hunting license.*
****In addition to the State Migratory Waterfowl Permit, a Federal Migratory Waterfowl Permit is required.*

LIFETIME LICENSE FEES

RESIDENTS	FISHING	HUNTING	ARCHERY	TRAPPING	COMBINATION OF ANY TWO*	COMBINATION OF ANY THREE*
5 years & under	$150	$150	$150	$150	$250	$400
6-15 years of age	$300	$300	$300	$300	$500	$800
65 years of age	$50	$50	$50	$50	$80	$110
66 years of age	$40	$40	$40	$40	$64	$94
67 years of age	$30	$30	$30	$30	$48	$78
68 years of age	$20	$20	$20	$20	$32	$52
69 years of age	$10	$10	$10	$10	$16	$26
70 and older	$8.00— Covers all authorities that you are qualified to receive, see below.					
NON RESIDENTS	FISHING	HUNTING	ARCHERY	TRAPPING	COMBINATION OF ANY TWO*	COMBINATION OF ANY THREE*
5 years & under	$450	$450	$450	$450	$750	$1,200
6-15 years of age	$900	$900	$900	$900	$1,500	$2,400

**Hunting, fishing, archery*
These fees are subject to change. Please check with the Department for current fees.

MAINE LIFETIME LICENSE

A Maine Tradition and a Gift that Lasts a Lifetime

A lifetime license, purchased for yourself or as a gift, allows the bearer to fish, trap, and/or hunt for their lifetime, regardless of where they live in the future. Revenues generated by these licenses are deposited in a special trust fund that provides long-term financial support for Maine's fish and wildlife.

Lifetime license holders (not complimentary) are required to purchase any additional hunting/fishing permits between the ages of 16 and 69.

Maine Resident Applicants 70+ Years of Age

For a one-time fee of $8.00, a senior lifetime license entitles the holder to all privileges they are qualified to receive including hunting, trapping, archery, and fishing. The license also includes the following permits: bear hunt, bear trap, muzzleloader, migratory waterfowl (state permit), pheasant, spring and fall turkey, coyote night hunt, crossbow, one expanded archery antlerless and one expanded archery either-sex (may be registered with hunting license number, permit number not required). Must still apply for antlerless deer and moose permits each year. Hunters 70 and over do not need to obtain a physical permit, but can tag those species with their lifetime license. The federal migratory waterfowl permit and saltwater registry still must be purchased by the lifetime license holder.

Note: If you purchased a senior lifetime license before age 70, you do NOT have to pay the $8.00 fee, and the permits listed in the previous paragraph are included with your lifetime license anytime during the calendar year you turn 70 years of age.

A lifetime license holder who turns 16 years of age is able to hunt with their lifetime license as an adult big game license upon showing proof of having completed the required safety course. Contact MDIFW to upgrade to an adult license, and obtain all necessary permits. See page 18 for more information on Junior Hunters. ■

SUPER PACK LICENSE

This license, available to Maine residents only, permits an eligible person to hunt and fish for all legal game and fish species, subject to all of the laws governing fishing, hunting, and archery. The Super Pack License includes muzzleloader, crossbow, migratory waterfowl, pheasant, spring/fall turkey, bear hunting, coyote night hunt, and three expanded archery antlerless permits. The license includes a dog training and hunting permit which must be obtained through the MDIFW Augusta office via phone, email, mail, or in-person. It also includes one free chance in the moose lottery and entry into a special category in the antlerless deer permit lottery. Person must meet all respective safety course requirements to hunt with individual methods (i.e. crossbow, archery, etc.).

LICENSE AND PERMIT REVOCATION INFORMATION

The MDIFW Commissioner may, at their discretion, revoke the hunting privileges of anyone convicted of a hunting violation, or any violation of fish and wildlife laws. This is in addition to any penalties imposed by a court of law. Some violations result in a mandatory revocation (summarized below):

Minimum Mandatory Ten Year Revocation of Hunting Licenses

If a person is convicted of Assault While Hunting [17A MRSA §208(A)] and the offense occurred in the context of hunting activity, and if, through failure of the hunter to make proper target identification, the offense resulted in the injury or death of another person.

Minimum Mandatory Five Year Revocation of Hunting Licenses

- Shooting a domestic animal while hunting.
- Hunting under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs.
- Conviction of violation of 17A MRSA while on a hunting or fishing trip or in the pursuit of wild animals, birds or fish and when the wounding or killing of a human being has occurred.
- Conviction of night hunting with night vision equipment or thermal imaging equipment.

Minimum Mandatory Three Year Revocation of ALL MDIFW Licenses

- Disturbing traps.
- Conviction of any of the violations listed within 12 MRSA § 10902-6 while having a firearm with a noise suppressor device.

Minimum Mandatory Two Year Revocation of ALL MDIFW Licenses

- Burglary or criminal trespass of a building located within any unorganized township.
- Theft of any equipment used for hunting, fishing and trapping.
- Theft of any animal which has been obtained by hunting or trapping and which was in the possession or control of the person who hunted or trapped the animal.

Minimum Mandatory Two Year Revocation of Hunting Licenses

- Second offense of placing or hunting over bait for deer.

Hunting Violations with a Minimum One Year License Revocation

- Illegally hunting and/or possessing deer, bear, or moose during closed season.
- Night hunting.
- Discharging a firearm within 100 yards of a building or residential dwelling without permission of the owner, or in the owner's absence, an adult occupant who dwells in that location.
- Illegally buying and/or selling deer, bear, moose or wild turkeys.
- Illegally hunting/possessing wild turkeys including using illegal hunting methods.
- Hunting deer, bear, moose, or wild turkey after having killed one and/or exceeding the bag limit.
- First offense of placing or hunting over bait for deer.
- Destroying or tearing down a property posting sign.
- Hunting over another person's bear bait without written permission from that person.

Civil Trespass with Hunting Dog

If a person is convicted or adjudicated of civil trespass with a hunting dog in violation of section 10657-A, that person is ineligible to obtain a dog training and hunting permit as follows:

- For a first offense, for a period of one year from the date of adjudication
- For a second offense, for a period of 2 years from the date of adjudication.

Littering on WMAs

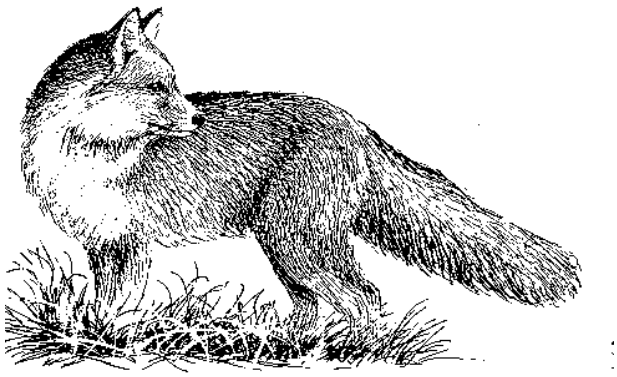
In addition to penalties provided by Maine's littering laws, a person convicted of littering on a state owned wildlife management area or sanctuary as defined in Title 12 shall surrender their hunting and/or fishing licenses for a period of up to one year.

Interstate Violations/Suspensions

Maine is a participating member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, an agreement that recognizes suspension of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses across member states. This means that illegal activities in one state can affect a person's hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges in all participating states as well. If a person plans to hunt, fish, or trap in another state, and they have a license suspension in Maine, it is their responsibility to contact the other state to see if they can legally hunt, fish, or trap in that state.

KEEP YOUR LICENSE WITH YOU

You are required to keep an electronic and/or paper copy of your hunting license and any necessary permits with you while hunting or transporting wild birds and wild animals and, if requested to do so, must present it for inspection to any warden, law enforcement officer, MDIFW employee, guide or landowner upon whose land you are hunting.



GENERAL HUNTING LAWS

To hunt means to pursue, catch, take, kill or harvest wild birds and wild animals (wild by nature, whether or not bred or reared in captivity), including any physical part of that species of mammal or bird.

Unlawful Conduct: The hunting, possession, transporting of any species of wild animal or wild bird, or parts thereof, for which an open hunting season is not specifically provided, and except as provided in the fish and wildlife laws, is unlawful. It is also unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any wild bird except the English or European house sparrow, the European starling and the rock pigeon (a.k.a. rock dove).

PROHIBITION REGARDING SELLING OF WILD ANIMALS

Wild Birds: A person may not sell or possess for sale a wild bird, except for the plumage of lawfully taken wild birds, and only if that sale does not violate regulations of the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Finished Wildlife Products: A person may buy, sell, barter or trade legally obtained finished wildlife products, excluding federally protected wild animals and birds.

Deer, Bear, or Moose: A person may, without a hide dealer's license, buy or sell naturally shed deer or moose antlers.

A person who has lawfully killed and registered a deer, bear or moose may, without a hide dealer's license, sell:

- The head, hide, antlers* and feet of that deer.
- The head, hide, antlers*, feet and bones of that moose.
- The head, hide, teeth, gallbladder,* fat not attached to the meat, and claws (not attached to the paws) of that bear.

**Raw antlers, bear fat (not attached to the meat), and bear gallbladders may only be sold (including for money, barter, or trade) to a licensed hide dealer, and they must be tagged or accompanied with documentation containing the name and address of the person who legally killed the animal.*

You Need a Hide Dealer's License To: Commercially buy, sell, barter, or trade any raw, untanned animal hides (including fur-bearing animals) or parts of wild animals or birds not prohibited above.

Any parts bought or sold may not be attached to wild animal or wild bird parts that are prohibited from being sold.

Contact MDIFW if you are interested in becoming a Hide Dealer or you are looking for a list of dealers in the state at (207) 287-8000.

NIGHT HUNTING

Except as otherwise provided, wild birds and wild animals may not be hunted from ½ hour after sunset until ½ hour before sunrise the following day.

Exceptions: migratory game bird, (see page 40), raccoon (see below), and coyote (see page 25).

RACCOON HUNTING

Raccoons may be hunted at night during the open season only when the hunter:

- Is accompanied by a dog.
- Uses a rifle or handgun of no greater power than one which uses .22 caliber long rifle ammunition.
- Loads the rifle or handgun only when dispatching a raccoon that is treed or held at bay by a dog or dogs and has been identified by flashlight.

PLACEMENT OF BAIT

As used in this section, "bait" means an animal, plant, or part thereof used to attract wild animals for the purpose of hunting.

A Person Placing Bait for Hunting Purposes Must:

- Obtain oral or written permission from the landowner or landowner's agent.
- Plainly label the bait with a 2-inch by 4-inch tag containing the name and address of the baiter.
- Clean up the bait site immediately upon landowner request; or if not requested, within 20 days of the last day the site is hunted.

A Person May NOT:

- Hunt over another person's bait site without the baiter's permission.
- Place any medicinal, poisonous, or stupefying substance to entice any animal.

Species-specific Baiting Laws:

- Baiting or feeding of deer is prohibited from June 1-December 15. See page 21 for more information.
- Baiting and feeding moose and turkey is prohibited from September 1 to December 15.
- Baiting and feeding turkey is prohibited during the spring wild turkey season.
- Further restrictions apply to bear baiting, see page 26.

SUNDAY HUNTING IS ILLEGAL IN MAINE

TARGET IDENTIFICATION WHILE HUNTING

(Summary of 12 MRSA §11222)

A hunter may not shoot at a target without at that point in time being certain that the target is the wild animal or wild bird sought.

A reasonable and prudent hunter:

- Risks losing legitimate prey so as not to risk destruction of human life.
- Neither disregards, nor fails to be aware of, the risk of causing the death of another human being as a consequence of misidentification.
- Never bases identification upon sound alone, or even upon sound combined with what appears to be an appendage of the wild animal or wild bird sought.
- Bases identification upon an essentially unobstructed view of the potential target's head and torso.
- Recognizes that sound and sight target-determining factors are affected by a number of other considerations including, but not limited to, the distance to the target, surrounding or intervening terrain and cover, lighting and weather conditions, the hunter's hearing, eyesight, and experience level, and other people nearby.

MINIMUM SHOOTING DISTANCES

Shooting within 100 Yards of Dwelling or State Owned Boat Launch: It is unlawful to discharge any firearm, muzzleloader, or crossbow, or cause a projectile to pass as a result of that discharge, within 100 yards (300 feet) of a building without permission from the owner or, in the owner's absence, an adult occupant who dwells in that building. This provision also applies to state-owned boat launches that are posted accordingly.

Discharge of Bow and Arrow: it is unlawful to discharge an arrow from a bow when on land of another person **and** within 100 yards of a building on that land without permission of the owner (or in the owner's absence, permission from an adult occupant) of that building or cause an arrow from a bow and arrow to pass across the land of another person and within 100 yards of a building on that land without the permission of the owner (or in the owner's absence, permission from an adult occupant) of that building.

Definitions, as Used in This Section: Building means any residential, commercial, retail, educational, religious or farm structure that is designed to be occupied by people or domesticated animals or is being used to shelter machines or harvested crops.

"Projectile" means a bullet, pellet, shot, shell, ball, arrow, bolt or other object propelled or launched from a firearm, bow, or crossbow.

Exception: Persons target practicing on land that they own or have permission to use may discharge a crossbow within 100 yards of a dwelling, provided the projectile does not enter another person's property.

Hunting Under the Influence: It is unlawful to hunt while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs.

Possession of Hunting Equipment on Sunday: Possession of hunting equipment in the fields and forests or on the waters or ice of this state on Sunday is prima facie evidence of a violation of Sunday hunting law, unless the equipment is securely wrapped in a complete cover, fastened in a case, or carried in at least two separate pieces in such a way that it cannot be fired without the pieces being joined together (for the purpose of this paragraph, a firearm clip, magazine, or cylinder is not considered a "piece").

Bows and arrows must be kept in a case or cover if broadheads or field points are kept attached to the arrows.

Exceptions: A person may possess hunting equipment on Sunday for legitimate activities such as target practice, sighting in rifles, etc., or for persons carrying handguns as prescribed by Title 25 subsection 2001-A.

Airborne Hunting: A person on the ground or airborne may not use aircraft (including drones & remote-controlled aircraft) to aid or assist in hunting deer, bear, or moose.

Shooting from a Motor Vehicle or Motorboat or Possessing a Loaded Firearm or Crossbow in or on a Motor Vehicle: It is unlawful to shoot while in or on a motor vehicle, motorboat, snowmobile or ATV or have a loaded firearm or cross bow while in or on a motor vehicle, trailer, or other type of vehicle being hauled by a motor vehicle except as specifically allowed.

Exemptions

- A holder of a valid Maine concealed weapon permit may carry a loaded pistol or revolver in a motor vehicle as prescribed by Title 25 subsection 2001A.
- Persons who are at least 21 years of age, or are at least 18 years of age and a member or honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces or National Guard, may carry a loaded pistol or revolver in or on a motor vehicle if they are not otherwise prohibited from carrying a firearm. Upon contact with a law enforcement officer, a person carrying a concealed handgun without a permit must notify the officer immediately.
- Paraplegics and leg amputees may shoot from motor vehicles.
- Migratory waterfowl may be hunted from a motorboat in accordance with federal regulation.
- A person who is hunting may rest a loaded firearm or crossbow that is under their control on the vehicle to shoot only when the vehicle is not in motion and the engine is off.
- A person may shoot from a motorboat if that boat is not being propelled by the motor and forward momentum of the boat has stopped. However, the wanton waste law allows you to shoot crippled waterfowl from a motorboat under power on coastal waters and all waters of rivers and streams lying seaward of the first upstream bridge.
- A person who is hunting and is on but not within an enclosed area or passenger compartment of an ATV or snowmobile may shoot a firearm or crossbow or rest a loaded firearm or crossbow that is under the person's control on the ATV or snowmobile to shoot only when the vehicle is not in motion and the engine is off.
- While target shooting, not hunting, a person who is on but not within an enclosed area or passenger compartment of a vehicle may shoot a firearm or crossbow or rest a loaded firearm or crossbow that is under their control on the vehicle to shoot only when the vehicle isn't in motion and the engine is off.

  Note: A loaded clip may be carried in a motor vehicle, but it must not be inserted in, or attached to, a firearm; a crossbow may be carried as long it is not cocked and armed; a muzzleloader is considered to be loaded only if charged with powder, projectile and a primed ignition device or mechanism.

Shooting From or Over a Public Paved Way: A person may not shoot or discharge any firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow at any wild animal or bird from any public paved way (any road treated with bituminous or concrete material), from within 10 feet of the edge of its pavement, or from the right-of-way of any controlled access highway.

Shooting of Domestic Animals: It is unlawful for any person, while hunting to negligently, carelessly, or willfully shoot and wound or kill any domestic animal or bird.

Firearms on School Property: Possession of a firearm or crossbow on public school property or discharging one within 500 feet of school property, except as used in supervised educational programs or by law enforcement officials, is illegal.

Harassment of lawful hunter or trapper: It is unlawful for any person to willfully interfere with the lawful hunting or trapping of any wild animal or wild bird, including the willful disturbance of wild animals or wild birds with intent to interfere with their lawful taking.

Disposal of Remains: A person may not dispose of a carcass, waste parts or remains of a wild animal, except as a result of normal field dressing of a lawfully harvested wild animal or the lawful use of waste parts or remains of wild animal as bait.

POSSESSION OF GIFT BEAR, DEER, MOOSE, OR WILD TURKEY

A person may not accept as a gift any part of a bear, deer, moose, or wild turkey unless that animal, or part thereof, is plainly labeled with the name and address of the person who registered it and the year it was registered.

HUNTING WITH DOGS AND DOG TRAINING

Hunting Bear, Bobcat, Coyote, Raccoon, and Fox with Dogs

Anyone 16 years of age or older who is using a dog to hunt for bear, coyote, fox, bobcat, or raccoon; or train for bear, fox, and raccoon must possess a Dog Training and Hunting permit.

Exception: A person who is training or hunting with a dog under the supervision of and in the presence of a registered Maine hunting guide who has a valid Dog Training and Hunting Permit is exempt from possessing the permit.

Any dog engaged in the above activities must have a functioning tracking collar which allows the handler to track the dog's location at all times such as a GPS or VHF tracking device. The dog must also have a collar that legibly provides the name, telephone number, and address of the dog's owner.

A person is in violation of civil trespass with a hunting dog if:

- They turn a hunting dog loose onto posted property;
- They turn a hunting dog loose onto property where the landowner has communicated to the dog handler that they do not want hunting dogs on their property; or
- A hunting dog enters property upon which a hunting dog has been previously found and a law enforcement officer has warned any handler of the hunting dog (within the past 365 days) that hunting dogs are not permitted on the property.

A person or persons may not use more than six dogs at any one time to hunt bear, bobcat, coyote, raccoon, and fox.

A person may not use a dog to hunt during the period from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise, except for raccoon (see raccoon hunting page 11).

For more information on hunting bears with dogs, see page 27.

A person with a suspended or revoked hunting license may not train dogs.

Dog Training Season

- From July 1 through the following March 31, dogs may be trained on fox, snowshoe hare, and raccoons. During such training, it is unlawful to use or possess a firearm, other than a pistol or a shotgun loaded with blank ammunition, except during the applicable open hunting seasons on these species.
- Dogs may be used to hunt snowshoe hares during the firearm season on deer.
- Sporting dogs may be trained on wild birds (not including wild turkey) at any time. The commissioner may authorize with a permit the use of firearms during such training to shoot and kill wild birds propagated or legally acquired by the permittee and possessed in accordance with the laws pertaining to breeders, licenses.
- Residents may train up to six dogs on bear from July 1 - August 25, 2022 except in portions of Washington and Hancock counties that are situated south of Route 9. Nonresident Maine Guides are not eligible to train dogs in Maine.
- A person must possess a valid hunting license to engage in all dog training activities, except Sunday or when training on pen-raised birds.
- Propagation permits for domesticated fowl are no longer required to possess or use them for dog training purposes.

Leashed Dog Tracking License

A license is available which allows the tracking of wounded deer, moose, and bear with dogs. The fee for this license is $81 for 3 years and is in addition to a one-time application fee of $25. A person who holds a valid license may charge a fee for dog tracking services without having to hold a guide's license, as long as that is the only service provided. Find the application form at **mefishwildlife.com/forms.**

NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS

It is unlawful to allow any dog to run at large at any time, except when used for hunting. ("AT LARGE" means off the premises of the owner and not under the control of any person by means of personal presence or attention.)
It is unlawful to allow any dog to chase, wound, or kill a deer or moose at any time or any other wild animal in closed season.

HUNTERS FOR THE HUNGRY

Attention hunters! Some Maine citizens lack adequate nutrition. A gift of meat from your hunt can help reduce hunger in Maine. Hunters for the Hungry is a program for donating wild game meat to food kitchens, shelters, and charitable organizations statewide.

To find out how you can help call (207) 287-7513.

TAGGING, TRANSPORTATION & REGISTRATION

TAGGING REQUIREMENTS

New Law 2022 Exemption: Wild turkey harvested **in the fall season ONLY** do not need to be registered or have a label attached for transport. All wild turkeys harvested in the spring season must still be registered and have a label attached for transport.

Prior to presenting a bear, deer, moose, or wild turkey for registration, a person may not possess or leave that animal in the field or forest unless they have securely attached a plainly visible tag to the animal with their name, address, and license number on the tag.

Transporting Harvested Animals: A person may not transport a harvested wild animal or bird that they do not lawfully possess, nor may they present for registration, or allow to be registered in their name, any bear, deer, moose, or wild turkey that they did not lawfully kill. Prior to registration, any harvested bear, deer, moose, or wild turkey (harvested in the spring only) in transit must be open to view, meaning that the animal is not concealed and can be readily observed in whole or in part from outside of the vehicle or trailer transporting it. Once an animal or bird has been registered, it may be transported by another person.

Registration Requirements: A person who kills a bear, deer, moose, or wild turkey (harvested in the spring only) must:

1. Remain with the animal until it is registered, (with some exceptions – see Time Limits for Registering section).
2. Present the animal for registration in that person's name at the first open registration station for that animal on their route.
3. Leave the registration seal attached until the animal is processed and packaged for consumption.
4. Pay a fee of $5.00 to register a bear, deer or moose (of which $2 is retained by the agent and $1 is dedicated to a Deer Habitat Enhancement Fund) or $2.00 to register a wild turkey, (harvested in the spring only) all of which is retained by the agent.

TIME LIMITS FOR REGISTERING

A person may not keep an unregistered bear, deer, moose, or wild turkey for more than 18 hours after the animal was harvested. This does not apply to wild turkeys harvested in the fall season or an animal that is kept in an official registration station for the animal or at the office of a game warden. A person may exceed the 18-hour limit under special circumstances, but that person must still notify a game warden within 18 hours.

A person on a hunting trip in an unorganized township and staying at a temporary place of lodging may keep an unregistered harvested animal at the temporary place of lodging for no more than 7 days or until that person leaves the woods, whichever comes first.

A person may not possess a bear, deer, moose, or wild turkey that has not been legally registered, except as otherwise provided in the statutes regarding nuisance animals or animals causing damage. Bobcats taken by hunting must be tagged by a MDIFW employee within 10 calendar days of the time they were taken and a tooth and tissue sample must be taken.

CONDITION OF ANIMAL PRESENTED FOR REGISTRATION

Prior to registration, bear, deer, and moose may be dismembered for ease of transportation, all edible meat, the head and evidence of sex must be presented for registration. The viscera, hide, lower legs and rib cage, including the ribs, spine and pelvis, are not required to be presented for registration but must be disposed of where they are not visible to a person traveling on a public or private way.

Wild turkey must be presented for registration in its entirety, including evidence of sex except that the viscera may be removed.

Bear: Hunters and trappers are required to remove a premolar tooth from the bear they harvest and provide the tooth when they register their bear (instructions available at registration and online). Hunters will be notified of the age of the bear they harvested on the Bear Hunting page of the MDIFW website prior to the start of the next bear hunting season (late August).

Turkey: All radio transmitters must be submitted to MDIFW. Hunters can keep any leg bands or wing tags as long as they have reported them to MDIFW. The fee to register a wild turkey is $2. ■

REPORTING ACCIDENTS & AIDING VICTIMS

Any person who knows or has reason to believe that they have inflicted injury to another person by the use of firearms, crossbow or bow and arrow is required to make themselves known to the victim and render such first aid and assistance as they are capable of under the circumstances. The incident must be reported by the quickest means, to a game warden or other law enforcement officer.

LAWS PERTAINING TO HUNTING EQUIPMENT

GENERAL LAWS

Wild animals and wild birds may be hunted only by the use of rifles, handguns, shotguns (not larger than 10-gauge), muzzleloader, handheld bow and arrow, crossbow, or falconry.

Deer and moose decoys are legal, as are laser sights (red dots or beam) for firearms, crossbows, and bows.

Electronic calling devices are legal for deer, bear, turkey, moose, and coyote, but are illegal for migratory game birds.

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES

Several Maine cities and towns have adopted local ordinances that restrict or prohibit the discharge of certain projectiles (e.g., arrows, bullets, crossbow).

Prior to hunting near densely populated communities, hunters should check with local authorities regarding such ordinances. Towns may regulate the discharge of firearms as provided by Title 30-A; however, they cannot regulate or charge fees to hunt, fish or trap.

Illegal Devices:

- It is unlawful to hunt with the use of (or sell or offer for sale for the purpose of hunting) a set gun, or any medicinal, poisonous or stupefying substance (except rodenticide for orchard mouse control and gas cartridges for woodchuck control).
- Drawlocks and set bows are illegal unless otherwise permitted for disabled hunters.
- Crossbows cannot be used to hunt deer during the muzzleloader season or when hunting under the authority of an expanded archery permit (a person may hunt deer with a crossbow in an expanded archery area while hunting during the regular archery and crossbow season or firearms season on deer under the authority of their archery license or firearms hunting license). Please see exceptions and additional information related to crossbow hunting on page 17.

Illegal Use of Lights: From September 1 to December 15, it is unlawful to use artificial lights from ½ hour after sunset until ½ hour before sunrise to illuminate, jack, locate, attempt to locate or show up wild birds or animals, except raccoons, which may be hunted at night with flashlights during the open season (see General Hunting Provisions for details). An exception to this may be made for agents appointed by the commissioner to hunt coyotes at night during this period under policies established by MDIFW.

FIREARMS LAWS

It is Unlawful to Hunt with, or Possess for Hunting, Any:

- Automatic firearm (a firearm that continues to fire as long as the trigger is held back).
- Auto-loading firearm (a firearm that reloads itself after each shot and requires a separate trigger pull for each shot) with a magazine capacity of more than 5 cartridges (plus 1 in the chamber for a total of 6), unless the magazine has been permanently altered to contain not more than 5 cartridges.

  Note: This provision does not apply to .22 caliber rimfire or smaller caliber guns or to auto-loading pistols with barrel lengths of less than 8 inches.

3-shell Max for Migratory Game Birds: It is unlawful to hunt any migratory game bird with a shotgun capable of holding more than 3 shells unless the magazine has been cut off, altered, or plugged with a one-piece filler (incapable of removal without disassembling the gun), so as to reduce the capacity of the gun to not more than 3 shells in the magazine and chamber combined.

Silencers: While a person no longer needs a permit from Warden Service to hunt with a suppressor device, anyone who wishes to possess a firearm fitted or contrived with any device for deadening the sound of the explosion must still obtain the appropriate federal permit from The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Bullet Types: It is unlawful to hunt with cartridges that contain tracer bullets or explosive bullets.

Cartridges:

- Firearms with .17 or .22 caliber rimfire cartridges may not be used for deer, moose, or bear hunting, except that .22 magnum can be used for deer hunting.
- Shotguns using shot loads cannot be used to hunt bear or moose.

DISTURBING TRAPS

It is unlawful to take or disturb any trap or wild animal caught in a trap without permission from the owner of the trap. An individual convicted of disturbing a trap, will lose any license in effect, and be ineligible to purchase any license issued by the Department for 3 years.

Archery Season Provisions: No firearms of any kind may be carried while hunting deer with a bow and arrow during the regular archery and crossbow or expanded archery seasons on deer, except a person may carry a handgun in accordance with Title 25 section 2001-A; but it cannot be used to shoot a deer or dispatch a wounded deer.

Loaded Firearms in Motor Vehicles: It is unlawful to have a loaded firearm or crossbow in or on a motor vehicle (including trailer, ATV, aircraft, snowmobile, or railway car), unless otherwise specified. See page 12 for more information.

A loaded magazine may be carried in a motor vehicle, but it must not be inserted in or attached to a firearm.

Firearms may be transported in a motor vehicle without a concealed firearms permit provided they are (1) unloaded and in plain view, or (2) are unloaded and placed in a remote secure area (such as a locked trunk) away from the control of the occupants of the motor vehicle.

For the purpose of this law, a muzzleloader is considered to be loaded only if charged with powder, a projectile, and a primed ignition device or mechanism. A crossbow is considered loaded if cocked and armed. Exceptions apply when carrying a concealed pistol or revolver.

Carrying Concealed Firearms: A person may carry a concealed handgun without a permit and may have that concealed, loaded pistol or revolver in, or on, a motor vehicle or trailer if:

- The person is 21 years of age or older and is not otherwise prohibited from possessing a firearm or;
- The person is 18 years of age or older and under 21 years of age and on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard or is an honorably discharged veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard and is not otherwise prohibited from carrying a firearm.

TRAIL/GAME CAMERAS LAW

People using trail and game cameras may not place a camera upon another person's private land without written permission. All cameras must be labeled with the person's name and contact information.

Upon contact with a law enforcement officer, a person carrying a concealed handgun without a permit is required to notify them immediately.

ARCHERY INFORMATION

Seasons: The regular archery license allows bow and arrow hunting for all legal game throughout the year, except for deer during the muzzleloader season.

Licenses: You must have an archery license to hunt with a bow and arrow during the regular and expanded archery deer seasons, or hunt with a bow and arrow in general.

Permits: In addition to an archery license, hunters participating in the expanded archery deer season (designated areas only) must also purchase permits. Multiple antlerless deer permits may be purchased for $12 each, and an either-sex permit for the expanded archery deer season is $32.

Exceptions: Complimentary archery license holders (Disabled Veteran, Native American) and junior hunting license holders may hunt with those licenses during the expanded archery deer season.

Obtaining an Archery License: Applicants for the regular archery license must show proof of having successfully completed an archery hunter education course or of having held a Maine adult archery license in any year after 1979. When proof or evidence cannot be provided, the applicant may substitute a signed affidavit. Native Americans are exempt from safety course requirements for archery, crossbow, and trapping.

- Junior hunters who hold a valid Junior Hunting License are allowed to hunt with bow and arrow when accompanied by a junior hunter supervisor (see page 18).
- A hunter may carry a handgun while bowhunting, but it may NOT be used to dispatch deer. See page 17 for more information.
- Laws that allow you to hunt without a license on your own land under certain conditions apply to archery hunting (see page 6).
- Deer & bear may be taken under the archery provisions only by means of hand-held bow with a minimum draw weight of 35 pounds (for moose a minimum draw weight of 45 pounds is required), and broad-head arrow. Arrow heads (including expandable mechanical broadheads) must be at least ⅞ inch in width. It is unlawful to use a set bow, or to use arrows with poisonous or explosive tips. Hunters 65 years of age or older may hunt any wild bird or wild animal with a crossbow during any open season on that wild bird or wild animal.
- Hunter orange clothing is NOT required when hunting with bow and arrow. See additional information related to hunter orange requirements below.
- All deer killed by bow and arrow during the archery seasons must be inspected and registered at the first open deer registration station.
- It is legal to hunt until ½ hour after sunset during both archery deer seasons.
- Only in designated WMDs or portions of WMDs, hunters during the regular archery and crossbow and Youth Day hunting seasons may take antlerless deer without an antlerless deer permit; an antlerless deer permit is required in non-designated WMDs and portions of WMDs. Deer taken during the expanded archery deer season are by appropriate permit as described above.

In addition, all other laws pertaining to deer hunting apply to archery hunting.

HUNTER ORANGE CLOTHING REQUIREMENT

Hunter orange is defined as a daylight fluorescent orange color with a dominant wave length between 595 and 605 nanometers, excitation purity of at least 85% and luminance factor of at least 40%. A decal on an article of clothing that is otherwise solid hunter orange is permissible. Articles of hunter orange clothing must be in good and serviceable condition and visible from all sides.

Firearms and Muzzleloader Seasons on Deer

Anyone who hunts any species with a firearm, muzzleloader, or crossbow during any firearms or muzzleloader season on deer (also on Youth Deer Day) must wear two articles of hunter orange clothing. One article must be a solid-colored hunter orange hat; the other must cover a major portion of the torso, such as a jacket, vest, coat or poncho and must be a minimum of 50% hunter orange in color (camouflage).

Archery Seasons on Deer

Hunter orange clothing is not required while hunting with a bow and arrow during the archery seasons. Use of a crossbow during the archery season doesn't require wearing hunter orange clothing unless firearms or muzzleloader hunting can occur in that WMD or while a moose hunt is taking place, the November firearms season is open or the muzzleloader season is open. These 3 seasons can overlap with expanded archery locations and the regular archery and crossbow season.

Moose Hunting Season

Anyone who hunts any species with a firearm or crossbow in a Wildlife Management District that is open to moose hunting must wear one article of solid-colored hunter orange clothing (hats count). When moose season overlaps with the firearms season on deer, then two pieces must be worn. All laws pertaining to deer hunting apply to moose hunters during these seasons.

Bear, Turkey, and Upland Game Bird Hunters

When hunting bears, turkeys, and upland game birds, hunter orange clothing is only required when hunting with a firearm or crossbow during the firearms hunting season on deer, the muzzleloader season on deer, or within an open moose hunting district during moose hunting season.

Waterfowl Hunters

Waterfowl Hunters are not affected by the provisions above while hunting from a boat, blind, or in conjunction with waterfowl decoys.

Religious Exemption

Any hunter whose religion prohibits wearing hunter orange may wear red instead. All minimum wear requirements for hunter orange still apply when hunter red is substituted for hunter orange.

CROSSBOW INFORMATION

Crossbow Safety Course, License & Permit Requirements

To purchase a crossbow hunting permit, you must first purchase a valid hunting license (big game license for big game species or small game license for turkey and small game species), and must provide satisfactory evidence of the following:

Successful completion of an archery hunting education program or a firearms hunter safety course.

AND

Successful completion of a crossbow hunting education program. There is no set order in which the courses must be taken.

OR

Proof of having previously held any valid hunting license in any year after 1976 and a valid permit or license that authorized the use of a crossbow in any year after 1979 (that is not a junior hunting license or an apprenticeship hunter license).

When proof or evidence cannot be otherwise provided, the applicant may substitute a signed affidavit that the applicant has previously held the required completed archery hunting education program or hunter safety course and crossbow hunting education program or has previously held any valid hunting license and a valid permit or license that authorized the use of a crossbow (that is not a junior hunting license or an apprenticeship hunter license).

Crossbow hunting courses are now available online or in-person. Check **mefishwildlife.com** for more information and a list of classes.

Junior and Apprentice Hunters

Valid junior hunting license holders may hunt with a crossbow without completing any hunter education courses or purchasing a crossbow permit but both junior hunters and apprentice hunters must be under supervision of a hunter supervisor who meets the legal requirements to supervise them.

Hunters who have turned 16 but who continue to hunt on their junior hunting license for the remainder of that calendar year must have completed the hunter safety course for the implement in which they choose to hunt.

All Crossbow Hunters

May hunt any wild bird or animal with a crossbow during any open season on that bird or animal while still following all other laws pertinent to that species including:

Hunt deer, moose, and bear with a crossbow during the applicable firearms seasons, hunt turkey in both the spring and fall turkey seasons with a crossbow, and hunt deer during the regular archery and crossbow deer hunting season.

Take a deer of either-sex during the regular archery and crossbow deer hunting season without having an antlerless deer permit in designated wildlife management districts (WMDs)/subunits. If an antlerless deer is taken without a permit during the regular archery and crossbow season, a hunter may not take a buck and may only take an additional antlerless deer if they have an antlerless deer permit(s) (in the WMD/subunit designated on their permit).

Take an antlerless deer in the WMD/subunit designated by their antlerless deer permit using a crossbow during the regular archery and crossbow or firearms deer hunting seasons.

Hunters Age 65 & Over and Hunters Who Have Special Disability Permits to Hunt with a Crossbow

Only hunters age 65 & over and hunters who have special disability permits to hunt with a crossbow may hunt deer with a crossbow:

During the muzzleloader season

AND

During the expanded archery season under the authority of the expanded archery permit.

Native American License & Hunting

Information see pages 6, 7 & 16.

Crossbow Equipment Laws Required Features

- Only crossbows with a shoulder-type stock may be used.
- Draw weight must be at least 100 pounds (there is no max).
- Arrowheads, including mechanical broadheads when open, must be at least ⅞ inch wide.
- Crossbows must be equipped with a mechanical trigger safety device in working condition.

Prohibited Features

- Hand-held pistol-type crossbows are prohibited.
- Arrows with explosive or poisonous tips are prohibited.

Optional, but Allowed Features

- Crossbows equipped with scopes or sights may be used.

See page 19 *Areas Open to Deer Hunting* for info on special hunt areas where crossbows are NOT permitted during the regular archery and crossbow deer hunting season. ■

OBSERVATION STANDS

It is unlawful to insert any metallic or ceramic object into a tree on another person's land for the purpose of erecting a ladder or observation stand, unless you have permission from the landowner. You must obtain verbal or written permission of the landowner (or representative) to erect or use a portable or permanent ladder or observation stand, and the ladder or observation stand must be plainly labeled with a 2-inch by 4-inch tag with the names and addresses of everyone the landowner has authorized to use it.

Exception: Portable ladders or observation stands used on land within the jurisdiction of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission and attended by the person who owns the ladder or observation stand do not require landowner permission or labeling, but permanent ones do.

Note: For more information on private property use, see page 31. Observation stands do not include portable blinds utilized at ground level that remain in the hunter's physical possession and must not be left when not in use.

Junior Hunters

JUNIOR HUNTING LICENSES

All children that have not yet reached their 16th birthday must have a junior hunting license to hunt. There is no minimum age to purchase a junior hunting license.

After a junior hunter's 16th birthday, they may continue to hunt on their junior license for the remainder of the calendar year with or without taking the hunter safety course. If the junior hunter does take the hunter safety course it must be appropriate for the method in which they intend to hunt with. He or she may then hunt without supervision and keep all the junior hunter permits but must carry their valid junior hunting license as well as their hunter safety card. The junior hunter is not required to upgrade to the adult license until the calendar year they turn 17 but they may upgrade to the adult license in their 16th year. Upgrading while they are 16 years of age will require them to purchase any necessary permits.

Junior license holders can hunt with a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow (see page 17 for more crossbow information). The license includes hunting permits for muzzleloader, spring and fall turkey, bear, coyote night hunt, pheasant, state migratory waterfowl, one expanded archery antlerless deer permit, and one expanded archery either-sex permit.

Note: A lifetime license purchased for a hunter under 16 years of age is considered a junior license until upgraded to an adult license which can be done by contacting MDIFW.

SUPERVISION OF JUNIOR HUNTERS

- Hunters from 10–15 years of age must be in the presence of, and under the effective control of, a junior hunter supervisor.
- Hunters under the age of 10 must be in the presence of, and under the effective control of, a junior hunter supervisor who remains at all times within 20 feet of the hunter.

A. A "Junior Hunter Supervisor" Means:

1. The parent or guardian of the junior hunter who holds or has held a valid Maine hunting license or successfully completed a hunter safety course.
2. A person 18 years of age or older who:
   a. Is approved by the parent or guardian of the junior hunter; and
   b. Holds or has held a valid Maine hunting license or successfully completed a hunter safety course.

B. "In the Presence of" Means:

In visual and voice contact without the use of visual or audio enhancement devices, including but not limited to binoculars and citizen band radios.

YOUTH HUNTING DAYS

Junior hunters who hold a valid junior hunting license (including a lifetime license) can participate in special youth hunting days for bear, deer, spring and fall wild turkey, and migratory waterfowl.

If a person is continuing to hunt on a junior hunting license and has turned 16 they may hunt on youth hunting days. If that 16-year-old who is hunting with a junior hunting license has completed their hunter safety course they still must have adult supervision on the youth hunting days only.

On these days, all laws pertaining to hunting deer, bear, spring and fall wild turkey and waterfowl apply. The accompanying parent, guardian or qualified adult, shall not possess a firearm, bow and arrow or crossbow, except on youth waterfowl days*. On youth deer, bear and spring and fall turkey days the parent, guardian or qualified adult may carry a handgun pursuant to Title 25 MRS SS 2001-A, but the handgun may not be used for the purpose of hunting.

16-year-olds still hunting on valid junior hunting licenses may hunt on youth hunt days without purchasing additional permits, except for migratory waterfowl youth hunt days, which require anyone 16 or older to obtain a valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp. ■

YOUTH HUNTING

SPECIES	YOUTH HUNTING DAY(S)	REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO JUNIOR HUNTERS
Bear	August 27, 2022	A licensed junior hunter may hunt bear with a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow during the youth bear hunting day. Use of dogs is prohibited; hunting over bait or still hunting is permitted.
Deer	October 22, 2022	Junior hunters may take one antlered deer statewide. Junior hunters may take antlerless deer without a permit in designated WMDs (in 2022 all WMDs/Subunits allow the take of anterless deer without an antlerless permit) on the Youth Deer Hunting Day. If a junior hunter takes a deer on Youth Deer Hunting Day, they are prohibited from taking additional deer unless they have antlerless deer permits or participate in the expanded archery season (designated areas only) with appropriate expanded archery permits.
Spring Wild Turkey	April 29, 2023	Participants may take up to two bearded wild turkeys with a shotgun, bow and arrow, or crossbow, but cannot exceed an individual WMD bag limit. See wild turkey, pages 23-24.
Fall Wild Turkey	September 17, 2022	Participants may take up to two wild turkeys on this day, with a shotgun or bow and arrow, but cannot exceed an individual WMD bag limit. If hunting in different WMDs, the order in which they are taken does not matter.
Waterfowl	**North Zone:** September 17, 2022 & December 10, 2022	ALL duck species except Harlequins, Barrow's Goldeneye, Moorhens and Gallinules, may be hunted on these days, including geese. For the Sept 24, Oct 22, Oct 29 and Dec 10 youth days, the goose limit is under the Regular Season limit. On youth waterfowl hunting days, scoters, eiders, and long-tailed ducks may be taken as part of the 6 bird daily limit on regular ducks. Also on these dates, 2 Black Ducks may be taken.) Must follow regular season bag limits and exceptions.
	South Zone: September 24, 2022 & October 22, 2022	
	Coastal Zone: September 24, 2022 & October 29, 2022	****The supervisor may not carry a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow while accompanying a youth hunter on a youth hunt day except when it occurs during the early goose season the accompanying adult may hunt for geese only.***

Deer Hunting

Hunting of antlerless deer (a deer that has no antlers or has antlers less than 3 inches in length measured from the skull) is prohibited except by special permit during both the firearms and muzzleloader seasons.

Persons may take antlerless deer without an antlerless deer permit only in designated WMDs/subunits during the regular archery and crossbow season and on Youth Deer Hunting Day. An antlerless deer permit is required in non-designated WMDs/subunits.

Multiple deer may be taken during the expanded archery season, as a result of receiving an antlerless deer permit(s), or due to having purchased a Super Pack Antlerless Deer Permit. Otherwise, one deer may be taken during any one of the remaining seasons (with appropriate licenses or permits).

DEER HUNTING PROHIBITIONS

Baiting deer by placing salt, grain, fruit, nuts or other foods or bait known to be attractive to deer, or hunting from an observation stand or blind overlooking such bait, is prohibited from June 1 to December 15. This does not apply to hunting from an observation stand or blind overlooking:

- Standing crops
- Foods that have been left as a result of a natural occurrence or normal agricultural operations
- Bear bait that has been placed at a bear hunting stand or blind in accordance with bear baiting laws

Illegal Equipment: Deer may not be hunted with the use of dogs, artificial lights, snares, traps, airbows, set guns or any firearm using .17 or .22 caliber rimfire cartridges, except that .22 caliber rimfire magnum cartridges are permitted.

Driving Deer: A person may not participate in a hunt for deer during which an organized or planned effort is made to drive deer. Four or more persons working together to move deer constitutes such an effort.

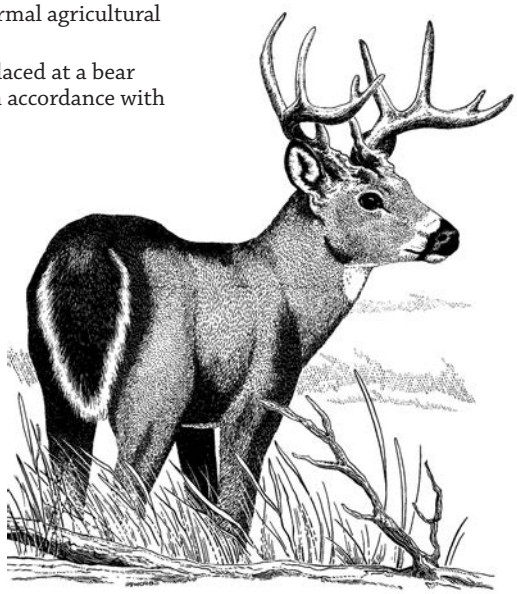
One and Done: It is unlawful to hunt deer after having killed or registered one during the open season of that calendar year, unless you are participating in the expanded archery season on deer (see page 20) or possess a valid antlerless deer permit or Super Pack Antlerless Deer Permit.

Gift deer: Gift deer may be possessed if clearly labeled with the name and address of the person who registered the animal, and the year it was registered.

Buying, Selling, and Bartering Deer: see pages 11 & 12.

AREAS CLOSED TO DEER HUNTING

- Mt. Desert Island in Hancock County;
- Cross and Scotch Islands, located in Washington County;
- The town of Isle au Haut and islands within that town, located in Knox County; and
- Wildlife sanctuaries, with exceptions listed below.



AREAS OPEN TO DEER HUNTING

But with these Special Restrictions:

- **Beauchamp Point Sanctuary** in Camden and Rockport, Knox County, is open to archery hunting for deer during any open hunting season that allows archery equipment to be used to hunt deer (crossbows are not permitted).
- **Cranberry Isles** in Hancock County is open to bow and arrow hunting for deer only during the archery and firearms seasons on deer and to shotgun hunting during the firearms season on deer (crossbows are not permitted).
- **The area within Drake's Island and Wells Sanctuaries, situated in the Town of Wells in the County of York:** shall be open to the hunting of antlerless deer with a hand-held bow and arrow (crossbows are prohibited), by permit only, during a specified period between November 1 and January 30; permits may be issued by the department to licensed archery hunters authorized by a landowner.
- **The island of Frenchboro** is open to deer hunting with shotgun only during the firearms season on deer.
- **Islesboro,** Waldo County, is open to deer hunting with bow and arrow only during the archery, expanded archery, or firearms seasons on deer.
- **Prout's Neck;** Richmond's Island; Cape Elizabeth Sanctuary contains approximately 1,600 acres open to deer hunting, with bow and arrow only (crossbows are not permitted), during the open special archery season and the firearms season on deer.

  Note: Landowner permission required.
- **Southport:** In the town of Southport, Lincoln County, and on all islands within its confines, it is lawful to hunt deer with shotguns and crossbows only during the firearms season.

Please refer to page 15 for information on municipal ordinances that may prohibit certain hunting methods.

HARASSMENT OF HUNTERS

It is illegal for any person to willfully interfere with the lawful hunting of any wild animal or wild bird, including the willful disturbance of wild animals or wild birds with intent to interfere with their lawful taking. **Note:** This law does not limit the ownership, use, access, or control of property rights otherwise provided by law.

DEER PERMITS & LICENSES

Muzzleloader Permit

- Muzzleloader means a firearm that is capable of being loaded only through the muzzle; is ignited by a matchlock, wheel lock, flintlock, or caplock, including an in-line caplock or shotgun or rifle primer mechanism; has a rifled or smooth-bored barrel capable of firing only a single charge; propels a ball, bullet, or charge of shot; and may have any type of sights, including scopes.
- New technology: There are new types of muzzleloaders on the market that allow for a pre-measured amount of factory loaded gun powder that is encapsulated and is not loaded through the muzzle as a traditional muzzleloader would require. The bullet is still loaded through the muzzle. This still meets the definition of a muzzleloader and is legal for hunting during the muzzleloader hunting season.
- A muzzleloader permit, in addition to a valid adult big game hunting license that allows the use of firearms, is required for hunters 16 years of age or older prior to hunting deer during the muzzleloader deer season. The muzzleloader permit is included in the junior hunting license and the senior (age 70+) lifetime license.
- Hunter orange clothing is required during this season (see page 16).
- Hunting hours are from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
- Except as specified, all other laws relating to the taking of deer with firearms shall apply to the taking of deer with muzzleloaders.
- Only muzzleloaders that are .40 caliber or greater and capable of firing only a single charge and crossbows by persons 65 years of age or older or crossbows by persons with a special disability permit to hunt with a crossbow may be used to hunt deer during this season.

Expanded Archery Permit

- Restricted to designated areas (contact MDIFW, or visit **mefishwildlife.com/expanded**, for maps of areas).
- Archery hunting only except for a hunter who is 65 years of age or older or who has a special disability permit to hunt with crossbows may use crossbows.
- Hunters who have a valid archery license can purchase multiple expanded archery antlerless deer permits and one expanded archery either-sex permit.
- Deer must be legally transported and registered as required for other deer seasons.
- All other archery deer hunting laws apply.
- Junior hunters may hunt during this season with their junior hunting license. The junior hunting license includes one expanded archery either-sex permit. If the hunter wants to take additional deer, unlimited expanded archery antlerless deer permits may be purchased.

Antlerless Deer Permit

- Hunting of antlerless deer during the firearms season and muzzleloader season is restricted to those hunters who possess a valid antlerless deer permit or super pack antlerless deer permit.
- Antlerless deer may be taken by hunters during the expanded archery season (Sep - Dec) with expanded archery permits.
- Antlerless deer may be taken during the regular archery and crossbow deer hunting season (Oct) without a permit in designated WMDs or with antlerless deer permits.
- Antlerless deer permits are acquired by lottery or purchased through the MDIFW website. ■

BIG BUCK CLUB

Maine has a club for deer hunters called "The Biggest Bucks in Maine Club," which is sponsored by:

The Maine Sportsman
183 State Street, Suite 101
Augusta, ME 04330

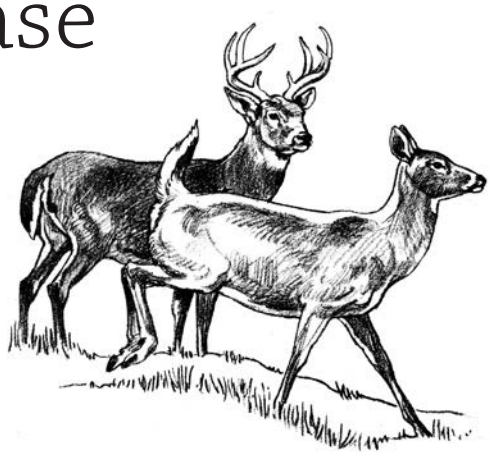
To qualify, the minimum dressed weight (without heart, lungs, and liver) must be 200 pounds. Application blanks are available from the Department wardens and biologists or by calling the Maine Sportsman at (207) 622-4242.

2022 DEER SEASONS & BAG LIMITS

SEASON	DATES	ANNUAL BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Expanded Archery (limited area/permit required)	September 10, 2022 - December 10, 2022	**Only 1 antlered deer may be taken annually** **Exceptions:** • Additional deer may be taken by hunters possessing antlerless deer permit(s) or during the Expanded Archery season with appropriate permits. • During the Regular Archery and Crossbow Season, in WMDs 12, 13, 15-18, 20-26, and 29, hunters may harvest one deer of either-sex without an antlerless deer permit. • On Youth Deer Hunting Day, hunters may harvest an antlerless deer without an antlerless permit in any WMD/subunit.
Regular Archery and Crossbow	October 1, 2022 - October 28, 2022	
Firearms (allows use of bow and arrow, crossbows, firearms, or muzzleloaders)	**Maine Residents Only:** October 29, 2022	
	All Hunters: October 31, 2022 - November 26, 2022	
Youth Deer Hunting Day	October 22, 2022	
Muzzleloader	**Week 1:** All Wildlife Management Districts (WMDs) November 28, 2022 - December 3, 2022	
	Week 2: WMDs 12, 13, 15-18, 20-26, 29 December 5, 2022 - December 10, 2022	

All dates are inclusive except that hunting is prohibited on Sunday.

Chronic Wasting Disease



WHAT IS CWD?

- CWD is a fatal brain disease of white-tailed deer, mule deer, caribou, moose, and elk. It is similar to mad cow disease which occurs in cattle.
- CWD has been found in free-ranging deer populations in 29 U.S. states and 3 Canadian provinces, including states as close as Pennsylvania and New York.
- CWD has not yet been recorded as being transmissible to people. However, a similar disease does exist in humans.
- CWD can persist in the environment outside of a host for many years.
- CWD has a 100% mortality rate in deer.

CWD Monitoring and Prevention in Maine

- Maine has actively monitored for CWD each year since 1999, and since that time screened approximately 12,750 wild deer. Thus far, Maine proudly remains CWD free.
- It is illegal for individuals to bring into Maine cervid carcasses or parts, except that the following carcass parts may be imported and possessed: boned-out meat, hardened antlers, skull caps that have been cleaned free of brain and other tissues, capes and hides with no skull attached, teeth, and finished taxidermy mounts.
- MDIFW prohibits the transportation of unprocessed deer carcasses, and/or parts, into Maine from states that are not directly adjacent to our state. This includes carcasses that are being transported through Maine.

Note: Cervid carcasses or parts from New Hampshire are exempt from the transportation exemption.

- MDIFW will not transplant deer from other states into Maine.

MDIFW Recommends that Individuals:

- Contact their regional wildlife biologist, or warden, if an animal shows clinical signs of illness, such as loss of fear of humans, drooling, and/or excessive weight loss.
- Take precautionary steps such as using latex gloves while processing a harvested deer, and sterilizing their equipment following processing. These steps will help to reduce potential transmission of the disease to humans. Again, thus far CWD has not been identified in a person.
- Avoid consumption of the brain and spinal tissues.
- Use synthetic deer lures instead of urine-based lures, as CWD is spread via bodily fluids. Some companies are beginning to label products as tested or certified CWD free, but it is unclear what industry controls are in place to ensure these labels are warranted. If you choose to utilize a urine-based lure, place it in a location where deer will not be able to directly contact it. ■

MDIFW CHECK STATIONS

Our wildlife biologists annually collect information that allows MDIFW to assess the condition and productivity of Maine's deer population. Much of the information we collect comes from hunter-harvested deer. As such, the information you provide us with is used directly for deer management purposes, in Maine. A summary of the information we collect from you can be found within our Annual Research and Management Reports at **mefishwildlife.com/wildlifereport**.

REGULATIONS ON FEEDING DEER

Feeding deer is prohibited from June 1 to December 15. The Commissioner can stop anyone from feeding deer at any time if there is a public safety hazard or if it is harmful to the deer population. The Commissioner may prohibit or limit the feeding of deer, bear, moose and wild turkey if there is documented evidence of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in the State or within 50 miles of the border of the State or if there is a reason to believe that the type or location of feed may create a public safety hazard or may have a detrimental effect on deer, bear, moose and wild turkey.

WASTE OF GAME

A person may not waste a wild bird or wild animal that has been wounded or killed while hunting. For purposes of this section "waste" means to intentionally leave a wounded or killed animal in the field or forest without making a reasonable effort to retrieve and render it for consumption or use. This law does not apply to coyotes.

CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

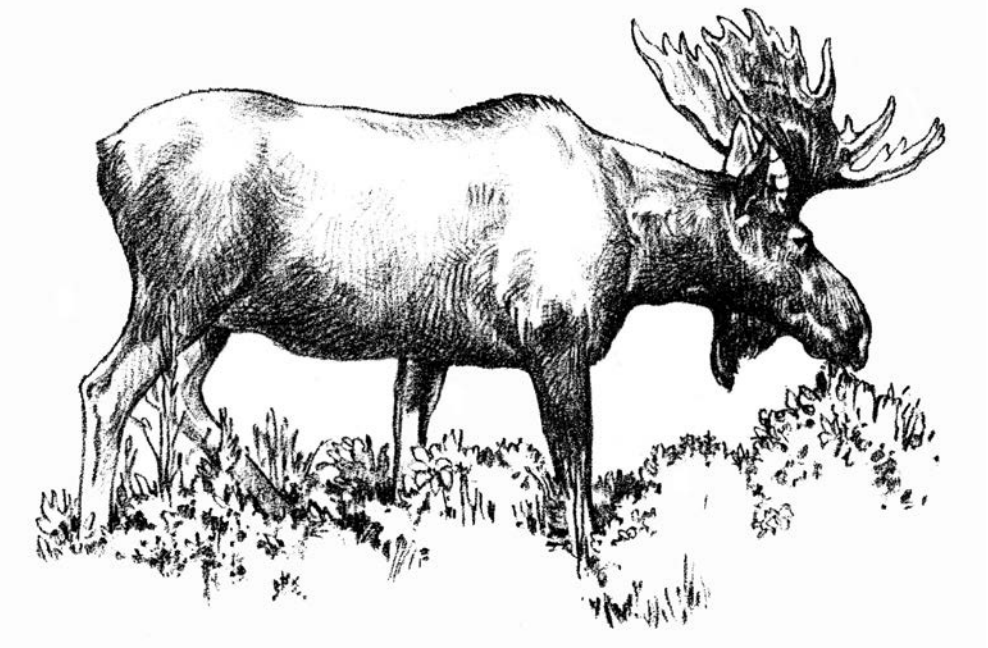
Because of possible contamination with the heavy metal cadmium, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) and Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (MECDC) recommend that the liver and kidneys of moose not be eaten, and deer liver consumption be limited to 0.8 pounds in one sitting and 1 to 1 1/3 pounds per week.

Because of possible contamination with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), MDIFW, MECDC, and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP) have issued consumption advisories for deer taken in certain parts of the state. Learn more at maine.gov/dep.

Moose Hunting

MOOSE HUNTING PERMIT

Maine's moose hunt is a "permit only" hunt. 4,080 permits were issued for the 2022 moose hunt. Each permittee may select a subpermittee to hunt with them. Applications are available by January 31. A person may not hunt moose with an apprentice hunter license. The bag limit is one moose per year, by either permittee or subpermittee. A person 10 years of age or older on the opening day of the moose hunt is eligible to apply for a moose hunting permit in that calendar year. A person under the age of 10 on the opening day of the moose hunting season may apply to earn a point in the lottery system, but cannot receive a permit.
A new law has changed the definition of antlerless moose to mean: a moose without antlers. An anterless moose permit allows the permittee to harvest a female moose without antlers or a male calf moose without antlers.



Permit donation to veterans: A person who receives a moose permit may transfer that permit to a disabled veteran or may return the permit to MDIFW so the permit can be transfered to a disabled veteran through the Department of Veteran's Affairs. The disabled veteran must meet eligibility and permit requirements. A transferor and a transferee of the permit are subject to the elimination of any accumulated points and the 3-year ineligibility period to reapply for a moose permit.

Permits for 65 Years Old and Older: A resident 65 years of age or older with 30 points or more in the moose lottery system who applies for a moose permit is guaranteed a permit.

Permits for Hunting Lodges: The Commissioner may allocate up to 2% of the moose hunting permits for a special chance lottery that is separate from the regular moose permit lottery, to hunting outfitters who meet the specific requirements defined in the law. If a qualified applicant is drawn in the lottery, the cost to purchase the permit is $1,500.

Adaptive Unit Moose Hunt: All adaptive unit cow hunters will be required to attend an in-person or virtual one-hour moose pre-hunt briefing. A selected hunter who fails to attend the required training session will forfeit their permit. Hunters are required to stop, register moose, and provide biological data at designated field check stations within the adaptive hunt area at key entry/egress points. ■

2022 MOOSE PERMIT HUNT SEASONS & BAG LIMITS

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT	DATES	ANNUAL BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
4A (Adaptive Unit Hunt)	October 17, 2022 - October 22, 2022	**Only 1 may be taken annually with permit.**
	October 24, 2022 - October 29, 2022	
	October 31, 2022 - November 5, 2022	
1-6, 10, 11, 18, 19, 27, 28	September 26, 2022 - October 1, 2022	
1–14, 17–19, 27, 28	October 10, 2022 - October 15, 2022	
1-6, 8	October 24, 2022 - October 29, 2022	
15, 16 *Maine Resident Permit Holders Only*	October 29, 2022	
15, 16	October 31, 2022 - November 26, 2022	

All dates are inclusive except that hunting is prohibited on Sunday.
See page 17 for information on the use of crossbows.

Wild Turkey Hunting

Anyone who possesses a big game or small game firearms license or archery license may obtain a combination spring/fall wild turkey permit.

LANDOWNER PRIVILEGES

The following laws and regulations are specific to spring and fall wild turkey hunting seasons. Hunters must also comply with all other applicable fish and wildlife laws.

Any private landowner is eligible to hunt wild turkeys on their own land without a turkey hunting permit if:

1. That person owns a particular piece of land that is 25 or more contiguous acres in size and is located within the turkey hunting zone designated for the season that they wish to hunt;
2. That person is permanently domiciled on that land;
3. The land is managed for the raising and selling of dairy cattle, dairy products, or beef cattle; and
4. The land is open to hunting including hunting by permission only.

Any family member permanently domiciled on that land is also eligible to hunt wild turkeys on that land without a permit. (Family member means any family member, including spouse, grandchildren, etc. who resides on the property). A landowner must provide proof of eligibility if requested by an agent of the commissioner.

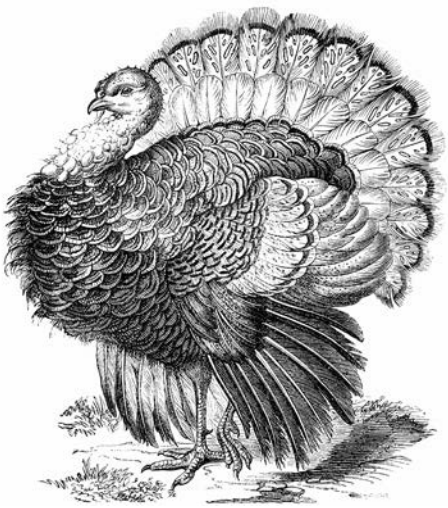
All other standard reporting and tagging procedures are required. Turkey may be taken during any open week of the season. Landowners are allowed a bag limit of up to 2 bearded wild turkeys in the spring season and up to 5 wild turkeys of either-sex in the fall season. Please check the WMD in which you are hunting as some are closed, and others have bag limits varying anywhere from 1, up to 5 turkeys.

WILD TURKEY HUNTING PROHIBITIONS

No Person May:

1. Employ the use of a dog or dogs in any manner while hunting turkey except during the fall season;
2. Engage in an organized drive of any manner;
3. Use bait;
4. Use a trap or other device intended or designed to capture or ensnare wild turkeys;
5. Shoot a turkey while it is in a tree;
6. During the spring season only, present for registration, or allow to be registered in his or her name, a wild turkey that he/she did not lawfully kill;
7. Hunt wild turkeys within a WMD that is closed to hunting wild turkeys.
8. For turkeys harvested in the spring only, possess any part or parts of a wild turkey unless each part is plainly labeled with the name and address of the person who registered the turkey, and the year it was registered;
9. Buy, sell, offer for sale or barter, or aid someone in buying, selling, or offering for sale or barter, any wild turkey (except the plumage of legally taken turkeys).
10. Hunt or register a wild turkey during the spring season after having killed or registered two turkeys.
11. Hunt a wild turkey during the fall season after having killed five turkeys.

Note: <u>no</u> registration is required of wild turkeys harvested during fall 2022.



ATTENTION TURKEY HUNTERS

The Department is collaborating with the University of Maine on a research project to better understand the population dynamics of wild turkeys. As part of this research we marked wild turkeys using leg bands, wing tags and back pack style radio transmitters in a number of areas throughout the state. If you shoot a turkey with a band or transmitter, please report it using the contact information printed on the bird's leg band or radio transmitter.

All radio transmitters must be submitted to MDIFW. Hunters can keep any leg bands or wing tags as long as they have reported them to MDIFW.

WILD TURKEY LEGAL HUNTING HOURS

Legal hunting time is from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

WILD TURKEY LICENSING, PERMIT, & WHO MAY HUNT

License & Permit

The spring and fall wild turkey hunting seasons are open to all hunters with valid big or small game hunting licenses. A combination spring/fall wild turkey permit is also required and available for $20, plus agent fee.

Who May Hunt

The turkey hunter must possess the spring/fall wild turkey permit and their hunting license at all times while hunting. A person may assist in a hunt without a license or permit for that activity as long as that person does not carry a firearm, archery or crossbow equipment (means to kill).

SPRING WILD TURKEY HUNTING

The spring wild turkey hunting season is open statewide.

Equipment

- **Shotgun:** A person can use shotgun-gauges 10 through 20, using shot sizes 4 through 6 or mixed loads that include shot sizes 4 through 7. In addition, shotgun gauges 10 through 28, including .410, may be used with shot sizes 7 through 9 in Tungsten Super Shot (TSS). A person must possess a valid big or small game hunting license and a turkey permit.
- **Bow & Arrow:** A person must possess a valid archery license, and a turkey permit.
- **Crossbow:** A crossbow may be used to hunt wild turkeys during the spring wild turkey hunting season. A person hunting with a crossbow must possess either a valid big or small game firearms hunting license or an archery license as well as a turkey permit and crossbow permit.
- **Dogs:** It is unlawful to hunt with dogs during the spring wild turkey season.
- **Electronic Calling Devices:** The use of electronic calling devices is legal.

FALL WILD TURKEY HUNTING

Equipment

- **Shotgun:** A person can use shotgun gauges 10 through 20, using shot sizes 4 through 6 or mixed loads that include shot sizes 4 through 7. In addition, shotgun gauges 10 through 28, including .410, may be used with shot sizes 7 through 9 in Tungsten Super Shot (TSS). A person must possess a valid big or small game hunting license and a turkey permit.
- **Bow & Arrow:** A person must possess a valid archery license, and a turkey permit.
- **Crossbow:** A crossbow may be used to hunt wild turkeys during the fall wild turkey hunting season. A person hunting with a crossbow must possess either a valid big or small game firearms hunting license or an archery license as well as a turkey permit and crossbow permit.
- **Electronic Calling Devices:** The use of electronic calling devices is legal.
- **Dogs:** Use of dogs is legal to hunt wild turkey during the fall season.
- **For the 2022 Fall Wild Turkey Season Only:** Wild turkey harvested in the fall season ONLY do not need to be registered or have a transportation tag attached for transport. All wild turkeys harvested in the spring season must still be registered and have a transportation tag attached for transport.

Note: The fall shotgun wild turkey season involves tactics that are different from the "sit and call" approach, and hunters are reminded to use extreme caution while hunting. ■

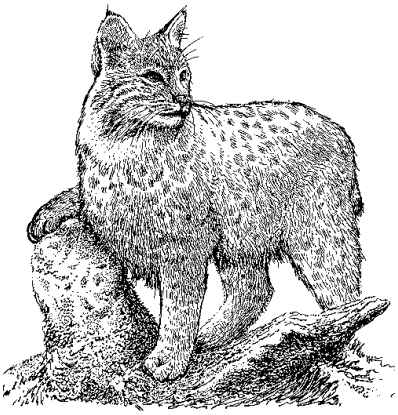
2022-23 WILD TURKEY SEASONS & BAG LIMITS

SEASON	DATES	SEASON BAG LIMIT	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Fall Wild Turkey (bow and arrow, crossbow or shotgun)	***All dates are inclusive except that hunting is prohibited on Sunday.***		
	Wildlife Management Districts 15-17, 20-25 September 19, 2022 - November 7, 2022	5 Wild Turkeys, either-sex, any age*	No more than two wild turkeys may be harvested per permit holder per day, but cannot exceed the WMD bag limit.
	Wildlife Management District 26 September 19, 2022 - November 7, 2022	3 Wild Turkeys, either-sex, any age*	
	Wildlife Management District 28 September 19, 2022 - November 7, 2022	2 Wild Turkeys, either-sex, any age*	
	Wildlife Management Districts 6-8, 10-14, 18, 19, 27 & 29 September 19, 2022 - November 7, 2022	1 Wild Turkey, either-sex, any age*	
	Wildlife Management Districts 1-5 & 9	Closed to taking of Wild Turkeys	
	Youth Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Day September 17, 2022	May take up to 2 Wild Turkeys of any sex or age, without exceeding a WMD bag limit that has a 1-bird limit.	
	**May take up to five wild turkeys for the fall season, but cannot exceed an individual WMD bag limit, the order in which they are taken does not matter.*		
Spring Wild Turkey (bow and arrow, crossbow or shotgun)	**Wildlife Management Districts 7, 9-29** All hunters: May 1, 2023 - June 3, 2023	2 bearded Wild Turkeys**	
	Wildlife Management Districts 1-6 and 8 All hunters: May 1, 2023 - June 3, 2023	1 bearded Wild Turkey**	
	Youth Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Day April 29, 2023	May take up to 2 bearded Wild Turkeys from WMDs that have a 2 bird limit.	
	***May take up to 2 turkeys for the spring season, but an individual WMD bag limit cannot be exceeded. The order in which they are taken does not matter.*		

See page 17 for information on the use of crossbows.

Furbearers & Other Species Hunting

FURBEARERS PERMITS & LICENSES



Bobcat Hunting

Hunters must tag bobcat within 10 days of when the animal was harvested. Bobcat can only be tagged by MDIFW staff. A lower lateral incisor, lower canine tooth, or lower jaw and tissue sample (small piece of tongue) should be submitted when the bobcat is tagged. Bobcat samples must be labeled with species, sex, and seal number. Biologists use this information to determine the age and sex of the bobcats harvested.

Lateral incisors are very small and easy to extract when animal is fresh by running a knife down each side of the tooth. Replacement teeth or age results can be requested by including name and contact information with your sample.

Coyote Hunting

A Coyote Night Hunting Permit is available for $4 and allows a person to hunt coyote at night from December 16 - August 31. "At night" means a ½ hour after sunset until ½ hour before sunrise.

To hunt coyotes at night, hunters must be in possession of a predator calling device (electronic, hand-held, or mouth-operated).

The use of artificial lights to hunt coyote at night is permitted. The use of dogs to hunt coyote at night is prohibited.

**Plus agent fee.*

GIFTING COYOTES

The Department now allows the gifting of unregistered coyotes. A tag must be attached to each gifted coyote with the name and hunting or trapping license number of the person who harvested the coyote, the harvest method (hunt or trap), harvest date, and harvest town. This information must be presented accurately to the tagging agent when the animal is registered.

OTHER SPECIES PERMITS & LICENSES

Crows

Crows are neither migratory waterfowl nor migratory game birds. The use of lead shot and shotguns capable of holding more than three shells is permitted. A migratory waterfowl stamp is not required.

Falconry License

A falconry license, in addition to a regular hunting license, is required of persons who engage in falconry. Copies of the regulations pertaining to this type of hunting are available upon request. To obtain a falconry license, contact MDIFW.

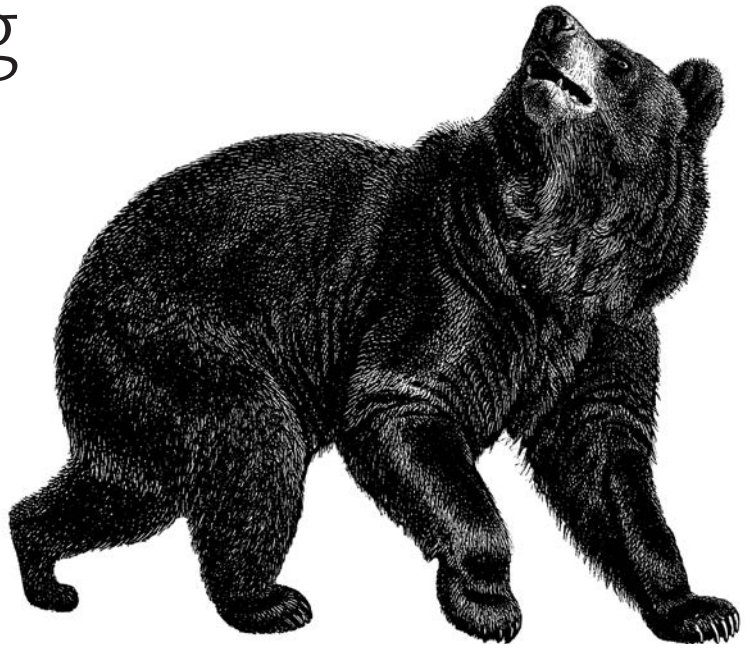
Pheasant Permit

A Pheasant Permit is required for hunters 16 years of age or older hunting on an adult license, in order to hunt or possess pheasant in Cumberland and York counties (permit is not required to hunt or possess pheasant throughout the remainder of the State). Revenue derived from this permit is dedicated to the acquisition of pheasants which are raised and released by private fish and game clubs. ■

NEW ENGLAND COTTONTAIL RABBITS

If you are hunting in southern Maine, MDIFW would like to know if you accidentally take or see New England cottontail rabbits. Cottontail rabbits are smaller than snowshoe hare, have hind feet less than 4 inches in length, and do not turn white in the winter. Their coat remains brown all year round. This is Maine's only native rabbit and MDIFW is actively trying to restore its population. Identifying new areas where the rabbit occurs could greatly benefit restoration efforts. Please let us know about any rabbits you see by contacting a biologist in your region.

Bear Hunting



BEAR HUNTING PERMIT

To hunt for bear prior to the firearms season on deer, a valid hunting license and a bear permit is required. The fee for this permit is:

- Residents $10.00*
- Non-Residents $74.00* (this permit covers the entire bear hunting season)
- Non-Resident Late Season Permit $40* (If a non-resident wishes to hunt bear during the regular firearms season on deer only, a late-season bear hunting permit and a valid hunting license is required.)

To train or hunt bear with the use of a dog, a dog training and hunting permit is required, see page 13 for more information.

To trap for a bear, a bear trapping permit and a big game hunting license or a bear trapping permit and trapping license is required. See Maine Trapping Laws and page 28 of this book for more information. **Plus agent fee.*

See page 14 for information on required removal of bear tooth after harvest.

LANDOWNER PRIVILEGES

Qualified landowners may hunt bear on their own land without a big game license, but are required to have a valid bear hunting permit. See page 6 for special landowner privileges.

BAIT

Bait may be placed up to 30 days prior to opening day of the bear bait hunting season and no later than October 31. Bait areas must be cleaned up by November 10. Bait can be used to assist dog hunters and trappers, but it is illegal to shoot a bear over bait after the close of the bait season.

Hunting with the use of bait is defined as hunting from an observation stand, blind, or other location that overlooks any bait or food, except standing crops and foods that have been left as a result of normal agricultural operations or natural occurrence.

Bear bait means any animal, plant, or derivative thereof, used to attract bear. This does not include packaging or container materials that fall within the definition of litter under Title 17, §2263.

A person may not place any medicinal, poisonous, or stupefying substance to entice any animal, including bear. It is unlawful to disturb or interfere with a bait site using chemicals or any other method.

Bait may not be placed to entice, hunt or trap black bear unless:

- The bait is placed at least 50 yards from any travel way that is accessible by a conventional 2-wheel or 4-wheel drive vehicle.
- The observation stand, blind, or bait area is plainly labeled with a 2 inch by 4 inch tag with the name and address of the baiter.
- The bait is placed more than 500 yards from any solid waste disposal site or campground.
- The bait is placed more than 500 yards from an occupied dwelling, unless written permission is granted by the owner or tenant.
- The person hunting from another person's stand or blind has the owner's permission.
- The person placing bait on another person's land has the landowner's permission (oral or in writing).
- If placing bait on a wildlife management area, you need to secure a permit from MDIFW. To apply for a bear baiting permit, contact the wildlife biologist in your administrative region (see p. 41).
- If placing bait on Public Reserved Land, you need to secure a permit from the Bureau of Parks and Lands (for info, call 207-287-3821).

Baiting of animals is prohibited in State Parks and Historic Sites.

LEGAL HUNTING EQUIPMENT

Bear may be taken by use of rifle, handguns, muzzleloader, shotguns (with slugs only and not larger than 10 gauge), bow and arrow (with a minimum draw weight of 35 lbs.) or crossbow (with a minimum draw weight of 100 lbs.). The use of a firearms with .17 or .22 caliber rimfire cartridges, or a shotgun with shotloads to hunt bear is prohibited.

BEAR HUNTING PROHIBITIONS

A person cannot, within 50 yards of a bait site and without written permission from the person who maintains the bait site:

- hunt, trap, molest, or harass bear
- release a dog or dogs to hunt bear
- train dogs on bear

It is unlawful to hunt bear, or release dogs to hunt bear, within 500 yards of a solid waste disposal site.

A person may not hunt bear after having killed one by hunting and may not trap bear after having killed one by trapping, during the open season of that calendar year. A person can kill and register two bears, one by hunting and one by trapping.

BEAR HUNTING WITH A MAINE GUIDE

Non-residents must employ, and hunt in the presence of, a resident Maine guide in order to hunt bear with dogs. If the nonresident is a licensed Maine guide, they may hunt bear with dogs themselves, and may guide residents, but cannot guide non-residents.

For more info on buying, selling or bartering animals, see pages 11 & 12. For info on tracking wounded bear, deer or moose with a Leashed Dog Tracking License, see page 13.

HUNTING WITH DOGS

It is unlawful to:

- use dogs to hunt bear during the open firearm season on deer
- use more than 6 dogs at any one time to hunt for bear
- kill or wound a bear that is treed or held at bay by another person's dog or dogs unless you have permission from the person conducting the hunt

View NEW Dog Training and Hunting permit requirements and Civil Trespass with Hunting Dog law on page 13.

The total number of nonresident clients hunting bears with dogs with a licensed resident Maine guide may not exceed five. ■

2022 BEAR SEASONS & BAG LIMITS

SEASON	DATES	ANNUAL BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Youth Bear Hunting Day	August 27, 2022	2 may be taken annually—1 by hunting, 1 by trapping
General Hunting	August 29, 2022 - November 26, 2022	
Hunting with Bait *Bait can be placed July 30, 2022*	August 29, 2022 - September 24, 2022	
Trapping	September 1, 2022 - October 31, 2022	
Hunting with Dogs	September 12, 2022 - October 28, 2022	

All dates are inclusive except that hunting is prohibited on Sunday.
See page 17 for information on the use of crossbows. For information on bear trapping, see page 28.

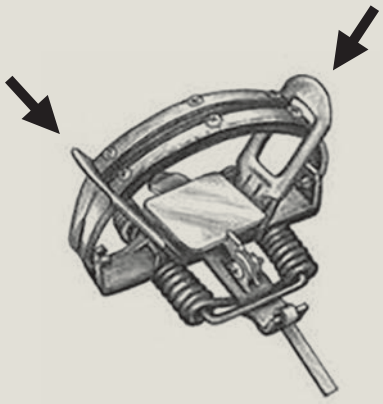
FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION PROGRAM

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937, commonly known as the Pittman-Robertson (PR) Act, established a "User Pay/User Benefit" philosophy for funding state wildlife resource restoration and conservation efforts. These funds have played a vital role in the Maine's wildlife management capabilities since they were first used in 1939.

Revenues collected from excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, pistols, revolvers, bows and arrows are deposited in the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Fund, and used to support wildlife population assessments, long-range species management planning, development of management recommendations, implementation of management programs, acquisition and management of wildlife habitat, and hunter education.

RELEASING DOGS FROM TRAPS

A dog's reaction to being caught in a foothold trap can vary from calm to frightened, but upon being released, they do not normally sustain injury. Foothold traps are designed to hold an animal by the foot. The most common type of foothold trap used in Maine is shown here. If your dog gets caught in one of them, follow these steps:



Courtesy of Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

Stay Calm and Get Help: If available, get a second person to assist you.

Protect Yourself: Some dogs may attempt to bite, especially as the trap is removed from their foot. Protect yourself by securing the dog's muzzle using a jacket or vest, or by placing a barrier between you and the dog.

Open the Trap: If possible, put the trap flat on the ground. To open the trap, push down using your hands or feet on the levers located at either end of the jaws (see arrows in the diagram). This will release tension on the jaws and allow you to remove the dog's foot.

Respect the Trapper, and Obey the Law: It is unlawful to take or destroy a trap without permission from the owner.

Prevent Future Incidents: Trappers commonly use lures and urine to attract furbearers such as foxes and coyotes. You can train your dog to avoid trap locations by utilizing these scents in mock trap sets.

Bear Trapping

BEAR TRAPPING PERMIT

A bear trapping permit and a big game hunting license or a bear trapping permit and trapping license are required to set a trap for a bear during the bear trapping season (September 1 - October 31). You are allowed to take one bear by trapping and one bear by hunting annually (see page 27). The fee for a bear trapping permit is $10 for residents and $67 for nonresidents.

Effective as of January 1, 2022, to purchase a bear trapping permit you have three options:

Option 1: Must have completed a Maine Trapping Education course (includes all furbearers and bear) dated after 1978 OR Previously held a Maine Bear Trapping permit prior to 2022.

Option 2: Must have completed the NEW Maine Black Bear Trapping Education course (online or in-person).

Option 3: A person may trap for bear under the supervision of and in the presence of a licensed hunting guide who has successfully completed the Maine Black Bear Trapping Education course. *These permits are only issued from the Augusta office.

First time trapping licenses (including first time bear trapping permits) must be purchased through the MDIFW office in Augusta (in person or by emailing or mailing a Trapping License Application to the MDIFW Augusta office). Trapping license renewals, including bear trapping renewal permits, may be purchased online at **mefishwildlife.com**.

BEAR TRAPPING LAWS

If you trap for black bear, you are required to follow the same general trapping rules regarding the labeling of traps, the tending of traps, and the need to obtain landowner permission.

If you trap a bear, you are required to follow the same transportation and registration rules as those for bear taken by hunting (page 27).

You are also required to follow other rules specific to bear trapping, as follows:

- You are not allowed to have more than one trap set for bear at any time.
- All bear traps must be tended at least once a day.
- You are not allowed to catch a bear in a trap and allow another person to kill or register the bear.
- You cannot continue to trap for bear after you have already killed or registered one in a trap.
- Bears caught in traps must be killed or released and not moved away from the catch site. A bear caught in a trap may not be used in conjunction with a hunt or to train a dog for bear hunting.
- The same rules apply to hunting and trapping for bear with the use of bait. (See page 26 for rules about the use of bear baits).
- You may not trap within 500 yards of a solid waste disposal site. These areas can be identified by a visible line of demarcation.

  Exception: an agent of the commissioner is exempt for the purpose of live trapping of nuisance bear.

LEGAL TRAPS

Bear may be trapped only with the use of cable traps (foothold cable restraint) or cage-type live traps. The Belisle style and unmodified M-15 are not legal.

Whenever a cage-type live trap is used to trap for bear, the trap must be enclosed and must be heavily constructed to prevent damage from bears, and also must have adequate openings for ventilation and cooling inside when the door is closed. Traps must also be constructed with no sharp intrusions to injure bears, and be large enough for bears to turn around inside the closed trap.

DESIGN & DEPLOYMENT STANDARDS

Design Standards for All Cable Traps Used to Capture Black Bears

Whenever a cable trap is used to trap for bear:

- The cable must have a minimum closing diameter of not less than 2½ inches
- The cable must be at least 3⁄16 inches in diameter
- The cable must include at least one swivel, which is typically located between the foot loop and the anchor point

Deployment Standards for ALL Cable Traps Used to Capture Black Bears

- The cable must be set at or below ground level in such a manner as to catch the animal only by the foot or leg.
- Drags are prohibited.
- The cable must be securely attached to a fixed anchor point.
- If a tree is used as an anchor, it must be at least 6 inches in diameter at 4.5 feet above ground level and must be free of limbs for at least 7 feet above the ground.
- The catch circle, which is the distance from the anchor to the end of the closed cable loop, must be no greater than 8 feet.
- The area within the catch circle must be clear of woody vegetation, debris and man-made material that could cause entanglement of a trapped bear. This restriction does not include a tree used as an anchor. Sticks and rocks, and rotten/decaying woody material may be used for stepping guides, blocking, and backing for trap sets, if they are not rooted to the ground.

Design Standards for Bucket, Tube or Pipe-style Traps Used to Capture Black Bears

Whenever a cable trap is used in conjunction with a device that is designed to capture a bear when it reaches into the device to obtain bait (e.g. bucket, tube, or pipe-style traps):

- The trigger must be recessed at least 12 inches below the opening of the device.
- The opening and inside diameter of the device must be no more than 6 inches.
- A bucket or other similar device can be used if it is modified to have an opening and inside diameter no greater than 6 inches.

Deployment Standards for Bucket, Tube or Pipe-style Traps Used to Capture Black Bears

- Animal-based bait and/or lure cannot be placed within the bucket, tube or pipe. Animal-based bait is defined as animal matter including meat, skin, bones, feathers, hair or any other solid substance that used to be part of an animal. This includes live or dead fish.
- Only non-animal based bait and/or lure can be placed within the device and it must be placed below the trigger.
- The opening to the device must be covered by a weight of at least 30 pounds when set, placed, and tended to prevent access by non-target species.

LEGAL BUCKET, TUBE, OR PIPE-STYLE TRAPS

Examples of Commercially Available Legal Cable Traps (when set according to the parameters described above):

- WCS PRO 12, ADAX12 or Wilson
- Aldrich foot-snare
- Fremont foot-snare
- M-15 (if modified to an opening diameter and inside diameter no greater than 6 inches and trigger recessed at least 12 inches below the opening of the device)
- Crit-r-Done
- Select-a-Catch 1000

Examples of Commercially Available Illegal Cable Traps

- Belisle foot snare
- Unmodified M-15 ■

Hunting Areas

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

All MDIFW-owned Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), except Steve Powell WMA (Swan Island) and portions of Steep Falls and Killick Pond WMA, are open for general-law hunting and trapping. Information on WMAs, including maps can be found at **mefishwildlife.com/wma**. Removable stands or blinds, such as ladder, hang on, pop-up blinds etc. when placed for more than one day require a permit to hunt on MDIFW-owned WMAs. Permanent structures are prohibited. Permission is not needed if blind and stand are removed daily. Placing or hunting over bait and bear /trapping is authorized by permit only. A person may utilize game cameras on WMAs without landowner permission. Contact the appropriate Regional MDIFW office for permit inquiries. Find a WMA near you at **mefishwildlife.com/wma.**

BUREAU OF PARKS AND LANDS (BPL)

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands manages 700,000 acres of land (not including easements and leases) in Maine for a mix of activities, including hunting and trapping. The safety of all visitors is the Bureau's primary concern, so certain heavily developed and high-use areas are closed to hunting for all or part of the year. In other areas, the bureau provides as many hunting and trapping opportunities as are reasonable and consistent with its mandates and with visitor safety.

Hunters and trappers are asked to exercise due caution and care for the safety and enjoyment of other visitors when using Bureau lands by obeying posted information and the rules listed below.

State Parks and Historic Sites

General hunting, except where specifically prohibited, is allowed from the day after Labor Day to May 31. Hunting and trapping must conform with State of Maine laws, MDIFW rules, and local ordinances. Trapping on state park or historic site land in organized townships requires the written permission of the Bureau. There is no hunting allowed in the restricted zone of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway between May 1 and September 30.

- Hunting is not allowed in any Memorial or Historic Site.
- Hunting is not allowed at Andrews Beach; that portion of Bradbury Mountain State Park west of State Route 9; Cobscook Bay; Crescent Beach and Kettle Cove; Damariscotta Lake; Ferry Beach; Holbrook Island Sanctuary; Mackworth Island; Nickerson Lake; Owls Head Light; that portion of Quoddy Head within 1,000 feet of the lighthouse, or at Reid, Sebago Lake, Shackford Head, Two Lights, and Wolfe's Neck Woods State Parks.
- Work areas and areas with significant public use may be posted and closed to hunting from time to time in the interest of public safety.
- The discharge of any weapon is prohibited from or within 300 feet of any picnic area, camping area, campsite, parking area, building, shelter, boat launch site, posted trail or other developed area.
- Loaded weapons are not allowed on the treadway of any trail posted "Closed to hunting".
- The baiting of any animal for the purpose of hunting is not allowed.
- Written permission from the regional manager is required to erect attended or unattended portable tree stands or ladders. Unattended tree stands or ladders will be permitted for a period determined by the Bureau.

Public Lands

Firearms: Loaded firearms are not permitted in campsites, on marked hiking trails, at boat launching sites, or at picnic sites, and shall not be discharged within 300 feet of such areas.

Bear Hunting: A permit is required from the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands to place bait on Public Reserved Land for the purpose of hunting bear.

BPL Tree Stand Policy: Portable tree stands and hunting platforms or ladders that are not permanently attached to a tree are allowed on lands managed by the Bureau, in accordance with state law and Bureau rules.

In organized towns, oral permission from the Bureau is required for portable tree stands or ladders when used on a daily basis; written permission from the Bureau is required to place unattended tree stands or ladders, for a period determined by the Bureau.

In unorganized towns, permission from the Bureau is not required for portable tree stands or ladders when used on a daily basis; written permission from the Bureau is required to place unattended tree stands or ladders, for a period determined by the Bureau.

Any ladder or observation stand for which the Bureau has given permission must be plainly labeled with a 2-inch by 4-inch tag with the names and addresses of everyone authorized to use it.

Portable tree stands or ladders used in conjunction with a valid bear-bait site permit are allowed to remain in place on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands during the baiting season on bear but must be removed from the tree at the end of the bear baiting season.

For More Information

Please call (207) 287-3821, TTY (207) 287-2213 or write to:
Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands
22 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES (NWR)

Note: On National Wildlife Refuges that permit hunting of upland game, persons hunting upland species other than deer and turkey with a shotgun shall possess and use only nontoxic shot while in the field.

More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges open to public hunting and a refuge hunting permit may be required. For more info on federal refuge regulations, contact:

- **Rachel Carson NWR**
  321 Port Road, Wells, ME 04090
  (207) 646-9226
- **Maine Coastal Islands NWR**
  PO Box 279, Milbridge, ME 04658
  (207) 594-0600
- **Sunkhaze Meadows NWR**
  103 Headquarters Rd, Baring, ME 04694
  (207) 454-7161
- **Moosehorn NWR and Aroostook NWR**
  (Baring and Edmunds Units)
  103 Headquarters Rd
  Baring, ME 04694
  (207) 454-7161
- **Lake Umbagog NWR**
  PO Box 240
  Errol, NH 03579
  (603) 482-3415

WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

Oxford County, Maine

The public land within National Forests is open to hunting. Portable observation stands that do not damage live trees may be used. Please contact the Androscoggin Ranger District for more information on bear baiting on National Forest lands at (603) 466-2713.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- Acadia National Park & the Appalachian National Scenic Trail — hunting, trapping, and/ or possessing a weapon is prohibited on land administered by the National Park Service. For further information on these lands contact:
- **Acadia National Park**
  PO Box 177, Bar Harbor, ME 04609
  (207) 288-3338
- **Appalachian Trail Park Office**
  Harpers Ferry Center
  Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
  (304) 535-6270
- **Appalachian Trail Conference**
  New England Regional Office
  PO Box 264, South Egremont, MA 01258
  (413) 528-8002

Mount Desert Island (MDI) is located within the geographic boundary of WMD 26.

BAXTER STATE PARK

Hunting and trapping are prohibited within the Park. Use or possession of any firearm, bow and arrow, sling shot, or air rifle or pistol is prohibited. Firearms may be transported through the Park if kept in a car trunk, enclosed in a case, or otherwise inaccessible to use. Bows may be transported through the Park if unstrung or enclosed in a case. This rule does not apply north of Trout Brook and Wadleigh Brook in T6 R9; in T6 R10; or in T2 R9 and in T2 R10 north of the West Branch of the Penobscot River, east to the thread of Abol Stream and west to the thread of the West Branch of the Penobscot River. Hunting with dogs is prohibited. In the areas within the Park where hunting and trapping are permitted, the general laws of the State pertaining to hunting and trapping apply, except that moose hunting and baiting any animals for hunting purposes are prohibited. For more information, visit baxterstatepark.org

CLOSED AND SPECIAL REGULATION AREAS

Unity Utilities District: It is unlawful to hunt on the Unity Utilities District Property located on Route #139 and Prairie Road in Unity, Waldo County.

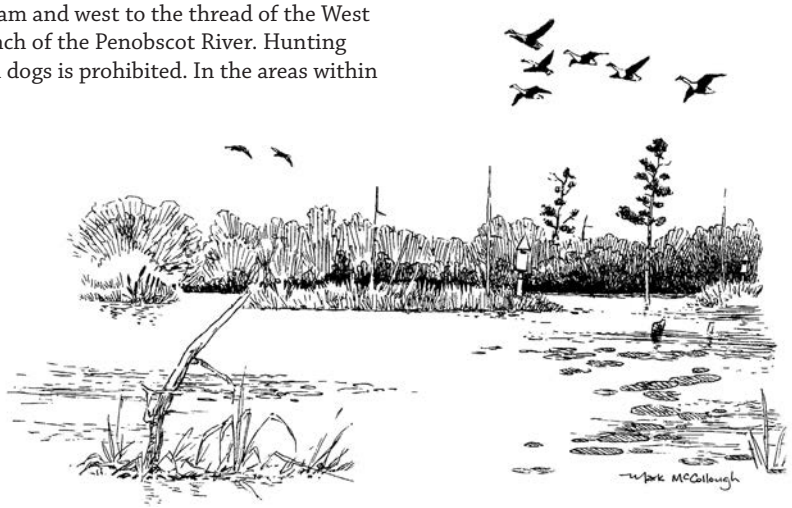
Gray Squirrels: It is unlawful to hunt gray squirrels on any land which is dedicated as a public or private park or on any land located within the limits of the compact or built-up portion of any city or town.

Haley Pond: It is unlawful to hunt waterfowl on Haley Pond in the town of Rangeley and Dallas Plantation, Franklin County.

Wildlife Sanctuaries and Certain Wildlife Management Areas: Unless otherwise specifically provided, it is unlawful to hunt or trap any wild animal or wild bird within the limits of any wildlife sanctuary, any area properly posted by the State of Maine, or within the following described territories:

- Back Bay Sanctuary, Portland
- Beauchamp Sanctuary: Open to the taking of deer with bow and arrow during any open season that allow hunting of deer, including expanded archery.
- Cape Elizabeth Sanctuary***
- Carver's Pond Waterfowl Sanctuary
- Drake's Island Game Sanctuary
- Dry Pond Sanctuary (Crystal Lake)
- Fairfield Sanctuary*
- Glencove Sanctuary
- Gray Game Sanctuary
- Hog Island Game Sanctuary
- Jefferson & Whitefield Sanctuary
- Kineo Point Sanctuary
- Limington, Hollis, Waterboro Sanctuary
- Lowell E. Barnes Area, Oxford County
- Marsh Island Area,* Old Town: Open to the taking of deer with bow and arrow during any open season that allow hunting of deer, including expanded archery.
- Megunticook Lake and Vicinity Sanctuary**
- Merrymeeting Bay Game Sanctuary (See page 38 for additional information)
- Monroe Island Game Sanctuary
- Moosehead Lake Game Sanctuary
- Moosehorn Game Sanctuary
- Narragansett Game Sanctuary*
- Oak Grove Area, Vassalboro
- Ocean Park Game & Bird Sanctuary
- Orrington Game Sanctuary
- Pittston Farm Sanctuary
- Prout's Neck, Richmond's Island*
- Rangeley Game Sanctuary
- Rangeley Lake Sanctuary
- Readfield and Winthrop Sanctuary
- Salmon Pond Sanctuary
- Sebago Lake Basin Area, Standish, Windham
- Somerset Game Sanctuary
- Standish Sanctuary
- Stanwood Wildlife Sanctuary, Ellsworth
- Steve Powell WMA (Swan Island), Richmond
- Thorncrag-Stanton Bird Sanctuary
- Tomhegan Game Sanctuary
- Wells Sanctuary
- Wells & York Game Sanctuary
- Willow Water Game Sanctuary
- Woodbury Sanctuary, Litchfield, Monmouth
- York Game Sanctuary, Franklin County

**Trapping allowed in accordance with the general laws of the State.*
***From October 1 until March 31 of each year, hunting wild animals and wild birds is permitted.*
**** Hunting with bow and arrow only during firearms season and any season that allows archery.*



RAILROAD TRACKS

Stay off the Tracks.
A person may not, without right:

- Enter or drive upon a railroad track with a team or a vehicle, however propelled
- Stand or walk on a railroad track or railroad bridge, or pass over a railroad bridge, except by railroad conveyance.

MAINE INDIAN TERRITORY

As a result of the Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement Acts of 1980, land taken into trust by the United States on behalf of the Penobscot Nation and the Passamaquoddy Tribe within certain designated areas of the State is classified as Indian Territory. Subject to 30 MRS § 6207(6), the Penobscot Nation and the Passamaquoddy Tribe have exclusive authority to regulate hunting and trapping within their respective Indian Territories (which also include their respective Reservations).
At the time of this publication, the following lands were included within Indian Territory:

Penobscot Nation
Franklin County: Alder Stream Twp.

Penobscot County: T2R9 NWP (western portion), T3R9 NWP (eastern portion), T6R8 WELS (western portion), Argyle Township (northern portion), T3R1 NBPP (northeastern portion), and Penobscot Indian Reservation.

Piscataquis County: T6R8 NWP.

Passamaquoddy Tribe
Franklin County: Lowelltown, T1R8 WBKP.

Hancock County: T3&4ND.

Penobscot County: T3R9 NWP, T5R1 NBPP, TAR7 WELS.

Somerset County: Holeb T6R1 NBKP, Prentiss, T4R4 NBKP, Hammond Township, T3R4 NBKP, Alder Brook Township, T3R3 NBKP, Pittston Academy Grant, T2R4 NBKP Soldiertown Township, T2R3 NBKP.

Washington County: T5ND, BPP; T19 MD, Indian Township, and Pleasant Point, Perry.

These areas should be conspicuously posted as Indian Territory. Anyone wishing to hunt or trap within either Tribe's Indian Territory should contact the appropriate tribal agency for further information.

Penobscot Nation
Department of Natural Resources
12 Wabanaki Way
Indian Island, ME 04468
(207) 817-7331

Passamaquoddy Tribe
Ranger Department
Box 301, Princeton, ME 04668
(207) 796-2677

For more Tribal Information:
Maine Tribal-State Commission
13 Commissary Point Rd
Trescott, ME 04652
(207) 271-7762 ■

Hunting & Trapping on Private Property

The MDIFW Landowner Relations Program is actively working to enhance relationships between land owners and land users.

With approximately 94% of the land in Maine privately owned, everyone MUST respect landowners and their rights. Landowner wishes have to be followed by all outdoor recreation participants to help ensure access and use of private property in the years to come.

Summarized below are several laws enacted by the Maine Legislature addressing landowners' concerns. For more details, consult the Maine Revised Statutes cited in parenthesis.

OUTDOOR PARTNERS

Landowner Liability (14 MRSA §159-A) Limited Duty
An owner, lessee, manager, holder of an easement or occupant of premises shall owe no duty of care to keep the premises safe for entry or use by others for recreational or harvesting activities or to give warning of any hazardous condition, use, structure or activity on these premises to persons entering for those purposes. This subsection applies regardless of whether permission has been given to pursue recreational or harvesting activities on the premises.

Exceptions to Limited Duty
1. For a willful or malicious failure to guard or warn against a dangerous condition, use, structure, or activity; and
2. When financial consideration is paid for the exclusive right to make use of the property for recreational activities.

Costs and Fees
The court shall award any direct legal costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees, to an owner, lessee, manager, holder of an easement or occupant who is found not to be liable for injury to a person or property pursuant to this section.

Posting of Land and Criminal Trespass (17-A MRSA, §402)
Property is posted if it is marked with signs or paint in one of the following ways and in a manner that is reasonably likely to come to the attention of an intruder:

1. Signs must indicate that access is prohibited, that access is prohibited without permission of the landowner or landowner's agent, or that access for a particular activity is prohibited.
2. One vertical "OSHA Safety Purple" stripe at least one inch in width and at least 8 inches in length means "Access by Permission Only" when it is placed on trees, posts or stones between three and five feet off the ground. These signs or paint stripes must mark the property at distances no more than 100 feet apart at locations that are readily visible to any person approaching the property, and at all vehicular access entries from a public road.

In addition, landowners may also, either verbally or in writing, personally communicate to others that access is prohibited. Remember, it is unlawful to remove, mutilate, deface or destroy a sign or paint mark that is placed in order to prohibit or restrict access; and it is unlawful to post the land of another without permission of the landowner.

Other Provisions of Posting

1. Signs or paint markings must be at all vehicular access entrances from a public way.
2. It is unlawful to post the land of another or to remove, destroy, mutilate or deface any signs or paint marks.

Trespass by Motor Vehicle (17 MRSA, §§3853-C)

A person may not park a motor vehicle or allow a motor vehicle under that person's control to remain parked:

1. In a private drive or private way in a manner that blocks or interferes with the free passage of other vehicles without the permission of the owner of that private drive or way; or
2. On a public highway in a manner that blocks the entrance to a private drive, gate or barway.

Trespass Damages (14 MRSA, §7551-B)

Any person who enters another person's land without permission and causes damage to that person's property is liable to the owner in a civil action. Violations of this law will have the following results:

1. If the damage is intentional, the person doing the damage is liable to the owner for two times the actual damage, plus additional costs including attorneys' fees.
2. If the damage is unintentional, the person doing the damage is liable to the owner for the amount of the actual damage including attorneys' fees.
3. A person doing damage to property of another may also be charged criminally for causing the damage.

Unlawful Cutting of Trees (14 MRSA, §7552, and 17 MRSA, §2510)

It is unlawful for any person to intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or negligently cut down or fell any tree without the consent of the owner of the property on which the tree stands.

Abuse of Another Persons Property While Hunting (12 MRSA §10652)

It is unlawful to tear down a fence or wall, trample or destroy any crop, leave open any bars or gates, destroy, tear down, deface or otherwise damage a property posting sign, or insert objects into trees on another person's land without permission or erect or use a portable or permanent ladder or observation stand without first labeling the stand and having landowner permission (see page 17 for observation stand information).

Disposal of Offal; Littering (12 MRSA §11221)

It is unlawful to dispose of litter anywhere in this state except in areas or receptacles designed for that purpose. As litter relates to the proper disposal of legally taken game, a person may not drop, deposit, discard, dump or otherwise dispose of a carcass, waste parts or remains of a wild animal, except waste parts or remains resulting from the normal field dressing of lawfully harvested wild game or the lawful use of waste parts or remains of wild game as bait.

Civil Trespass (12 MRSA, §10657) Prohibition

While engaging in any activity regulated by MDIFW, a person, knowing that they are not licensed or privileged to do so, may not:

1. Enter, or cause a projectile to enter, any place from which that person may lawfully be excluded and that is posted in accordance with Title 17-A, section 402, subsection 4, in a manner reasonably likely to come to the attention of intruders, or that is fenced or otherwise enclosed in a manner designed to exclude intruders; or
2. Enter, remain in, or cause a projectile to enter or remain in any place in defiance of a lawful order not to enter or an order to vacate that was personally communicated to that person by the owner of the place or another authorized person.

Definition of projectile: For the purposes of this section, "projectile" means a bullet, pellet, shot, shell, ball, arrow, bolt or other object propelled or launched from a firearm or a bow, crossbow or similar tensile device.

COMMERCIAL SHOOTING AREAS

A person may not charge any fee for access to land if the fee is contingent upon the taking of game on that land or directly related to the taking of game on the land, unless the land is an authorized commercial shooting area whose owner has been licensed by the commissioner to charge others for the opportunity to hunt mallard ducks, pheasants, quail, Chukar partridge, and Hungarian partridge (12 MRSA § 12101).

The operator of a commercial shooting area may authorize a person to hunt other wild birds or wild animals in a commercial shooting area during the regular open season on those species, in accordance with the provisions of 12 MRSA Part 13, as long as the person possesses a valid State of Maine hunting license that allows the hunting of those wild birds and animals.

The operator of the commercial shooting area shall provide to each person taking birds in that area a receipted invoice or bill of sale for possession and transportation of those birds.

Enforcement

Enforcement of the trespass laws of a commercial shooting area is the responsibility of the owner and may not in any manner be considered an MDIFW obligation.

Commercial Shooting Areas

For a complete copy of the law governing commercial shooting areas, and to obtain a list of commercial shooting areas, call MDIFW at (207) 287-8000. ■

This time chart is NOT the sunrise and sunset time table and has already been adjusted to display the actual legal hunting hours.
Note: This table is not to be used for migratory birds, see page 40.

2022-23 LEGAL HUNTING HOURS

DAY	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
01	5:27 - 7:42	6:03 - 6:46	6:43 - 5:54	6:23 - 4:26		6:25 - 5:13	5:43 - 5:52	5:46 - 7:32	4:55 - 8:10	4:22 - 8:44	4:23 - 8:55	4:51 - 8:31
02	5:29 - 7:40		6:45 - 5:52	6:24 - 4:25	6:43 - 4:36	6:24 - 5:15	5:41 - 5:54		4:54 - 8:11	4:22 - 8:45		4:52 - 8:30
03	5:30 - 7:38	6:06 - 6:42	6:46 - 5:51	6:25 - 4:25	6:43 - 4:37	6:22 - 5:16	5:40 - 5:55	5:43 - 7:35	4:52 - 8:13	4:21 - 8:46	4:24 - 8:54	4:53 - 8:29
04		6:07 - 6:40	6:47 - 5:49		6:43 - 4:38	6:21 - 5:17	5:38 - 5:56	5:41 - 7:36	4:51 - 8:14		4:25 - 8:54	4:54 - 8:28
05	5:32 - 7:35	6:08 - 6:38	6:49 - 5:48	6:27 - 4:24	6:43 - 4:39			5:39 - 7:38	4:49 - 8:15	4:21 - 8:47	4:25 - 8:54	4:55 - 8:26
06	5:33 - 7:33	6:09 - 6:36		6:28 - 4:24	6:42 - 4:40	6:19 - 5:20	5:34 - 5:59	5:37 - 7:39	4:48 - 8:16	4:20 - 8:48	4:26 - 8:53	
07	5:34 - 7:31	6:11 - 6:35	5:51 - 4:46	6:29 - 4:24	6:42 - 4:41	6:17 - 5:22	5:33 - 6:00	5:35 - 7:40		4:20 - 8:48	4:27 - 8:53	4:58 - 8:23
08	5:36 - 7:29	6:12 - 6:33	5:53 - 4:44	6:30 - 4:24		6:16 - 5:23	5:31 - 6:02	5:33 - 7:41	4:45 - 8:19	4:20 - 8:49	4:27 - 8:53	4:59 - 8:22
09	5:37 - 7:27		5:54 - 4:43	6:31 - 4:24	6:42 - 4:43	6:15 - 5:25	5:29 - 6:03		4:44 - 8:20	4:19 - 8:50		5:00 - 8:21
10	5:38 - 7:25	6:14 - 6:29	5:56 - 4:42	6:32 - 4:24	6:41 - 4:44	6:13 - 5:26	5:27 - 6:04	5:30 - 7:44	4:43 - 8:21	4:19 - 8:50	4:29 - 8:52	5:01 - 8:19
11		6:16 - 6:27	5:57 - 4:41		6:41 - 4:45	6:12 - 5:27	5:25 - 6:06	5:28 - 7:45	4:42 - 8:22		4:30 - 8:51	5:02 - 8:18
12	5:40 - 7:22	6:17 - 6:26	5:58 - 4:40	6:33 - 4:24	6:41 - 4:46			5:26 - 7:46	4:40 - 8:23	4:19 - 8:51	4:31 - 8:50	5:03 - 8:16
13	5:42 - 7:20	6:18 - 6:24		6:34 - 4:24	6:40 - 4:48	6:09 - 5:30	6:22 - 7:08	5:25 - 7:48	4:39 - 8:24	4:19 - 8:52	4:31 - 8:50	
14	5:43 - 7:18	6:19 - 6:22	6:01 - 4:38	6:35 - 4:25	6:40 - 4:49	6:07 - 5:32	6:20 - 7:10	5:23 - 7:49		4:19 - 8:52	4:32 - 8:49	5:06 - 8:13
15	5:44 - 7:16	6:21 - 6:20	6:02 - 4:37	6:36 - 4:25		6:06 - 5:33	6:18 - 7:11	5:21 - 7:50	4:37 - 8:27	4:18 - 8:53	4:33 - 8:49	5:07 - 8:11
16	5:45 - 7:14		6:04 - 4:36	6:37 - 4:25	6:39 - 4:51	6:04 - 5:35	6:16 - 7:12		4:36 - 8:28	4:18 - 8:53		5:08 - 8:10
17	5:46 - 7:12	6:23 - 6:17	6:05 - 4:35	6:37 - 4:25	6:38 - 4:53	6:03 - 5:36	6:14 - 7:13	5:18 - 7:53	4:35 - 8:29	4:19 - 8:54	4:35 - 8:47	5:09 - 8:08
18		6:25 - 6:15	6:06 - 4:34		6:37 - 4:54	6:01 - 5:37	6:12 - 7:15	5:16 - 7:54	4:34 - 8:30		4:36 - 8:46	5:11 - 8:07
19	5:49 - 7:08	6:26 - 6:14	6:08 - 4:33	6:39 - 4:26	6:37 - 4:55			5:14 - 7:55	4:33 - 8:31	4:19 - 8:54	4:37 - 8:45	5:12 - 8:05
20	5:50 - 7:06	6:27 - 6:12		6:39 - 4:26	6:36 - 4:57	5:58 - 5:40	6:09 - 7:17	5:13 - 7:56	4:32 - 8:32	4:19 - 8:55	4:38 - 8:44	
21	5:51 - 7:04	6:28 - 6:10	6:10 - 4:31	6:40 - 4:27	6:35 - 4:58	5:57 - 5:42	6:07 - 7:19	5:11 - 7:58		4:19 - 8:55	4:39 - 8:44	5:14 - 8:02
22	5:52 - 7:03	6:30 - 6:09	6:12 - 4:31	6:40 - 4:27		5:55 - 5:43	6:05 - 7:20	5:09 - 7:59	4:30 - 8:34	4:19 - 8:55	4:40 - 8:43	5:15 - 8:00
23	5:53 - 7:01		6:13 - 4:30	6:41 - 4:28	6:34 - 5:01	5:53 - 5:44	6:03 - 7:21		4:29 - 8:35	4:20 - 8:55		5:16 - 7:58
24	5:55 - 6:59	6:32 - 6:05	6:14 - 4:29	6:41 - 4:29	6:33 - 5:02	5:52 - 5:46	6:01 - 7:22	5:06 - 8:01	4:28 - 8:36	4:20 - 8:55	4:42 - 8:41	5:18 - 7:57
25		6:34 - 6:04	6:15 - 4:29		6:32 - 5:03	5:50 - 5:47	5:59 - 7:24	5:04 - 8:03	4:27 - 8:37		4:43 - 8:40	5:19 - 7:55
26	5:57 - 6:55	6:35 - 6:02	6:17 - 4:28	6:42 - 4:30	6:31 - 5:05			5:03 - 8:04	4:26 - 8:38	4:21 - 8:55	4:44 - 8:39	5:20 - 7:53
27	5:58 - 6:53	6:36 - 6:01		6:42 - 4:31	6:30 - 5:06	5:47 - 5:50	5:56 - 7:26	5:01 - 8:05	4:26 - 8:39	4:21 - 8:55	4:45 - 8:37	
28	5:59 - 6:51	6:38 - 5:59	6:19 - 4:27	6:42 - 4:31	6:29 - 5:08	5:45 - 5:51	5:54 - 7:27	5:00 - 8:06		4:21 - 8:55	4:46 - 8:36	5:22 - 7:50
29	6:01 - 6:49	6:39 - 5:58	6:20 - 4:26	6:42 - 4:32			5:52 - 7:29	4:58 - 8:08	4:24 - 8:41	4:22 - 8:55	4:47 - 8:35	5:24 - 7:48
30	6:02 - 6:47		6:21 - 4:26	6:43 - 4:33	6:27 - 5:10		5:50 - 7:30		4:24 - 8:42	4:22 - 8:55		5:25 - 7:46
31		6:42 - 5:55		6:43 - 4:34	6:26 - 5:12		5:48 - 7:31		4:23 - 8:43		4:50 - 8:33	5:26 - 7:44

**Legal hunting hours are based on sunrise/sunset in Bangor, Maine (Eastern Standard Time).*
Exceptions: *Raccoon, Coyote, and Migratory Bird hunting (see separate legal hunting hours for these species).*

Migratory Game Birds

For the purpose of this section, migratory game birds include and are limited to species in the following families: 1. Anatidae (wild ducks, geese, and brant); 2. Rallidae (rails, coots, moorhens and gallinules); and 3. Scolopacidae (woodcock and snipe). Except as expressly provided in the regulations, it is unlawful to hunt, capture, kill, take, possess, transport, buy or sell any migratory game bird or part thereof.

1. Hunting Methods

Aids and Equipment: It is lawful to hunt migratory game birds with dogs, artificial decoys, manually or mouth-operated bird calls, hand-held bow and arrow, crossbow, the practice of falconry, or with a shotgun not larger than No.10 gauge and incapable of holding more than three shells, fired from the shoulder. Every other method is unlawful.

Watercraft: It is lawful to hunt migratory game birds from floating craft (except a sinkbox), including those capable of being propelled by motor, sail and wind, or both, only when (1) the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, as the case may be, and (2) the progress or motion of the craft in the water has ceased and the craft is drifting, beached, moored, resting at anchor, or is being propelled solely by paddle, oars, or pole. It is lawful to use a motor or sail on a craft as a means of retrieving or picking up dead or injured birds.

The shooting of crippled waterfowl from a motorboat under power is permitted on those coastal waters and all waters of rivers and streams lying seaward from the first upstream bridge.

2. Transportation

Any person, without a permit, may transport lawfully killed and possessed migratory game birds into, within, or out of any State, or export such birds to a foreign country during and after the open seasons in the State where taken, subject to the following conditions and restrictions:

Identifiable Condition: If such birds are dressed, one fully-feathered wing must remain attached to each bird so as to permit species identification while being transported between the place where taken and the personal abode of the possessor or a commercial preservation facility.

Properly Marked Package: The package or container in which such birds are transported shall have the name and address of both the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers and kinds of birds contained therein clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

3. Possession for the Purpose of Processing, Transportation, or Storage

Tagging Requirement: A hunter who legally takes and possesses migratory game birds and wishes to place or leave any such birds in the custody of any other person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage) must sign and attach a tag to the birds stating the hunter's address, the total number and kinds of birds, and the date such birds were killed. No person may receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are tagged as provided above.

Untagged Birds: If birds are not tagged as provided above, the only legal place of storage is the personal abode of the hunter who legally took and possesses the birds.

Vehicles: Legally possessed migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor are not deemed to be in storage or temporary storage.

Record Keeping: Any commercial picking establishment or cold-storage or locker plant receiving, possessing, or having in custody any migratory game birds must maintain accurate records showing the numbers and kinds of such birds, the dates received and disposed of, and the names and addresses of the persons from whom such birds were received and to whom they were delivered. These records shall be retained for a period of 1 year from the close of the open season on migratory game birds in the state where the picking establishment or cold-storage or locker plant is located.

4. Termination of Possession

For the purposes of this part, the possession of birds legally taken and properly tagged by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by the hunter to a person other than the hunter:

1. as a gift
2. to a post office
3. to a common carrier
4. to a commercial cold-storage or locker plant for subsequent transportation by the postal service or a common carrier to someone other than the hunter

5. Wounded Live Migratory Game Birds

Every migratory game bird wounded by hunting and reduced to possession by the hunter shall be immediately killed and become a part of the daily bag limit.

6. Possession of Plumage

Any person, without a permit, may possess and transport for his own use the plumage and skins of lawfully taken migratory game birds.

7. Wanton Waste of Migratory Game Birds

No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird pursuant to this regulation without any visible means to retrieve and without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird and include it in their daily bag limit.

The shooting of crippled waterfowl from a motorboat under power is permitted on those coastal waters and all waters of rivers and streams lying seaward from the first upstream bridge.

Additionally, Maine state law states that a person may not waste a wild bird that has been wounded or killed by that person while hunting, or intentionally leave any wounded or killed animal in the field or forest without making a reasonable effort to retrieve and render it for consumption or use.

8. Open Seasons, Limits, and Other Provisions

Migratory game birds may be taken only in accordance with open seasons, legal shooting hours, and daily bag and possession limits.

Bag Limit: No person may take in any one day more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies.

Possession Limit: No person may possess more birds lawfully taken than the possession limit or the aggregate possession limit, whichever applies.

Opening Day: On the opening day of the season, no person shall possess any freshly killed migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limit, or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies.

Closed Season: No person may possess any freshly killed migratory game birds during the closed season.

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

NOTICE: The material below is only a summary of Federal rules. Each hunter should also consult the actual Federal regulations, which may be found in Title 50, code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.

RESTRICTIONS. No person shall take migratory game birds:

A. While possessing shot (either in shot shells or as loose shot for muzzleloading) other than steel shot or such shot approved as nontoxic while taking Anatidae (ducks, geese, and brant), coots and any species that make up aggregate bag limits during concurrent seasons.

B. With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance.

C. With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that cannot be removed without disassembling the gun.

D. From a sink box (a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).

E. From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance. "Paraplegic" means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease of or injury to the spinal cord.

F. By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.

G. Using records or tapes of migratory bird calls or sounds, or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls.

H. By means or aid of any motor driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird.

I. By the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. However, nothing in this paragraph prohibits the taking of migratory game birds on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas: a) standing crops or flooded standing crops; standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as a result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice; b) from a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation; c) from a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of grain or other feed.

J. A person must also retain the bird in their actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) their automobile or principle means of land transportation; or (b) their personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging.

PHONE NUMBERS YOU MIGHT NEED

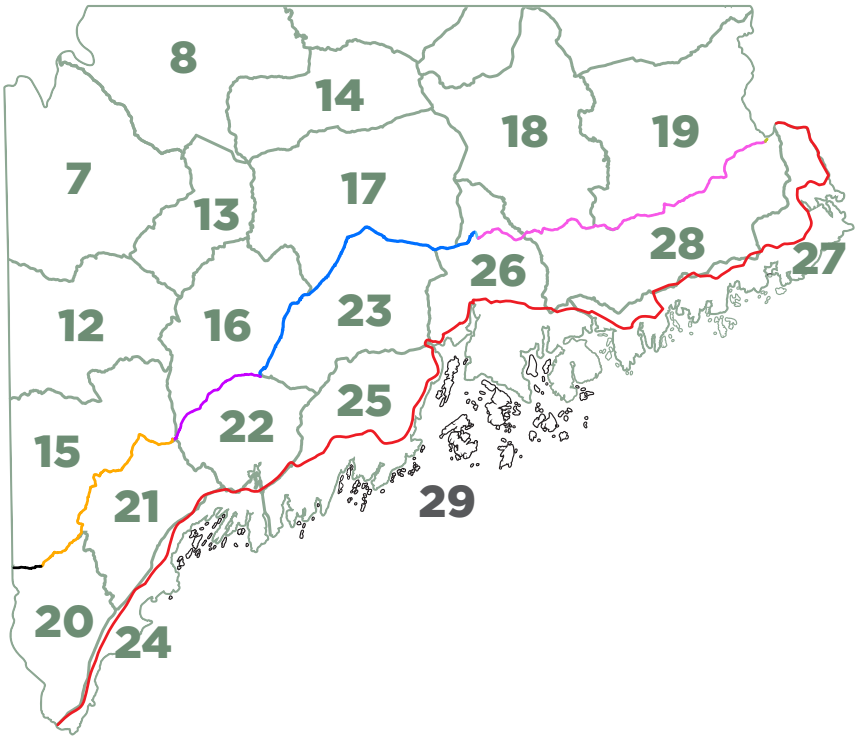
Game Warden Headquarters

Ashland..... (207) 435-3231
Gray..... (207) 657-2345
Greenville..... (207) 695-3756
Bangor..... (207) 941-4470
Sidney ..... (207) 287-5300

If you are unable to locate a warden at one of the above headquarters, contact either the MDIFW headquarters in Augusta at (207) 287-2766 or the nearest State Police Barracks.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

E. Orland ..... (207) 469-6842



Maine Migratory Hunting Zones Map

- Wildlife Management Districts
- South/Coastal Zone line (Route 1)

North/South Zone Line Segments

- Stony Brook to Rte 9
- Rte 9 to Rte 15
- Rte 15 to I-95
- I-95 to Rte 202
- Rte 202 to Rte 11
- Rte 11 to Rte 110
- Rte 110 to Maine-New Hampshire Border

HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE PLANTS!

Clean your boat trailer and gear of all plants and plant fragments.

2022-23 MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS SEASONS & BAG LIMITS

SPECIES		SEASON		LIMITS	
		FIRST DAY	LAST DAY	DAILY BAG	POSSESSION
Crows*	Wildlife Management Districts 1 - 6	August 1, 2022	September 23, 2022	No Limit	
		February 6, 2023	April 15, 2023		
		August 1, 2023	September 23, 2023		
	Wildlife Management Districts 7 - 29	August 1, 2022	September 23, 2022		
		January 21, 2023	March 31, 2023		
		August 1, 2023	September 23, 2023		
Common Snipe**		September 1, 2022	January 3, 2023	8	24
Woodcock**		September 24, 2022	November 15, 2022	3	9
Rails (Sora And Virginia)***		September 1, 2022	November 21, 2022	25 *Singly or in aggregate* 25	
Canada Goose (Early)	North Zone	September 1, 2022	September 24, 2022	6	18
	South Zone	September 1, 2022	September 24, 2022	10	30
	Coastal Zone	September 1, 2022	September 24, 2022	10	30
Canada Goose *Regular, White-Fronted Geese*	North Zone	October 1, 2022	December 9, 2022	2	6
	South Zone	October 1, 2022	October 15, 2022		
		November 1, 2022	December 24, 2022		
	Coastal Zone	October 1, 2022	October 8, 2022	3	9
		October 27, 2022	January 7, 2023		
Snow Geese *Including Blue Geese*		October 1, 2022	January 31, 2023	25	
Ducks *Including Black Ducks, American Coot, American Wigeon, Common Goldeneye, Scaup, Sea Ducks, Teal, Mergansers, Pintails, Ring-Necked Duck*	North Zone	September 26, 2022	December 3, 2022	6	18
	South Zone	October 1, 2022	October 15, 2022		
		November 1, 2022	December 24, 2022	*Species-specific bag limits may be found on page 37. All duck species not listed under exceptions on page 37 have a daily bag limit of 4 and possession limit of 12.*	
	Coastal Zone	October 1, 2022	October 8, 2022		
		November 8, 2022	January 7, 2023		
Brant	North Zone	September 26, 2022	November 22, 2022	2	6
	South Zone	October 1, 2022	October 15, 2022		
		November 1, 2022	December 13, 2022		
	Coastal Zone	October 1, 2022	October 8, 2022		
		November 19, 2022	January 7, 2023		

All dates are inclusive except that hunting is prohibited on Sunday.

**Crows are neither migratory waterfowl or migratory game birds. The use of lead shot and the use of a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells is permitted. A migratory waterfowl stamp is not required. Use of electronic calls is permitted.*

***Woodcock & Snipe are considered migratory game birds, not migratory waterfowl. The use of lead shot is permitted. The use of a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells is prohibited. A migratory waterfowl stamp is not required.*

****Rails are considered migratory game birds not migratory waterfowl. The use of lead shot and a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells is prohibited. A migratory waterfowl stamp is not required.*

2022-23 MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS SEASONS & BAG LIMITS

SPECIES AND AREA		SEASONS		LIMITS	
		FIRST DAY	LAST DAY	DAILY BAG	POSSESSION
Special Falconry Season *In addition to the regular migratory bird season (on Ducks, Geese, Mergansers, American Coots.)*	North Zone	December 17, 2022	February 7, 2023	3	9
	South Zone	January 9, 2023	March 1, 2023	*Respectively, singly or in aggregate* *Species Restrictions Apply*	
	Coastal Zone	January 9, 2023	March 1, 2023		
Special Youth Waterfowl Hunts *All duck species except Harlequins, Barrow's Goldeneye, and Moorhens and Gallinules – may be hunted on these days, including geese. For the Sept 24, Oct 22, Oct 29 and Dec 10 youth days, the goose limit is under the Regular Season limit. On youth waterfowl hunting days, scoters, eiders, and long-tailed ducks may be taken as part of the 6 bird daily limit on regular ducks. Also on these dates, 2 Black Ducks may be taken.*	North Zone	September 17, 2022 & December 10, 2022		*Special regulations apply to youth and accompanying adult. Please see Junior Hunters section.*	
	South Zone	September 24, 2022 & October 22, 2022			
	Coastal Zone	September 24, 2022 & October 29, 2022			

EXCEPTIONS

Harlequin Ducks, Barrow's Goldeneye, Moorhens & Gallinules	Closed Season
American Coots	In addition to the 6 duck daily bag limit, hunters may take 5 coots. It is unlawful to possess more than 15 coots at any time.
Northern Pintails, Mottled Ducks, Fulvous Whistling Ducks, Scaup and Hen Mallards, Hen Eiders	The daily limit on these species is 1 bird; possession limit is 3.
Black Duck, Redhead, and Canvasback	The daily limit on these species is 2 birds; possession limit is 6.
Mallards	The daily limit is 2, only one may be a hen; possession limit is 6, only 3 may be hens.
Mergansers (Common, Red-breasted and Hooded)	In addition to the 6 duck daily bag limit, hunters may take 5 mergansers in the aggregate, with a species specific limit of 5. It is unlawful to possess more than 15 mergansers at any time.
Sea Ducks (Scoter, Eider, and Long-Tailed Duck)	Hunters may take 4 sea ducks under the general 6 duck daily bag limit. No more than 3 scoter, eider (no more than 1 hen eider), or long-tailed duck.
Wood Ducks	The daily limit is 3 birds, possession limit is 9.

Hunting Hours: Hunting hours on migratory game birds are from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset (see chart on page 40).

Pursuit of Crippled Waterfowl Under Power: The shooting of crippled waterfowl from a motorboat under power is permitted on those coastal waters and all waters of rivers and streams lying seaward from the first upstream bridge.

Definition of North and South Zone Line: Maine-New Brunswick border in Baileyville, Maine west along Stony Brook to Route 9 in Baileyville. West along Route 9 to Route 15 in Bangor. West along Route 15 to I-95 in Bangor. Southwest along I-95 to Route 202 (Exit 109A) in Augusta. Southwest along Route 202 to Route 11 in Auburn. Southwest along Route 11 to Route 110 in Newfield. West along Route 110 to Maine-New Hampshire border.

Definition of Coastal Zone Line: Includes areas south of a line beginning at the Maine-New Brunswick border in Calais at the Route 1 bridge, South along Route 1 to the Maine-New Hampshire border in Kittery.

Nontoxic Shot - Statewide: The use or possession of ammunition loaded with other than nontoxic shot while hunting wild ducks, geese, brant, rails, or coots is prohibited. Nontoxic shot means any shot type that does not cause sickness and death when ingested by these birds and is approved for use by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director. Steel, bismuth-tin, iron-tungsten, iron-tungsten-nickel, copper-clad-iron, corrosion-inhibited copper, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, tungsten-matrix, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-tin-iron, tungsten-tin-bismuth, tungsten-tin-iron-nickel, and tungsten-iron-polymer shot have been approved nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. See the USFWS website on nontoxic shot for more detail: fws.gov.

On National Wildlife Refuges that permit hunting of upland game, persons hunting upland species other than deer and turkey with a shotgun shall possess and use only nontoxic shot while in the field.

Haley Pond - Closed to Hunting: It is unlawful to hunt waterfowl on Haley Pond in the Town of Rangeley and Dallas Plt. in Franklin County.

Wildfowl Decoys: It is unlawful to shoot, or shoot at, or near, any wildfowl decoy of another person, with a firearm, bow and arrow or crossbow. "Near" means the area encompassed by the set of decoys and including the area 50 yards away from the outer perimeter of the set of decoys.

LAWS SPECIFIC TO MERRYMEETING BAY

Laws outlined below apply to the waters of the Kennebec River, known as Merrymeeting Bay, bounded as follows: From the high tension wires at Chop's Point to the first dam on the Androscoggin River, to the first road bridge on the Muddy, Cathance, Abbagadassett, and Eastern rivers and the Richmond-Dresden bridge on the Kennebec River, being in the counties of Cumberland, Sagadahoc, and Lincoln.

- No artificial cover which is termed stationary blind, or parts thereof, used for hunting purposes shall be left or allowed to remain in the waters of Merrymeeting Bay between one hour after legal shooting time and one hour before legal shooting time.
- No duck decoys shall be allowed to remain in the waters of Merrymeeting Bay at any time during the period from one hour after legal shooting time until one hour before legal shooting time.
- No power boat may be operated in Merrymeeting Bay at a speed in excess of 10 miles per hour except within the confines of the buoyed channels.

LAWS SPECIFIC TO MERRYMEETING BAY GAME SANCTUARY

Hunting is not allowed within this sanctuary. The corners of the sanctuary are marked by orange buoys. A map of the sanctuary can be found at **mefishwildlife.com** or by calling MDIFW at 287-8000.

Merrymeeting Bay sanctuary is an area easterly of the confluence of the Abagadasset River and Merrymeeting Bay, south of Browns point (formerly Kelley's point) in Bowdoinham and the high tension powerlines crossing the Kennebec River, and west of the shoreline of Chopps point in Woolwich. Waypoints for the sanctuary are as follows (Datum WGS84):

NW Corner: 44° 00.148' 69° 50.645'	**SE Corner:** 43° 59.531' 69° 49.533'
NE Corner: 43° 00.035' 69° 49.169'	**SW Corner:** 43° 59.894' 69° 50.752'

- Using motorboat within Merrymeeting Bay Game Sanctuary: A person may not use a motorboat within Merrymeeting Bay Game Sanctuary, except that motorboats may be used between the Woolwich shore on the east and a line on the west designated by a series of orange markers adjacent to the edge of the grassy marsh area from Kelly's Point to the southern boundary of the Merrymeeting Bay Game Sanctuary.

STAMP REQUIREMENTS

The State Migratory Waterfowl Permit is required of anyone 16 years of age or older if they are hunting on an adult license, but is not required if continuing to hunt on a junior license for the remainder of the calendar year. Anyone who turns 16, whether hunting on an adult license or a junior license, must purchase a Federal Stamp and validate it with the holder's signature written across the face of the stamp in ink.

The state permit may be purchased for $7.50 from local license agents, online at mefishwildlife.com, or from the MDIFW office in Augusta. The Federal stamp can be purchased by visiting your local post office or USPS.com.

The Migratory Waterfowl Stamp is not required to hunt woodcock, snipe, rails or crows.

Note: All revenue from the sale of state waterfowl permits used exclusively for acquisition of waterfowl habitat and waterfowl management activities.

FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT

No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field or while returning from the field to one's car, hunting camp, home, etc.

IMPORTATION

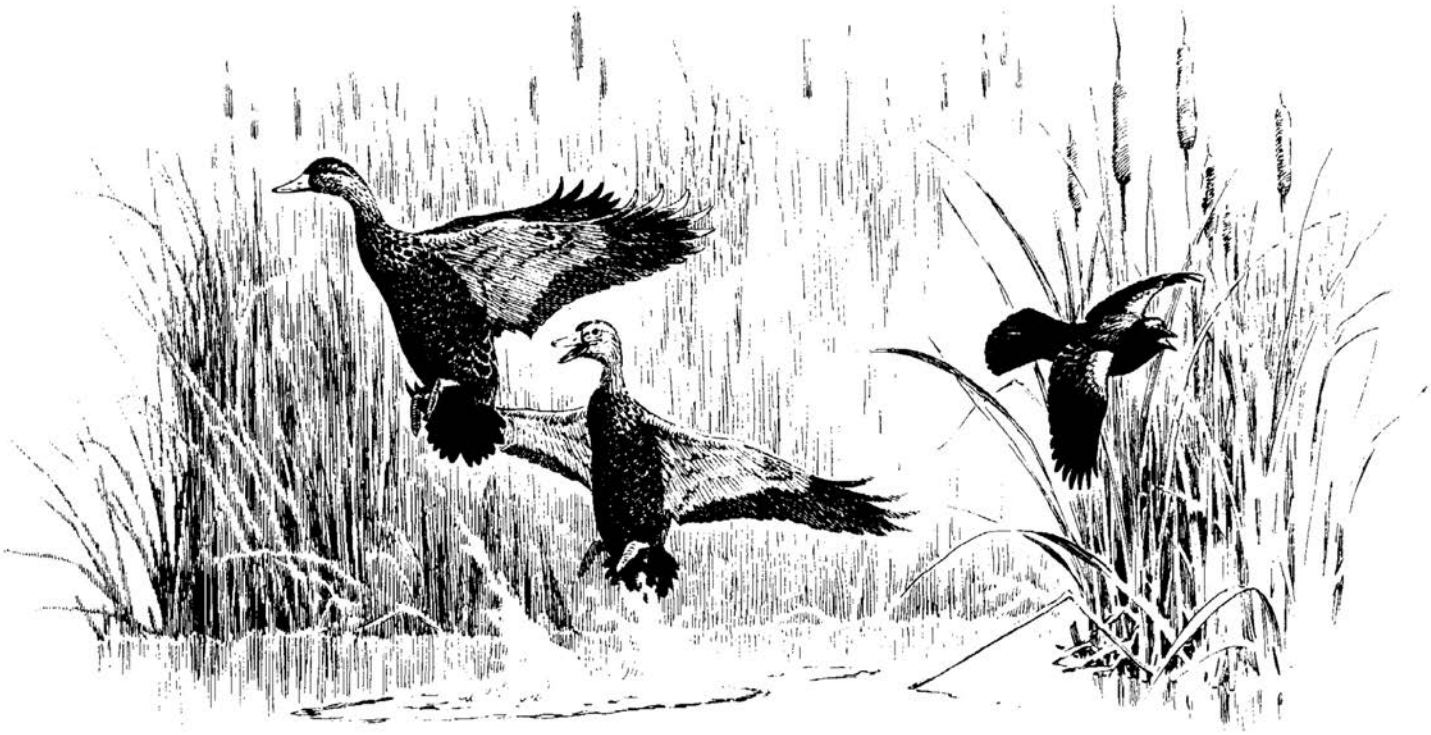
For information regarding the importation of migratory birds killed in another country, hunters should consult 50 CFR 20.61 through 20.66. One fully-feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory game birds being transported between the port of entry and one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility. No person shall import migratory game birds killed in any foreign country, except Canada, unless such birds are dressed (except as required in 20.63), drawn, and the head and feet are removed. No person shall import migratory game birds belonging to another person.

Dual Violation

A violation of State migratory bird regulations is also a violation of Federal regulations.

Caution

More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on Federal refuge regulations, see contact information on page 29. ■



HELP STOP WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS

Dial Operation Game Thief
1-800-ALERT US (253-7887)

BAND RECOVERY REPORTS

Anyone finding a band or recovering one while hunting should log onto: **reportband.gov**

Results will provide better estimates of survival and harvest rates and will reduce high costs associated with banding studies.

SUNDAY HUNTING IS ILLEGAL IN MAINE

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM

If you plan to hunt woodcock, ducks, geese, snipe, rails, or coots, you are required to indicate on your license your intention of doing so at the time you purchase your license. The information will be used by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (H.I.P).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife wishes to continue the lawful hunting of Common Goldeneyes while ensuring adequate protection of the Barrow's Goldeneye, a Threatened Species under the Maine Endangered Species Act.

Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes look very similar. Our goal is to reduce the unintentional take of Barrow's in Maine by improving duck hunters' abilities to distinguish them from Common Goldeneyes.

Barrow's are known to congregate in certain areas.

Despite our efforts, we suspect that a few Barrow's Goldeneyes may be unintentionally shot. In these cases, hunters are required to report to your local game warden, and surrender to MDIFW, any that are taken during legal waterfowl hunting activities. There is no penalty for reporting this.

Please see legal hunting time table for all other species on page 33.

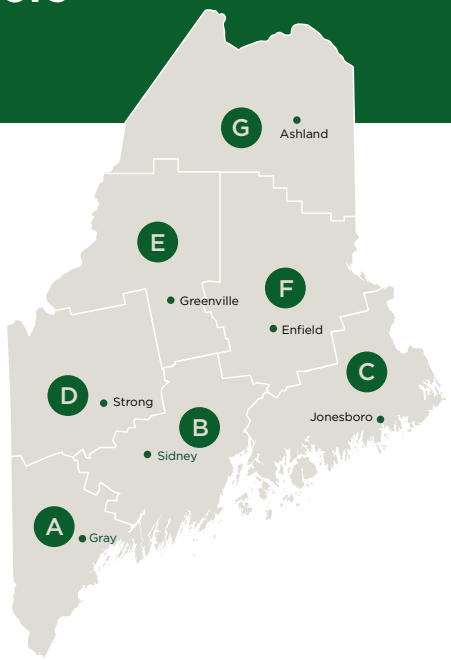
2022-23 MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTER'S LEGAL HUNTING HOURS

	LEGAL HUNTING HOURS			LEGAL HUNTING HOURS	
DATE	OPEN	CLOSE	DATE	OPEN	CLOSE
9/1/22	5:27 AM	7:12 PM	11/17/22	6:05 AM	4:05 PM
9/2/22	5:29 AM	7:10 PM	11/18/22	6:06 AM	4:04 PM
9/3/22	5:30 AM	7:08 PM	11/19/22	6:08 AM	4:03 PM
9/5/22	5:32 AM	7:05 PM	11/21/22	6:10 AM	4:01 PM
9/6/22	5:33 AM	7:03 PM	11/22/22	6:12 AM	4:01 PM
9/7/22	5:34 AM	7:01 PM	11/23/22	6:13 AM	4:00 PM
9/8/22	5:36 AM	6:59 PM	11/24/22	6:14 AM	3:59 PM
9/9/22	5:37 AM	6:57 PM	11/25/22	6:15 AM	3:59 PM
9/10/22	5:38 AM	6:55 PM	11/26/22	6:17 AM	3:58 PM
9/12/22	5:40 AM	6:52 PM	11/28/22	6:19 AM	3:57 PM
9/13/22	5:42 AM	6:50 PM	11/29/22	6:20 AM	3:56 PM
9/14/22	5:43 AM	6:48 PM	11/30/22	6:21 AM	3:56 PM
9/15/22	5:44 AM	6:46 PM	12/1/22	6:23 AM	3:56 PM
9/16/22	5:45 AM	6:44 PM	12/2/22	6:24 AM	3:55 PM
9/17/22	5:46 AM	6:42 PM	12/3/22	6:25 AM	3:55 PM
9/19/22	5:49 AM	6:38 PM	12/5/22	6:27 AM	3:54 PM
9/20/22	5:50 AM	6:36 PM	12/6/22	6:28 AM	3:54 PM
9/21/22	5:51 AM	6:34 PM	12/7/22	6:29 AM	3:54 PM
9/22/22	5:52 AM	6:33 PM	12/8/22	6:30 AM	3:54 PM
9/23/22	5:53 AM	6:31 PM	12/9/22	6:31 AM	3:54 PM
9/24/22	5:55 AM	6:29 PM	12/10/22	6:32 AM	3:54 PM
9/26/22	5:57 AM	6:25 PM	12/12/22	6:33 AM	3:54 PM
9/27/22	5:58 AM	6:23 PM	12/13/22	6:34 AM	3:54 PM
9/28/22	5:59 AM	6:21 PM	12/14/22	6:35 AM	3:55 PM
9/29/22	6:01 AM	6:19 PM	12/15/22	6:36 AM	3:55 PM
9/30/22	6:02 AM	6:17 PM	12/16/22	6:37 AM	3:55 PM
10/1/22	6:03 AM	6:16 PM	12/17/22	6:37 AM	3:55 PM
10/3/22	6:06 AM	6:12 PM	12/19/22	6:39 AM	3:56 PM
10/4/22	6:07 AM	6:10 PM	12/20/22	6:39 AM	3:56 PM
10/5/22	6:08 AM	6:08 PM	12/21/22	6:40 AM	3:57 PM
10/6/22	6:09 AM	6:06 PM	12/22/22	6:40 AM	3:57 PM
10/7/22	6:11 AM	6:05 PM	12/23/22	6:41 AM	3:58 PM
10/8/22	6:12 AM	6:03 PM	12/24/22	6:41 AM	3:59 PM
10/10/22	6:14 AM	5:59 PM	12/26/22	6:42 AM	4:00 PM
10/11/22	6:16 AM	5:57 PM	12/27/22	6:42 AM	4:01 PM
10/12/22	6:17 AM	5:56 PM	12/28/22	6:42 AM	4:01 PM
10/13/22	6:18 AM	5:54 PM	12/29/22	6:42 AM	4:02 PM
10/14/22	6:19 AM	5:52 PM	12/30/22	6:43 AM	4:03 PM
10/15/22	6:21 AM	5:50 PM	12/31/22	6:43 AM	4:04 PM
10/17/22	6:23 AM	5:47 PM	1/2/23	6:43 AM	4:06 PM
10/18/22	6:25 AM	5:45 PM	1/3/23	6:43 AM	4:07 PM
10/19/22	6:26 AM	5:44 PM	1/4/23	6:43 AM	4:08 PM
10/20/22	6:27 AM	5:42 PM	1/5/23	6:43 AM	4:09 PM
10/21/22	6:28 AM	5:40 PM	1/6/23	6:42 AM	4:10 PM
10/22/22	6:30 AM	5:39 PM	1/7/23	6:42 AM	4:11 PM
10/24/22	6:32 AM	5:35 PM	1/9/23	6:42 AM	4:13 PM
10/25/22	6:34 AM	5:34 PM	1/10/23	6:41 AM	4:14 PM
10/26/22	6:35 AM	5:32 PM	1/11/23	6:41 AM	4:15 PM
10/27/22	6:36 AM	5:31 PM	1/12/23	6:41 AM	4:16 PM
10/28/22	6:38 AM	5:29 PM	1/13/23	6:40 AM	4:18 PM
10/29/22	6:39 AM	5:28 PM	1/14/23	6:40 AM	4:19 PM
10/31/22	6:42 AM	5:25 PM	1/16/23	6:39 AM	4:21 PM
11/1/22	6:43 AM	5:24 PM	1/17/23	6:38 AM	4:23 PM
11/2/22	6:45 AM	5:22 PM	1/18/23	6:37 AM	4:24 PM
11/3/22	6:46 AM	5:21 PM	1/19/23	6:37 AM	4:25 PM
11/4/22	6:47 AM	5:19 PM	1/20/23	6:36 AM	4:27 PM
11/5/22	6:49 AM	5:18 PM	1/21/23	6:35 AM	4:28 PM
11/7/22	5:51 AM	4:16 PM	1/23/23	6:34 AM	4:31 PM
11/8/22	5:53 AM	4:14 PM	1/24/23	6:33 AM	4:32 PM
11/9/22	5:54 AM	4:13 PM	1/25/23	6:32 AM	4:33 PM
11/10/22	5:56 AM	4:12 PM	1/26/23	6:31 AM	4:35 PM
11/11/22	5:57 AM	4:11 PM	1/27/23	6:30 AM	4:36 PM
11/12/22	5:58 AM	4:10 PM	1/28/23	6:29 AM	4:38 PM
11/14/22	6:01 AM	4:08 PM	1/30/23	6:27 AM	4:40 PM
11/15/22	6:02 AM	4:07 PM	1/31/23	6:26 AM	4:42 PM
11/16/22	6:04 AM	4:06 PM			

All times listed through October 31 are Eastern Daylight Time; after that date, they are Eastern Standard Time (for Bangor).

SUMMARY OF HUNTING LAWS

All In for the Maine Outdoors



MAIN OFFICE
353 Water Street, 41 SHS
Augusta, ME 04333-0041
(207) 287-8000

WEBSITE
mefishwildlife.com

OPERATION GAME THIEF
1-800-ALERT US (253-7887)
maineogt.org

REGIONAL COMMUNICATION CENTERS
If you are in need of the services of a game warden or need to report a wildfire or request a campfire permit from Forestry call the Department of Public Safety Dispatch at the following toll-free numbers:

Augusta.....1-800-452-4664

Houlton.....1-800-924-2261

Bangor.....1-800-432-7381

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife receives federal funds from the U.S. Department of the Interior. Accordingly, all Department programs and activities must be operated free from discrimination in regard to race, color, national origin, age, or disability. Any person who believes that he or she has been discriminated against should write to the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

GOVERNOR
Janet T. Mills

COMMISSIONER
Judith A. Camuso

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Timothy E. Peabody

MDIFW ADVISORY COUNCIL
Ed Pineau
pineaupolicy@gmail.com
Androscoggin, Kennebec, &
Sagadahoc Counties ..... (207) 242-6658

Albro Cowperthwaite
al@northmainewoods.org
Aroostook County ..... (207) 227-2851

Michael Gawtry
gawtry58@gmail.com
Cumberland County..... (207) 751-1531

Shelby Rousseau (Vice Chair)
shelby.rousseau@gmail.com
Franklin & Oxford
Counties..... (207) 446-4638

Vacant
Hancock County

Kristin Peet (Chair)
kristin.peet@gmail.com
Knox, Lincoln, & Waldo
Counties..... (207) 991-1470

Robert Duschene
duchesne@midmaine.com
Penobscot County ..... (207) 827-3782

Eric Ward
ericward207@gmail.com
Piscataquis & Somerset
Counties..... (207) 280-0891

Jennifer Geel
jenjeffgeel@yahoo.com
Washington County ..... (207) 255-0928

Anthony (Tony) Liguori
tlliguori86@gmail.com
York County..... (207) 710-1650

ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS
Region A – Gray..... (207) 657-2345

Region B – Sidney..... (207) 287-5300

Region C – Jonesboro ..... (207) 255-2080

Region D – Strong ..... (207) 778-3322

Region E – Greenville..... (207) 695-3756

Region F – Enfield ..... (207) 794-1003

Region G – Ashland..... (207) 435-3231

Bangor Research Office..... (207) 941-4440

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS
Written comments should be mailed to:

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
353 Water Street
41 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0041

mefishwildlife.com