



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE  
353 WATER STREET  
41 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA ME 04333-0041



Dear Smelt Wholesaler,

Thank you for purchasing a Smelt Wholesale license. As you know the availability of smelt is important to Maine anglers. Last year we added fields to the application that give you the ability to allow us to share selected contact information publicly. This information will enable anglers and retailers to more easily find live bait. Allowing others to find legal bait sources more easily should slow the spread of invasive species through illegal importation and harvest by less experienced recreational trappers while making harvests more profitable for wholesalers.

With new invasives like zebra mussel and spiny water flea at our borders, and already established invasive species present, it is important that you help limit the spread of invasives. Please follow the disinfection practices found at the end of this packet to help reduce the spread of invasive species.

We also need your help to manage Maine's smelt resources. In accordance with Title 12 Chapters 923, Section 12551-A, all holders of Smelt Wholesale licenses are required to submit an annual report of their harvest activity and catch information to the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife by May 31<sup>st</sup> of each license year. We expect your report to cover any harvests within the reporting period of May 1st through April 30th of the following year, and you must submit a report even if you did not harvest any fish. Failure to submit a report will result in the suspension of your privilege to obtain a Smelt Wholesale license for one calendar year. The data you submit is for scientific purposes only and is needed to better manage these resources. It will remain confidential, not public record, though the commissioner may release data that is statistical or general in nature.

Report form(s) and instructions are included in your dealer packet. To ensure that you get credited for reporting:

1. Mail reports to: Jerrod Parker, Maine Dept. Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, 353 Water Street SHS 41 Augusta, ME 04333 **by May 31<sup>st</sup> each year.** You may also email your report to [Jerrod.Parker@maine.gov](mailto:Jerrod.Parker@maine.gov).

2. Include your name, license #, type of license, address, and telephone # on all pages of your report form.
3. Include the name(s) and license number(s) of other dealers/helpers covered by your report or be sure they file their own report (see instructions for more details).
4. Remember to file a report **even if you did not harvest fish or were unable to fish during the current season.**

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife thanks you for your cooperation and wishes you a safe and successful season. Please call me at (207) 557-0591 if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jerrod Parker', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jerrod Parker

Fisheries Senior Resource Biologist

**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**  
**THE FOLLOWING LAKES ARE OPEN TO THE TAKING OF SMELTS UNDER THE**  
**LIVE SMELT WHOLESALERS LICENSE**  
**FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026**

**ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY**

ALLEN P	GREENE
ANDROSCOGGIN L	WAYNE
BARTLETT P	LIVERMORE
BEAR P	HARTFORD
BRETTUNS P	LIVERMORE
CRYSTAL P	TURNER
NO NAME P	LEWISTON
RANGE P (UPPER)	POLAND
ROUND P	LIVERMORE
SABATTUS P	SABATTUS
TAYLOR P	AUBURN
WILSON P	TURNER
WORTHLEY P	POLAND

**AROOSTOOK COUNTY**

BIG MACHIAS L	T12 R8 WELS
BRACKETT L	WESTON
CARRY L	LITTLETON
CLAYTON L	T12 R8 WELS
CONROY L	MONTICELLO
ISLAND P	T14 R8 WELS
MATTAWAMKEAG L (UPPER)	ISLAND FALLS
MCNALLY P (UPPER)	T11 R10 WELS
PRATT L	T11 R9 WELS
ROSS L	LITTLETON
SLY BROOK L (FIRST)	NEW CANADA
SLY BROOK L (SECOND)	NEW CANADA
SPAULDING L	OAKFIELD
UMCOLCUS L	T7 R5 WELS
WYTOPITLOCK L	GLENWOOD PLT

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY**

BARKER P	SEBAGO
BAY OF NAPLES	NAPLES
COLD RAIN P	NAPLES
HIGHLAND (DUCK) L	FALMOUTH
HIGHLAND L	BRIDGTON
INGALLS (FOSTER'S) P	BRIDGTON
ISLAND P	HARRISON
NOTCHED P	RAYMOND
NUBBLE P	RAYMOND
RAYMOND P	RAYMOND
SEBAGO L (LITTLE)	GRAY
THOMAS P	RAYMOND
WATCHIC P	STANDISH
WOODS P	BRIDGTON

**FRANKLIN COUNTY**

BEAL P	MADRID TWP
COW P	LANG TWP
DUTTON P	KINGFIELD
FLATIRON P	DAVIS TWP
GULL P	DALLAS PLT
HALEY P	DALLAS PLT
HILLS P	PERKINS TWP
JIM P (LITTLE)	JIM POND TWP
LONG P	TOWNSHIP E
NORCROSS P	CHESTERVILLE
PARKER P	JAY
QUIMBY P	RANGELEY
SABBATH DAY P	TOWNSHIP E
SANDY RIVER P (LOWER)	SANDY RIVER PLT
SANDY RIVER P (MIDDLE)	SANDY RIVER PLT
SANDY RIVER P (UPPER)	SANDY RIVER PLT

SPENCER P  
STAPLES P  
TOOTHAKER P  
TUFTS P

**HANCOCK COUNTY**

ALAMOOSOOK L  
DEBEC P  
GEORGES P  
GILES P  
GOOSE P  
GRAHAM L  
GREAT P  
HARRIMAN P  
HATCASE P  
LEAD MTN P (LOWER & MIDDLE)  
LEONARD L  
LONG P  
MOULTON P  
MOUNTAIN P  
PATTEN P (UPPER)  
PORTER P  
PUGHOLE P  
ROCKY P  
SABAO L (LOWER)  
SABAO L (UPPER)  
SOMES P  
SPECTACLE P  
WEBB P  
WILLIAMS P

**KENNEBEC COUNTY**

ANDERSON P  
ANDROSCOGGIN L  
ANNABESSACOOK L  
BERRY P  
BUKER P  
CHINA L  
COBBOSSEECONTEE L  
COBBOSSEECONTEE L (LITTLE)  
COBBOSSEECONTEE S  
COCHNEWAGON P  
DAM P  
DAVID P  
DEXTER P  
GOULD P  
HALES P  
HAMILTON P  
HORSESHOE P  
HUTCHINSON P  
INGHAM P  
JIMMIE P  
JIMMY P  
LOVEJOY P  
LOVEJOY P  
MCGRATH P  
MESSALONSKEE L  
MOODY P  
NORTH & LITTLE P  
PATTEE P  
PLEASANT P  
POCASSET L  
PURGATORY P (LITTLE)  
SALMON P  
SAND P  
SAVADE P  
THREECORNERED P  
THREEMILE P  
TILTON P

TOWNSHIP D  
TEMPLE  
PHILLIPS  
KINGFIELD

ORLAND  
AMHERST  
FRANKLIN  
AURORA  
DEDHAM  
MARIAVILLE  
GREAT POND  
DEDHAM  
DEDHAM  
T28 MD  
ELLSWORTH  
BUCKSPORT  
DEDHAM  
DEDHAM  
ELLSWORTH  
T3 ND  
T41 MD  
T22 MD  
T35 MD  
T41 MD  
MOUNT DESERT  
OSBORN  
EASTBROOK  
BUCKSPORT

AUGUSTA  
WAYNE  
MONMOUTH  
WAYNE  
LITCHFIELD  
CHINA  
WEST GARDINER  
WINTHROP  
W.GARDINER  
MONMOUTH  
AUGUSTA  
FAYETTE  
WAYNE  
SIDNEY  
FAYETTE  
BELGRADE  
WEST GARDINER  
MANCHESTER  
MOUNT VERNON  
MANCHESTER  
LITCHFIELD  
ALBION  
FAYETTE  
OAKLAND  
SIDNEY  
WINDSOR  
ROME  
WINSLOW  
LITCHFIELD  
WAYNE  
LITCHFIELD  
OAKLAND  
MONMOUTH  
WINDSOR  
AUGUSTA  
CHINA  
FAYETTE

	TOGUS P	AUGUSTA
	TOLMAN P	AUGUSTA
	TORSEY L	MOUNT VERNON
	WEBBER P	VASSALBORO
	WHITTIER P	ROME
	WILSON P	WAYNE
	WOODBURY P	LITCHFIELD
<b>KNOX COUNTY</b>		
	CHICKAWAUKIE P	ROCKPORT
	CRAWFORD P	UNION
	HOBBS P	HOPE
	LERMOND P	HOPE
	LONG P	ISLE AU HAUT
	NORTH P	WARREN
	ROUND P	UNION
	SENNEBEC P	APPLETON
	SEVEN TREE P	UNION
	SOUTH P	WARREN
	WASHINGTON P	WASHINGTON
<b>LINCOLN COUNTY</b>		
	BISCAY P	BREMEN
	BOYD P	BRISTOL
	CLARY L	JEFFERSON
	DEER MEADOW P	JEFFERSON
	DUCKPUDDLE P	NOBLEBORO
	DYER LONG P	JEFFERSON
	MCCURDY P	BREMEN
	MEDOMAK P (LITTLE)	WALDOBORO
	PEMAQUID P	DAMARISCOTTA
	THREE CORNER P	JEFFERSON
	TRAVEL P	JEFFERSON
<b>OXFORD COUNTY</b>		
	ANASAGUNTICOOK L	HARTFORD
	BACK (5 KEZARS) P	STONEHAM
	BEAR P	HARTFORD
	BEAVER P	MAGALLOWAY PLT
	BEAVER P (LITTLE)	MAGALLOWAY PLT
	C POND	C SURPLUS
	CLEMONS P (LITTLE)	HIRAM
	HALL P	PARIS
	HANCOCK P	DENMARK
	HOGAN P	OXFORD
	HUTCHINSON P	ALBANY TWP
	LONG (MCWAIN) P	WATERFORD
	LONG P	DENMARK
	LOVEWELL P	FRYEBURG
	MIDDLE (5 KEZARS) P	WATERFORD
	MOOSE (LITTLE) P	WATERFORD
	NORTH P	WOODSTOCK
	RICHARDSON P (LOWER EAST)	ADAMSTOWN TWP
	RICHARDSON P (UPPER EAST)	ADAMSTOWN TWP
	RICHARDSON P (WEST)	ADAMSTOWN TWP
	SAND (WALDEN) P	DENMARK
	SAND P	NORWAY
	STEARNS P	SWEDEN
	SUNDAY P	MAGALLOWAY PLT
	TROUT P	MASON TWP
	VIRGINIA LAKE	STONEHAM
	WEBBER P	SWEDEN
	WHITNEY P	OXFORD
<b>PENOBSCOT COUNTY</b>		
	BOTTLE L	LAKEVILLE
	CARIBOU, EGG, LONG P	LINCOLN
	DAVIS P	T5 R7 WELS
	DUCK L	LAKEVILLE
	ETNA P	ETNA
	GREEN P	T3 R1 NBPP

HAMMOND P  
HERMON P  
JO-MARY L (MIDDLE)  
KEG L  
MADAGASACAL P, BIG  
MATTANAWCOOK P  
PLEASANT (STETSON) L  
PLYMOUTH P  
PUG L (LOWER)  
SAWTELLE DEADWATER  
SEBASTICOOK L  
SILVER L

**PISCATAQUIS COUNTY**

BEAR P  
BIG BENNETT P  
BIG MOOSE P  
BIG PINE P  
CENTER P  
DEBSconeag L (SECOND)  
DOUGHTY P (LOWER)  
DOUGHTY P (UPPER)  
DUCK P  
FITZGERALD P  
FROST P  
GREENWOOD P (LITTLE)  
GRINDSTONE P  
HARLOW P  
HUSSEY P  
INDIAN P  
JO-MARY L (MIDDLE)  
JOHNSTON P  
LOBSTER L (LITTLE)  
MANHANCOCK P  
MILLINOCKET L  
MOOSE P (LITTLE)  
ORDWAY P  
PASSAMAGAMET L  
PRONG P  
RAINBOW L  
ROACH P (SECOND)  
ROACH P (FOURTH)  
RUM P  
SAWYER P  
SECRET P  
SHADOW P  
SHALLOW L (LITTLE)  
SNAKE P  
SPECTACLE P  
TOGUE P (UPPER)  
TROUT P  
YOKE PONDS

**SAGADAHOC COUNTY**

NEQUASSETT L

**SOMERSET COUNTY**

AUSTIN P (LITTLE)  
BEAN P  
BIG INDIAN P  
CARRY P (EAST)  
DOLE P  
EAST P  
FISH P  
FISH P  
FLAGSTAFF L  
FOSS P  
GRACE P  
KNIGHTS P  
LONG P

HAMPDEN  
HERMON  
T4, INDIAN PURCHASE (ALSO PISCATAQUIS CTY)  
LAKEVILLE  
BURLINGTON  
LINCOLN  
STETSON  
PLYMOUTH  
LAKEVILLE  
T6 R7 WELS  
NEWPORT  
LEE

ELLIOTTSVILLE TWP  
GUILFORD  
MOOSEHEAD JUNCTION  
T3 R13 WELS  
SANGERVILLE  
T2 R10 WELS  
MONSON  
MONSON  
T4 R11 WELS  
BIG MOOSE TWP  
T3 R11 WELS  
ELLIOTTSVILLE  
WILLIMANTIC  
PARKMAN  
BLANCHARD TWP  
BOWDOIN COLLEGE  
T4 INDIAN PURCHASE (ALSO PENOBSCOT COUNTY)  
TA R10 WELS  
LOBSTER TWP  
SANGERVILLE  
T7 R9 WELS  
MOOSEHEAD JUNCTION  
SHIRLEY  
T1 R9 WELS  
BEAVER COVE  
RAINBOW TWP  
T1 R12 WELS  
SHAWTOWN  
GREENVILLE  
GREENVILLE  
GREENVILLE  
MOOSEHEAD JUNCTION  
T7 R14 WELS  
T7 R11 WELS  
MONSON  
T2 R9 WELS  
MOOSEHEAD JUNCTION  
TA R11 WELS

WOOLWICH

BALD MOUNTAIN TWP  
PLEASANT RIDGE PLT  
SAINT ALBANS  
CARRYING PLACE TOWN  
DOLE BROOK TWP  
SMITHFIELD  
MOXIE GORE  
THORNDIKE  
DEAD RIVER TWP  
KINGSBURY PLT  
UPPER ENCHANTED TWP  
SQUARETOWN TWP  
DOLE BROOK TWP

LONG P  
LONG P  
MISERY P  
MOORE P  
NORTH OTTER P  
OAKS P  
OTTER P  
PARLIN P  
RIPLEY P  
ROWE POND  
SEBOOMOOK L  
SIBLEY P  
WHITES P

**WALDO COUNTY**

COLEMAN P  
ELLIS P  
HALFMOON P  
KNIGHT P  
MIXER P  
NORTON P  
PASSAGASSAWAKEAG L  
PITCHER P  
QUANTABACOOK L  
SANBORN P  
STEVENS P  
UNITY P

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**

BARROWS L  
BEDDINGTON L  
CHAIN L (FIRST)  
CHAIN L (SECOND)  
CHAIN L (THIRD)  
CLIFFORD L  
CRAWFORD L  
GRAND FALLS FLOWAGE  
HADLEY L  
HOWARD L  
MACHIAS L (THIRD)  
MONTEGAIL P  
ORANGE L  
OXBROOK L (LOWER)  
OXBROOK L (UPPER)  
PATRICK L  
PENNAQUAN L  
ROCKY L  
ROUND L  
ROUND P  
SCRAGGLY L  
SILVER PUG L  
SPRUCE MTN L  
SUCKER L  
WABASSUS L  
WESTERN L  
WOODLAND FLOWAGE

**YORK COUNTY**

BUNGANUT P  
DEER P  
SAND P  
SWAN P

LONG POND TWP  
TAUNTON & RAYNHAM  
MISERY TWP  
BRADSTREET TWP  
BOWTOWN TWP  
SKOWHEGAN  
BOWTOWN TWP  
PARLIN POND TWP  
RIPLEY  
PLEASANT RIDGE PLT  
SEBOOMOOK TWP  
CANAN  
PALMYRA

LINCOLNVILLE  
BROOKS  
PROSPECT  
NORTHPORT  
KNOX  
LINCOLNVILLE  
BROOKS  
NORTHPORT  
SEARSMONT  
BROOKS  
LIBERTY  
UNITY

ALEXANDER  
BEDDINGTON  
T26 ED BPP  
T26 ED BPP  
T26 ED BPP  
T27 ED BPP  
CRAWFORD  
PRINCETON  
EAST MACHIAS  
ROBBINSTON  
T43 MD BPP  
T19 MD BPP  
WHITING  
T6 R1 NBPP  
T6 R1 NBPP  
NO 14 TWP  
CHARLOTTE  
WHITING  
CHARLOTTE  
STEUBEN  
T6 R1 NBPP  
T26 ED BPP  
BEDDINGTON  
DANFORTH  
T43 MD BPP  
ROBBINSTON  
BAILEYVILLE

LYMAN  
HOLLIS  
LIMINGTON  
LYMAN

**Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
Commercial Smelt / Baitfish Wholesale Dealer Report Log**

**Commercial smelt** and **baitfish wholesale dealers** are required to report their harvest information to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. This information will allow IF&W to better manage smelt and baitfish resources throughout the State. The data submitted by reports are for scientific purposes only and confidential. However, the commissioner may release general summary information. Dealers should report their harvests using the provided reporting forms. Additional forms can be obtained by downloading them from the department website and printing them, requested and mailed by contacting the Department, or photocopied from the originals you received. Reports must be submitted to Jerrod Parker, 353 Water Street, Augusta, Maine 04333 or [Jerrod.Parker@Maine.gov](mailto:Jerrod.Parker@Maine.gov) by **May 31<sup>st</sup> of each year**, and any person who fails to report **will be prohibited from obtaining a Smelt Wholesale or Baitfish Wholesale license next year.** Remember to file a report **even if you did not fish during the current season.**

**Instructions for Smelt Wholesale and Baitfish Wholesale Report Log**

- Dealers need to report their:
  - **Full name**
  - **License number**
  - **Type of license** (If you hold a bait and smelt license, logs need to be reported separately.)
  - **Home address**
  - **Telephone number**
  - **Email address** (if applicable)
  - **Full name and License number** of other wholesalers that helped and are covered by your report. Ensure the helpers do not submit duplicate harvest information if they plan to submit their own reports.
- If you did not fish during the reporting period, check the “Did not fish this reporting period” box in the upper right of the form.
- Harvest data needs to be reported by fishing event and includes:
  - **Date** – Month/Day/Year of harvest
    - The reporting period runs May 1 – April 30
    - Record data for each date and waterbody. **DO NOT** combine harvests on multiple waters occurring the same day, or multiple harvests on a single water over multiple days.
  - **Water Name** – the name of the water fished.
  - **Town** – Town name where the water fished is located.
  - **County** – County name where the water fished is located.
  - **Gear Type** – the type of gear used on the date and water recorded (i.e. drop-net, dip-net, hook and line, baitfish trap, or seine). Note: The Smelt Wholesale and Baitfish Wholesale licenses differ on the types of gear allowed.
  - **# Of Gears Fished** – if applicable, record the number of nets/traps fished on the date and water recorded. If multiple gear types were used on the same date and water, create separate log entries to record the amount harvest by each gear.
  - **Quantity Harvested** – the total harvested on the date and water specified. Columns are available to report the quantity in pounds, quarts, dozens, or the number of individual fish.
    - Report zero catch days when you fished but no fish were harvested, as this information is also valuable to the department.
  - **Species Harvested** – record all of the species harvested on the date and water specified.
  - **Other Species Observed** – record any observations about other species that were captured and released on the date and water specified (for example: “*bullhead and sunfish*”).



**Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Report Log for Smelt Wholesale or Baitfish Wholesaler License Holders**

Wholesaler Information											<input type="checkbox"/> Did not harvest fish this reporting period	
Last Name:		First Name:		License #:				<input type="checkbox"/> Smelt   or <input type="checkbox"/> Baitfish				
Address:				Telephone #:			Email:					
Full Name(s) & License # (s) of other dealers/helpers covered by this report (if applicable):												
Note: Do not report Smelt Wholesale and Baitfish Wholesale information on the same form. If you possess both licenses, you must submit a separate form for each												
Date (MM/DD/YEAR)	Water Name	Town	County	Gear Type	# of Gears Fished	Quantity Harvested				Species Harvested	Other Species Observed	
						Lbs.	Qts.	Doz.	Indiv.			

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reporting deadline: May 31st each year. Report all harvest accrued from May 1 (previous year) - April 30 (current year)**

Mail reports to: Jerrod Parker, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, 353 Water Street SHS 41, Augusta, Maine 04333 Or Email to: [Jerrod.Parker@maine.gov](mailto:Jerrod.Parker@maine.gov) by May 31st each year.  
 If you have questions, please call (207) 557-0591 or email: [Jerrod.Parker@maine.gov](mailto:Jerrod.Parker@maine.gov)

*The following sections are from the Maine Revised Statutes: Title 12 and Title 38. They are included here as a courtesy and to provide information on laws pertaining to the dealing of live smelts and baitfish. Note that these are only a subset of all laws contained within MRS: Title 12 and 38.*

## **§12551-A. DEALING IN LIVE SMELTS AND BAITFISH**

**1. Definition.** For purposes of this section, "business facility" means a fixed place of business and does not include a motor vehicle or trailer. Live smelts or baitfish that are held in or on a motor vehicle or trailer by a person licensed under this section are considered in transport even if the motor vehicle or trailer may be temporarily placed at a specific location by the licensee, or the licensee's designee, for the purpose of selling live smelts or baitfish to anglers.

**2. License required.** A person may not:

A. Possess for resale, sell or offer to sell live smelts, *Osmerus mordax*, or live baitfish, as defined in section 10001, subsection 6, without an appropriate and valid license issued under subsection 3;

B. Engage in taking or assist in taking live baitfish for resale from inland waters without a valid baitfish wholesaler's license;

C. Engage in taking or assist in taking live smelts for resale from inland waters without a smelt wholesaler's license;

D. Sell live smelts or baitfish from more than one facility without an appropriate and valid license for each facility; or

E. When licensed under this section, receive, possess for resale, sell or offer to sell gift baitfish or gift smelts.

Each day a person violates this subsection, that person commits a Class E crime for which a minimum fine of \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable license fee must be imposed.

**2-A. License required.**

**3. Issuance; eligibility.** The commissioner may issue to a resident or nonresident upon payment of the appropriate fee:

A. A live bait retailer's license that permits a person to possess for resale, sell or offer to sell live smelts and baitfish;

B. A baitfish wholesaler's license that permits a person to take and possess for resale, sell or offer to sell live baitfish; and

C. A smelt wholesaler's license that permits a person to take and possess for resale, sell or offer to sell live smelts.

**4. Schedule of fees.** The fees for licenses under this section are:

A. For a live bait retailer's license, \$16;

B. For a baitfish wholesaler's license, \$26; and

C. For a smelt wholesaler's license, \$71.

**5. Live bait retailer's license authorizations and restrictions.** The provisions of this subsection apply to the selling of live smelts and baitfish under a live bait retailer's license.

A. The holder of a live bait retailer's license may:

- (1) Sell live baitfish or smelts acquired from a person licensed under this section to deal in live baitfish or smelts;
- (2) Designate others to assist in selling live smelts and baitfish at the license holder's business facility;
- (3) Transport live smelts and baitfish or designate another to transport live smelts and baitfish on the license holder's behalf; and
- (4) Possess more than the daily bag limit of smelts, provided that the smelts were acquired from a person licensed under this section to deal in live smelts.

B. The holder of a live bait retailer's license:

- (1) May not take or possess for the purposes of retail sale live baitfish or smelts from the inland waters of the State or private ponds;
- (2) Shall present a receipted invoice, bill of lading, bill of sale or other satisfactory evidence of the lawful possession of live baitfish or smelts for retail sale to any agent of the commissioner upon request; or
- (3) May not possess at that person's place of business any species of fish that may not legally be sold as bait.

Each day a person violates this paragraph that person commits a class E crime.

**6. Baitfish wholesaler's license authorizations and restrictions.** The provisions of this subsection apply to the taking and selling of baitfish under the baitfish wholesaler's license.

A. The holder of a baitfish wholesaler's license may:

- (1) Take for the purpose of sale live baitfish from the inland waters of the State or from private ponds;
- (2) Use particles of food for the purpose of luring baitfish to a baitfish trap, a dip net, a drop net, a lift net or a bag net;
- (3) Designate others to assist the holder in selling live baitfish at the holder's business facility; and
- (4) Transport live baitfish or designate another to transport live baitfish on the license holder's behalf.

B. The holder of a baitfish wholesaler's license may not:

- (1) When engaged in taking, or assisting in taking, live baitfish for resale from inland waters, fail to exhibit a baitfish wholesaler's license to any agent of the commissioner upon request;
- (2) Take baitfish other than by use of a seine as defined in section 10001, subsection 55; a baitfish trap as defined in section 10001, subsection 7; a dip net, a drop net, a lift net or a bag net; or by hook and line;
- (3) Attempt to take from the inland waters live baitfish for resale using drop nets through the ice unless the license holder marks all holes made in the ice by that license holder for that purpose. The holes must be marked either by evergreen boughs placed around the hole or by suspending at least one strand of fluorescent biodegradable tape at least 3 feet above the ice around the entire perimeter of the hole so that the tape is visible from all sides;
- (4) Take eels; or
- (6) Possess at that person's place of business any species of fish that may not legally be sold as bait.

Each day a person violates this paragraph that person commits a class E crime.

**7. Smelt wholesaler's license authorizations and restrictions.** The provisions of this subsection apply to the taking and selling of live smelts under the smelt wholesaler's license.

A. The holder of a smelt wholesale dealer's license may:

- (1) Take live smelts for resale from inland waters or private ponds. The taking of live smelts from inland waters must be in accordance with general rules adopted by the commissioner in regard to the taking of smelts. Except as provided in paragraph B, the holder of a smelt wholesaler's license shall comply with the same daily bag limit and the same tackle restrictions that apply to all other anglers and is subject to the same penalties for violations of those limits and restrictions. This subparagraph does not apply to a holder of a fish cultivator license as provided under section 12507;
- (2) Beginning on the date the body of water on which the smelts are taken is open to ice fishing and ending March 31st annually, use a drop net, a lift net or hook and line to take up to 8 quarts of smelts through man-made openings in the ice while fishing on the ice from specific inland waters designated by the commissioner. A dip net may be used in conjunction with the above methods to assist with the handling and transporting of smelts. A licensee may keep the daily bag limit alive. The daily bag limit established under this subparagraph is for a 24-hour period, beginning at noon on a given day and ending at 11:59 a.m. the following day;
- (2-A) In waters naturally free of ice, take smelts from noon to 2:00 a.m. by the use of a dip net in the usual and ordinary way. The commissioner may establish the daily bag limit by rule and a licensee may keep the daily bag limit of smelts alive. The daily bag limit established under this subparagraph is for a 24-hour period, beginning at noon on a given day and ending at 11:59 a.m. the following day. The commissioner may shorten the noon to 2:00 a.m. smelt fishing time frame by rule for enforcement or conservation purposes;
- (3) Use artificial light for the purpose of luring smelts to a drop net or a lift net;
- (4) Transport or possess at the holder's business facility more than the daily bag limit of smelts provided that the smelts were taken by the license holder in accordance with this section or acquired from a person licensed under this section to deal in live smelts;
- (5) Designate others to assist in selling live smelts at the holder's business facility; and
- (6) Transport or designate others to transport on the license holder's behalf live smelts in accordance with this subsection.

B. The holder of a smelt wholesale dealer's license may not:

- (1) When engaged in taking, or assisting in taking, live smelts for resale from inland waters, fail to exhibit the license to any agent of the commissioner upon request;
- (2) Take multiple bag limits from waters governed by general rules regulating the taking of smelts in order to attain the 8-quart limit of smelts described in paragraph A, subparagraph (2);
- (3) Use a seine to take smelts;
- (4) Transport or possess at the holder's business facility more than the daily bag limit of smelts at any time unless the smelts were acquired in accordance with paragraph A, subparagraph (4). If the smelts were purchased from another person, the license holder must present a receipted invoice, bill of lading or bill of sale to any agent of the commissioner upon request;
- (5) Transport from an inland water source to the licensee's place of business more than 8 quarts of live smelts;
- (6) Permit any person to transport live smelts on the license holder's behalf directly from an inland water source;
- (7) Attempt to take from the inland waters of the State live smelts for resale using drop nets through the ice unless the license holder marks all holes made in the ice by that license holder for that purpose. The holes must be marked either by evergreen boughs placed around the hole or by suspending at least one strand of fluorescent biodegradable tape at least 3 feet above the ice around the entire perimeter of the hole so that the tape is visible from all sides;
- (8) Take smelts unless the holder uses an operable commercially manufactured number 14 fish grader to sort smelts by size during the taking of smelts. The holder shall liberate immediately

all undersized smelts alive into the waters from which they were taken. For the purpose of this subparagraph, a commercially manufactured number 14 grader is a grader having a minimum grate size of 14/64 inches and that allows smelts to pass through at least 2 sides and the bottom of the grader. The commissioner may adopt rules to amend the grate size restrictions under this subparagraph if the commissioner determines such rules are necessary for conservation or enforcement purposes;

- (9) Possess at that person's place of business any species of fish that may not legally be sold as bait;
- (10) Use particles of food or any other type of bait or lure except light to lure smelts to a drop net or a lift net; or
- (11) Use a dip net to take smelts unless that dip net meets the requirements under section 10001, subsection 12-A.

Each day a person violates this paragraph that person commits a Class E crime.

For purposes of this subsection, live smelts are considered in possession of the licensee once the smelts have been removed from the inland waters and placed in a container.

**8. Effect of revoked or suspended license.** A person whose license to deal in live smelts and baitfish has been revoked or suspended pursuant to section 10902 may not assist another dealer in selling or transporting live smelts and baitfish.

A person who violates this subsection commits a class E crime.

**9. Inspection of live smelts and baitfish.** A person licensed under this section who possesses live smelts or baitfish at a fixed place of business shall make those fish available for inspection by a warden or a department fisheries biologist during normal business hours. A person licensed under this section who possesses live smelts or baitfish at a location other than the licensee's fixed place of business shall make those fish available for inspection by a warden or a department fisheries biologist at any time, upon request.

**9-A. Record inspection.** Records retained as required in this section must be open for inspection by the commissioner or the commissioner's agent.

**10. Reports required.** A person licensed under this section must submit a report on forms provided by the department with the following information: name and location, including the town and county of waters fished; date fished; total catch; gear type; and number of nets used. The report must be submitted by May 31st of each year. A person who has not submitted this report may be prohibited from obtaining a license under this section. A person who is prohibited from obtaining a license under this section may submit an appeal to the commissioner.

All data submitted as part of the report are for scientific purposes only and are confidential and not a public record within the meaning of Title 1, chapter 13, subchapter 1, except that the commissioner may disclose data collected under this subsection if that data are released in a form that is statistical or general in nature.

## [§12555. Checking baitfish traps](#)

**1. Checking baitfish traps.** While trapping for baitfish in the inland waters with the use of a baitfish trap as defined in [section 10001, subsection 7](#) from April 2nd to October 31st, a person shall check the baitfish trap or cause the baitfish trap to be checked at least once in every 7 calendar days. While trapping for baitfish in the

inland waters with the use of a baitfish trap from November 1st to April 1st, a person shall check the baitfish trap or cause the baitfish trap to be checked at least once in every 21 calendar days.

**2. Penalty.** The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who violates [subsection 1](#) commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

B. A person who violates [subsection 1](#) after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.

### [§419-C. Prevention of the spread of invasive aquatic plants](#)

**1. Prohibition.** A person may not:

A. Transport any aquatic plant or parts of any aquatic plant, including roots, rhizomes, stems, leaves or seeds, on the outside of a vehicle, boat, personal watercraft, boat trailer or other equipment on a public road;

B. Possess, import, cultivate, transport or distribute any invasive aquatic plant or parts of any invasive aquatic plant, including roots, rhizomes, stems, leaves or seeds, in a manner that could cause the plant to get into any state waters;

C. After September 1, 2000, sell or offer for sale in this State any invasive aquatic plant; or

D. Fail to remove any aquatic plant or parts of any aquatic plant, including roots, rhizomes, stems, leaves or seeds, from the outside of a vehicle, boat, personal watercraft, boat trailer or other equipment on a public road.

**2. Penalty.** A person who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture not to exceed \$500 may be adjudged for the first violation and a forfeiture not to exceed \$2,500 may be adjudged for a subsequent violation.

## Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW)

### General procedures to minimize the spread of aquatic plants, animals, and pathogens

Since the introduction and spread of certain aquatic animals and plants to our inland waters has the potential to do great harm, **it is illegal** to knowingly transfer them from one body of water to the next. These guidelines are designed to minimize the potential spread of aquatic plants, animals, and pathogens by those individuals that work on the inland waters of our state.

Personnel working with aquatic organisms in state waters should maintain a high standard of biosecurity. Biosecurity is defined as, “practical steps that can be taken to minimize the spread of unwanted organisms.” Preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species and diseases of aquatic animals amongst state waters is a directive of the highest priority.

- Brush and use water at the loading/unloading site of the water body to rinse soil, biofilms, egg masses, and other biota before removing gear and equipment for transport. Cleaner equipment is more effectively disinfected.
- Always visually inspect and remove by hand all plants and organisms from gear and equipment before leaving the work site.
- Gear and equipment must be disinfected before transporting to the next water. The disinfection area should be established away from surface waters of the state and other environmentally sensitive areas that could be harmed by disinfection work. Ideally the disinfection area should be of excellent drainage or percolation at a location in which a garden hose is accessible.

#### **Disinfection of gear and Equipment**

- Vehicles, ATV's, snowmobiles - Trucks, ATV's, and snowmobiles should be washed at car wash facilities. Washing frequency should be reasonably periodic.
- Boats, trailers - Remove drain plug and drain bilge water from boats at loading/unloading site of the water body. Pursuant to Maine Public Law 2023 Chapter 190 boaters are required to drain water within a watercraft (excluding water within live bait containers) in a way that prevents the water from entering inland waters where the water did not originate. Boats and trailers can be washed at car wash facilities. Washing frequency should be reasonably periodic.
- Personal equipment and gear – Gear and Equipment should be sprayed with a hose to remove soil and organics prior to disinfection. Disinfection for most equipment is best accomplished with submersion in a solution of household bleach and water at a concentration of 1 oz. bleach/ gallon of water in a large trash can. Non-water absorbing gear and equipment can be sprayed with disinfectant to thoroughly soak all surfaces. Use of equipment that comes in constant contact with waters of the state, such as waders, dip nets, seines, gloves, etc., should be allowed to set in solution for 10 minutes before rinsing. Chlorinated water should be neutralized with sodium thiosulfate prior to disposal. Disinfection water should never be dumped into waters of the state. ***Personal protection gear such as gloves and eye protection should always be worn and equipment manufacturer information for proper cleaning method should be consulted.*** Virkon per manufacturer directions or rubbing alcohol can be substituted where appropriate.
- Water absorbing equipment and gear made with porous materials- To be effective, disinfection should be by submersion with a disinfectant as described above or as an alternative, nets can be soaked in a salt brine (3%) overnight to destroy freshwater aquatic organisms. When possible, nets are to be cleaned, brined, rinsed, and dried in sunlight between uses.

#### **Reporting Requirements**

Aquatic animals - Identification of invasive aquatic species should be reported to MDIFW. Please provide photographs of suspected invasives if possible and contact Aquatic Invasive Species Staff [AIS.IFW@maine.gov](mailto:AIS.IFW@maine.gov).

Aquatic plants - Unknown species or plants known to be aquatic nuisance species should not be transported unless placed in a sealed container. Small specimens may be transported to the Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection for species identification. Contact Aquatic Invasive Species Staff [milfoil@maine.gov](mailto:milfoil@maine.gov).