# **09-137 DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE**

**Chapter 5: STATE OWNED WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, SHOOTING RANGES AND BOAT LAUNCH FACILITIES**

**5.01 State Owned Wildlife Management Areas, Shooting Ranges and Boat Launch Facilities**

 **A. Hunting and Trapping**

 1. Unless otherwise provided, state-owned Wildlife Management Areas and Boat Launch Facilities shall be open to the hunting and trapping of all wild birds and animals under the provisions of state and federal laws and regulations relating to the hunting and trapping of wild birds and wild animals. Hunting and Trapping are prohibited within the boundaries of Shooting Ranges.

 **B. Use of Motor Driven Vehicles**

 1. The operation of any motor vehicle, excluding motorboats, within the boundaries of any state-owned Wildlife Management Area, Boat Launch Facility or Shooting Range is prohibited except as provided below.

 a. Motor driven vehicles may be operated on roads unless roads are posted as closed or as restricted in 5.01(g)

 b. Motor driven vehicles may be operated on trails designated for their use.

 c. Motor driven vehicles may be operated in other areas where their use is specifically authorized.

 2. This restriction will not apply to Department personnel on official business.

 **C. Use of Motorboats**

 The use of motorboats within the boundaries of any state-owned Wildlife Management Area is allowed except as restricted below.

 1. Lt. Gordon Manual Wildlife Management Area, Hodgdon, Cary, and Linneus, Arroostook County. From January 1 to June 30 each year, the operation of a motorboat is prohibited. From July 1 to December 31 each year, the operation of a motorboat with a motor of over 6 horsepower rating is prohibited.

 2. Scarborough Marsh Wildlife Management Area, Scarborough, Cumberland County and Saco and Old Orchard Beach, York County. From March 1 to September 30 each year, the operation of a motorboat on that portion of the area upstream of the abandoned railroad right-of-way is prohibited.

 3. Brownfield Wildlife Management Area, Brownfield, Fryeburg and Denmark, Oxford County. - From October 1 through November 30 each year, the operation of a motorboat is prohibited, except on Lovewell Pond, Fryeburg or on those water of the Saco River within the area.

 4. These restrictions will not apply to Department personnel on official business

 **D. Camping**

 Camping and open fires on state-owned Wildlife Management Areas and Shooting Ranges are prohibited except at designated campsites.

 **E. Swimming**

 Swimming on state-owned Wildlife Management Areas and Shooting Ranges is prohibited except at designated locations.

 **F. Other Restrictions**

 1. Storage of personal property on state-owned Wildlife Management Areas, Shooting Ranges and Boat Launch Facilities is prohibited without the written permission of the Regional Wildlife Biologist.

 2. Cutting of live or dead trees or collection of boughs (tipping) on state-owned Wildlife Management Areas, Shooting Ranges and Boat Launch Facilities is prohibited without the written permission of the Regional Wildlife Biologist.

 3. The extraction or removal of sand or gravel on state-owned Wildlife Management Areas, Shooting Ranges and Boat Launch Facilities is prohibited without the written permission of the Regional Wildlife Biologist. Unauthorized removal or excavation of any material from berms at Shooting Ranges is prohibited.

 4. The unauthorized disposal of any material, by-products or waste is prohibited on state-owned Wildlife Management Areas, Shooting Ranges and Boat Launch Facilities.

 **G. Area Specific Regulations**

 1. **Kennebunk Plains Wildlife Management Area, Kennebunk, York County**. From May 1 through September 30 each year, the following restrictions will apply.

 a. Public use is prohibited between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

 b. Dogs must be restrained by a leash and kept on roadways.

 c. Operation of motor vehicles on roads is prohibited except parking in designated areas.

 2. **Scarborough Marsh Wildlife Management Area**. The shooting of trap and skeet is prohibited unless written permission is obtained from the Regional Wildlife Biologist.

 3. **Lt. Gordon Manuel Wildlife Management Area**. The filling of spray tanks is prohibited.

 4. **Steve Powell Wildlife Management Area (Swan Island) Perkins Township, Sagadahoc County**

 a. **Operating Season Dates**: The Wildlife Management Area is open for public use as follows.

 1) Steve Powell Wildlife Management Area (Swan Island) is open to camping and day use from May 1 to October 30 annually.

 2) For other times, permission must be obtained from the Regional Wildlife Biologist or facility manager to access Swan Island.

 b. **Fees:** The Commissioner may establish reasonable fees for admission to Swan Island and Little Swan Island (Steve Powell Wildlife Management Area).

c. **Public Access:**

 1) Access to the Steve Powell Wildlife Management Area (Swan Island) is undertaken at the risk of the individual.

 2) Unauthorized use of the area by persons on snowmobiles and ATV's is prohibited, notwithstanding designated snowmobile trails allowed by the Department and maintained by local snowmobile clubs.

 3) Campers will be limited to a stay of three (3) consecutive nights, unless extended by the facility manager or staff.

 d. **Restrictions on the use of the area:**

 1) Little Swan Island, portions of Swan Island and some historical buildings are restricted areas. Entrance into these areas or any area designated as restricted by the Department is by permission only; all visitors to restricted areas must be accompanied by Department personnel.

 2) **Supervision**. All groups composed of minors under 16 years of age, must be accompanied by adult supervisors. A ratio of 1 supervisor for every 8 minors is required.

 3) **Fires**: No person shall build or maintain an open fire except (i) at a campsite duly authorized and designated for open fires where a fire ring has been provided and (ii) when a permit has been obtained for such fire from the Maine Forest Service. No fire shall be left unattended. Camp stoves are permitted in areas designated for open fires. The cutting of live trees in prohibited.

 4) **Refuse**: All visitors and campers must "carry out" all refuse and trash.

 5) **Pets**: No dogs or other pets will be allowed on the Island. Guide dogs for visually impaired individuals are allowed.

 6) **Hunting and Trapping:** Hunting trapping and possession of hunting and trapping equipment is prohibited above the normal high-water line unless permitted by Department staff.

Notwithstanding the above restrictions, Department personnel who are carrying out wildlife management activities that are a part of the Wildlife Management area Plan and/or individuals who are participating in these activities and are supervised by Department staff may possess and use firearms and may hunt, trap, or remove any animal or bird. This paragraph does not prohibit a person from carrying a handgun for personal protection pursuant to Public Law 2015, Chapter 327 (LD 652).

 7) **Fireworks**: The use or possession of fireworks and explosives is prohibited. The Department may grant a permit to municipalities for the purpose of a public fireworks display, when the appropriate permits and insurance are presented, and a request is made in writing to the Regional Biologist prior to the event.

 8) **Liquor**: No intoxicating beverages or drugs may be possessed or consumed on Swan Island.

 9) **Camping**. Tent camping is allowed only in the immediate vicinity of the existing shelters or at designated camp sites. No more than six persons will be allowed to use each shelter for overnight camping.

 10) **Vandalism**. The destruction or defacement of any property is prohibited. The removal of cultural, historic, or natural artifacts is prohibited.

 **H. Coast of Maine Wildlife Management Area**

 1. **Restriction**. Trespass is prohibited during specific periods on the islands in the Coast of Maine Wildlife Management Area unless written permission is obtained from the Regional Wildlife Biologist.

 a. Specific regulations to minimize disturbance to nesting birds are noted in the "Restriction" column for each island in the list in 2. (below)

 b. The restricted periods are:

 "a" April 15 through July 31, annually.

 "b" April 15 through August 31, annually.

 "c" February 15 through August 31, annually.

 c. This restriction does not apply to Department personnel on official business.

 2. The following state-owned coastal islands are used for nesting by colonial water birds and are a portion of the Coast of Maine Wildlife Management Area:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** |  **Coastal Island** |  |
| **County/Town** | **Island Name** | **Registry Number** | **Restriction** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **York County** |  |  |  |
| Biddeford | Beach IslandGooseberry Island | 8101881025 | ba |
| Kennebunkport | West Goose Rocks | 81040, 81041 | b |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Cumberland County** |  |  |  |
| Brunswick | Freyee Island | 55012 | c |
| Portland | Stepping Stones IslandVaill IslandOuter Green IslandJunk of PorkInner Green Island | 5535755369553865548655499 | aaaaa |
| Cumberland | Upper Green IslandCrow IslandGoose Nest IslandWest Brown Cow | 55275, 55297553315540055458, 55453 | aaaa |
| Falmouth | Clapboard Island Ledge | 55328, 55330 | b |
| Harpswell | Black RockGrassy LedgeJenny IslandLong LedgeTwo Bush IslandCedar LedgeLittle Mark IslandHaddock RockWhale RockLittle Birch IslandThrumcapadj. to Jaquish IslandPond IslandSister's IslandWhite Bull IslandEast Brown CowFlash IslandDuck RockMark Island | 55252552595515955175, 551765517855179, 5560855437554385544555406554075543655615556205562855632551445515655630 | bbbaaaaaaaaaaaab |
| Portland | Ram Island | 55383 | b |
| Yarmouth | Nubbin Island | 55223 | b |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Sagadahoc County** |  |  |  |
| Phippsburg | North SugarloafSouth SugarloafHen IslandHeron Island Ledge | 73213732807317873314 | bba |
| Georgetown | Middle Mark IslandBlack RockEllingwood Rock | 732347326673319 | aaa |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Lincoln County** |  |  |  |
| Southport | The Cuckolds | 65466 | a |
| Bremen | Crotch Island(s) | 65173 | b |
| Bristol | Killick StoneWreck IslandJones Garden IslandWreck Island LedgeThief IslandThrumcap IslandNew Harbor Dry Ledge | 65189651946518865191, 65192651866519365301 | bcaaaaa |
| South Bristol | Christmas Cove | 65244 | b |
| Monhegan Plt. | Duck RocksEastern Duck RocksSmuttynose IslandInner Duck Rocks | 65310653136531465316 | aaaa |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Knox County** |  |  |  |
| Friendship | Gull RockFranklin LedgeCrotch Island LedgeLong Ledge | 63724637086373763774 | aaaa |
| Isle au Haut | So. Popplestone IslandGreat Spoon IslandHardwood IslandSparrow IslandW. Halibut LedgeSouthern Mark IslandFog Island LedgeGreen LedgeWhite LedgeThe Cow Pen (both)White Horse IslandBlack Horse Island | 63265632875920463200632066326063263632666326763283, 632846329363294 | bbcaaaaaaaaa |
| Matinicus Island | Little Two BushNo Man's IslandPudding IslandFisherman IslandMarblehead IslandCrescent IslandLittle Two BushTwo Bush LedgeShag LedgeGreen LedgeSeal LedgeBrig Ledge | 636526390063924634026340363411636526390263925639296393163934 | bbbaaaaaaaaa |
| North Haven | Dagger IslandSpoon LedgeDagger Island LedgeTthe DownfallEgg RockEast Goose RocksGoose IslandRobinson RockThe Sugarloaves | 6301563011630146301663333633356333663340, 6334163464 | baaaaaaaa |
| St. George | Gunning RocksSeal IslandYellow Ridge IslandShag LedgesGoose RockLittle Burnt IslandLittle Egg RockShark IslandEastern Egg RockOld Hump Ledges | 63578, 6383663637, 636386364063820, 63821637926384163873638756386063838, 63839 | aaaaaaaabb |
| Rockport | Goose Rocks | 63314 | a |
| South Thomaston | Garden Island | 63420 | a |
| Vinalhaven | Carber's IslandDeadman's LedgeRoberts Island(w)S. Dogfish LedgeGreen IslandGreen LedgeMedric RockHurricane I. LedgeS. Hurricane Ledge | 63166, 631866317063175634746348563493634966351663526 | aaaaaaaaa |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Hancock County** |  |  |  |
| Brooklin | Green Island LedgeSmuttynose Island | 5975059931 | aa |
| Brooksville  | Thrumcap IslandBuck Island | 5966959672 | aa |
| Deer Isle | Green LedgeTwo Bush IslandBarred IslandColthead IslandSheep Island LedgeEaton Island LedgeBar Island LedgeChannel RockSloop IslandSloop Island LedgeGrass Ledge EGreen LedgeShabby IslandHardhead IslandGrass Ledge (West) | 596745968159683, 596845968559711, 597125971659717, 597185979259795597965980259949599965978259789 | aaaaabaaaaaaaab |
| Stonington | Moose Island LedgeScraggy Island LedgeRams IslandNo Man's Island | 59479598375996659977 | aacc |
| Swans Island | Brimstone IslandMason LedgeHalibut RocksSpirit LedgeSaddleback IslandHigh Sheriff | 59479594859991599985999959397 | aaaaaa |
| Long Island Plt. | Green IslandDry Money Ledge | 59446, 5944559449 | ab |
| Bar Harbor | The ThrumcapIndian Point Ledge | 5930059127 | ab |
| Gouldsboro | Bald Rock | 59192 | a |
| Frenchboro | Great Duck Island | 59440 | c |
| Blue Hill | Salt Pond Islet | 59742 | c |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Waldo County** |  |  |  |
| Isleboro | Flat Island | 77047 | a |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Washington County** |  |  |  |
| Milbridge | Unnamed LedgesEgg Rock | 79930, 7993279927, 79935 | aa |
| Addison | Batson LedgeStanley LedgePot RockLittle Drisko IslandInner Goose Island | 7961379618799027963879422 | aaaac |
| Beals | Inner Ram IslandEgg RockCurlew RockCrumple Island LedgeLittle Ram Island | 7960179605796977969579600 | aaaac |
| Jonesport | Ballast IslandGreen IslandPulpit RockFreeman RockWest Brothers Island | 7948879572795767967679586 | aaaab |
| Machiasport | Big Libby IslandShag Ledge | 7935979556 | ba |
| Lubec | Razor IslandPope Folly Island | 7914779371 | ac |
| Perry | Red Island | 79137 | a |
| Steuben | Green Island | 79929 | b |
| Edmunds | Bellier Cove Islet | 79085 | c |
| Pembroke | Wilbur Neck Islet | 79072 | c |
| Trescott | Talbot Cove Island | 79222 | c |

**5.02 Classified Wildlife Management Areas**

**A.** Unless otherwise provided, those areas described in 12 M.R.S. §12708 §1 A. shall be closed to the hunting and trapping of all wild birds and animals.

**B.** Bartlett Island in Hancock County shall be open to the hunting and trapping of all wild birds and animals during the open season on these species.

**C.** Deer Isle and Stonington, Hancock County, shall be open to the hunting and trapping of all wild birds and animals during the open season on these species.

**D.** It shall be unlawful for any person to feed, or attempt to feed, migratory waterfowl within the confines of Sebago Lake Basin Wildlife Management Area, Cumberland County.

**E.** Marsh Island, Penobscot County, shall be open to the trapping of all wild animals and the hunting of deer by bow and arrow during the open season(s) on these species.

**F.** No person shall at any time hunt for, pursue, molest, catch, take, kill, wound or destroy wild birds or wild animals in the following described territory situated in the town of Camden in the County of Knox: On the north by the dam at the outlet of Megunticook Lake, southerly along the west bank of the Megunticook River to the Molyneaux Road, so-called, westerly on the Molyneaux Road to Route 105, thence northerly on Route 52 to Molyneaux Road, so-called, thence westerly to the east bank of Megunticook River, thence northerly along the east bank of the Megunticook River to the dam at the outlet of Megunticook Lake.

 **G.** Long Lake Wildlife Management Area, Aroostook County, shall be open to the hunting and trapping of all wild birds and animals during the open season on these species.

**5.03 Shooting Ranges**

**A. Hours of Operation**

The commissioner may set hours when a shooting range is open for public use. These hours shall be posted prominently at the entrance to each shooting range.

**B. Range Safety Officers**

The commissioner may designate range safety officers to monitor public use of shooting ranges. Users of shooting ranges must comply with the directions of Department authorized range safety officers.

**C. Targets**

On rifle and pistol ranges, the only allowable targets are paper targets attached to approved target frames, and steel targets. On shotgun ranges, only clay targets may be used. Explosive targets are prohibited on all Department shooting ranges.

 **D. Loaded Firearms**

The possession of a loaded firearm or the discharge of a firearm from any location other than an established shooting station is prohibited. **Exception:** Holstered lawfully carried pistols are allowed to be loaded on the range outside of an established shooting station.

 **E. Ammunition**

The use or possession of armor piercing, incendiary, explosive, tracer, or steel core ammunition is prohibited.

 **F. Intoxicating beverages and controlled substances**

 The use or possession of intoxicating beverages or controlled substances is prohibited.

 **G. Certain calibers**

The use or possession of any firearm chambered in .50 BMG is prohibited.

 H. *(Not in use)*

1. **Litter**

Depositing litter or refuse is prohibited except in approved refuse containers.

**J. Minimum Age**

Persons under 16 years of age may not use shooting ranges unless accompanied by a person 21 years of age or older.

**K. Prohibited Activities**

The following are prohibited on shooting range facilities: bicycles, fireworks, model airplanes, kites, drones, golfing, and pets.

**L. Exception for approved training events**

The provisions of this section do not apply to training events authorized by the Department.

* 1. **State-Owned Boat Launch Facility Sites**
1. **Commissioner’s authority:** In accordance with 12 M.R.S. §12701, subsection 5, the commissioner may adopt rules regulating public use of department-owned or department-maintained boat launch facility sites hereinafter referred to as a boat launch.
2. **Boats unattended:** No person shall tie up or leave any boat unattended in the area around any launching ramps, floats or docks, except when loading or unloading cargo and/or passengers.
3. **Power loading of boats:** No person shall power load a boat on a trailer at a boat launch.
4. **Fires, camping, overnight stays, and overnight parking:** No person shall camp, park overnight or have an open fire at a boat launch.
5. **Alcoholic beverages or controlled substances:** No person shall use or possess intoxicating beverages or controlled substances at a boat launch.
6. **Disorderly conduct**: No person shall engage in disorderly conduct, including, but not limited to, indecent acts, intoxication or coarse language at a boat launch.
7. **Damage to facility:** No person shall remove, injure or damage any portion of the facility including plants, land, structures, or natural conditions at the boat launch.
8. **Discharging waste:** No person shall wash vehicles, boats or laundry or discharge waste of any kind, including but not limited to soaps, detergents, and refuse; dispose of any material, by-products or waste or deposit any litter except in approved refuse containers at a boat launch.
9. **Storage of boats, trailers, vehicles, equipment, ice shacks, and other property:** No person shall store personal property of any kind on a boat launch.
10. **Swimming:** No person shall swim at a boat launch except in designated locations.
11. **Parking:** No parking shall be allowed outside of designated parking spaces.
12. **Other uses of the facility:** No person shall utilize the facility inconsistent with the launching and retrieving boats, and associated parking, without written authorization from the Department, including but not limited to, commercial use, water extraction, non‑boating related use, and fishing tournament use of the facilities.
13. **Use sunset to sunrise:** No person shall use a boat launch or related parking area between sunset and sunrise for purposes other than fishing or the launching and retrieving of boats.
14. **Pet owners**: No pet owner shall leave a boat launch without cleaning any fecal deposits left by their pets.
15. **Advertising:** No person shall post an advertisement or other notice without prior approval from the Department.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

 October 1, 1978 - filed September 14, 1978

AMENDED:

 September 29, 1979 - Section 1(A)

 October 2, 1978 - Section 1(B), filed September 26, 1978

 April 30, 1979 - Section 11?

 June 1, 1979 - Section 1 - 10

 June 23, 1979 - Section 1 - 10)

 December 8, 1979 - Section 12

 April 1, 1980 - Section 10

 May 4, 1980 - Section 3(C)

 October 1, 1980 - Section 3(C)

 November 5, 1980 - Section 12 (EMERGENCY)

 November 9, 1980 - Section 12

 May 16, 1981 - Section 12

 August 8, 1981 - Section 12

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 May 11, 1982 - Section 10

 June 9, 1986 - Section 12 A and repeal of Section 1(B)

REPEAL & REPLACE:

 March 10, 1996

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AMENDED:

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 April 18, 2009 - Section 1 sub-Section G paragraph 4, filing 2009-159

 September 14, 2011 - Section 5.02, filing 2011-313

 December 3, 2016 - Sections 5.01, 5.03, filing 2016-206

 January 14, 2019 - format correction at 5.03 title

 June 11, 2019 - minor correction: statutory citation in 5.02(A)

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APAO WORD VERSION CONVERSION (IF NEEDED) AND ACCESSIBILITY CHECK: July 17, 2025