



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES 2015 FRESHWATER LOBSTER AND CRAB BAIT CLASSIFICATION

The following list includes all freshwater species that have been reviewed by the Department of Marine Resources. **Beginning June 1, 2015**, it is illegal to sell or use any marine or freshwater organism as bait to fish for or take lobsters or crabs that is classified as “prohibited”, or that has not been reviewed by the Department. Bait dealers may be granted an exemption that allows them to sell a “prohibited” bait if they agree to follow specific procedures that the Department considers sufficient to remediate the risks of introduction (e.g. establishing a chain of custody, pre-importation testing, processing). **Individuals may apply for review of a non-listed bait source, or petition for use of a prohibited bait source by completing the “Lobster and Crab Bait Review Form”**. If you have questions regarding the use or sale of a bait source, contact Sarah Cotnoir sarah.cotnoir@maine.gov or (207) 624-6596. Applications and additional information about the use of lobster and crab bait is available at <http://www.maine.gov/dmr/rm/lobster/index.htm> under “Commercial Lobster Fishery Management”.

Freshwater Approved	
Species	Region of Origin
Pickerel	Central Canada
Suckerfish	Maine, Canadian provinces of Manitoba & Saskatchewan
Any freshwater species that was legally harvested in Maine	

Freshwater Prohibited		
Species	Region of Origin	Unacceptable Risk
Carp	Asia, US (caught outside of Maine), & Canada. <i>Carp caught in Maine are approved.</i>	Exotic pathogens
Catfish	Asia	Exotic pathogens
Mudshad	Central US & Virginia	Unknown pathogen status
Northern Pike	Central Canada	Exotic pathogens
Sheepshead (Freshwater Drum)	US & Canada	Exotic pathogens
Tilapia	Vietnam	Exotic pathogens