

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
CHAPTER 37 - FRESHWATER FISH REGULATIONS

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DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Chapter 37 - Freshwater Fish Regulations

37.01 Method of Taking

It shall be unlawful to fish for or take freshwater fish as defined in 12 M.R.S.A. §6001 (17-A) by any means other than hook and line.

- A. Exception: A person lawfully engaged in the aquaculture of any freshwater fish as defined in 12 M.R.S.A. § 6001 (17-A), shall be exempt from this section provided that that person holds a special license, if required, under 12 M.R.S.A. § 6074.

37.02 Prohibitions on the Taking or Possession of Landlocked Salmon, Brown Trout, and Rainbow Trout

- A. It shall be unlawful to take or possess landlocked salmon, brown trout, or rainbow trout, which are less than 14 inches in total length from the coastal waters of the State of Maine. It shall be unlawful to take or possess landlocked salmon, or brown trout which are greater than 25 inches total length, from the coastal waters of the State of Maine.
- B. Penobscot River: It shall be unlawful to take or possess landlocked salmon, brown trout, or rainbow trout from tidal waters upstream and North of the Penobscot Narrows Bridge and north of the Verona Island Bridge.
- C. A person lawfully engaged in the aquaculture of landlocked salmon, brown trout, or rainbow trout shall be exempt from Chapter 37.02(A) provided that person holds a lease or special license, if required, pursuant to 12 M.R.S. §§6072, 6072-A, 6073-A, 6073-D or 6074.

37.03 Bag and Possession Limits for Landlocked Salmon, Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, and Brook Trout

1. It shall be unlawful to take or possess more than five (5) of the above-mentioned species, of which not more than two (2) may be landlocked salmon, two (2) brown trout, or two (2) rainbow trout. All five (5) may be brook trout.
2. A person lawfully engaged in the aquaculture of landlocked salmon, brown trout, or rainbow trout shall be exempt from this section provided that that person holds a special license, if required, under 12 M.R.S.A. § 6074.
3. Any fish captured in inland waters shall be counted against the bag and possession limits in coastal waters.

37.04 Minimum Length Limit for Brook Trout

It shall be unlawful to take or possess brook trout which are less than 6 inches in total length from the coastal waters of the State of Maine.

37.05 Minimum Length for Black Bass (Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass)

It shall be unlawful to take or possess black bass which are less than 12 inches in total length.

37.06 Bag and Possession Limits for Black Bass

1. It shall be unlawful to take or possess more than three (3) black bass from the coastal waters of the State of Maine. Only one black bass may exceed 14 inches in total length.