

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE



Summary of Enacted Legislation relating to Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

- This is a summary ONLY of the major changes to fish and wildlife laws that were enacted in the 2015 Legislative Session.
- New laws that were not enacted as "emergency" take effect **October 15, 2015** unless there is an effective date specified in the law.
- Some of the fish and wildlife related changes were enacted as emergency legislation and have already gone into effect.

127th Legislature (2015)– Summary of Laws Enacted

***NOTE:** To read the chaptered law right click on the LD #, scroll down and click on “open hyperlink”.

PUBLIC LAWS

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 12 – ([LD 245](#)) An Act To Rename B Stream in Houlton as Captain Ambrose Bear Stream (*Effective October 15, 2015*)

This law renames B Stream near the town of Houlton in Aroostook County to Captain Ambrose Bear Stream.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 42 – ([LD 400](#)) An Act To Continue To Permit Persons 70 Years of Age and Older To Hunt with a Crossbow (*Effective April 30, 2015*)

This law removed a sunset provision which will continue to allow a person over 70 years of age or older to hunt a wild bird or wild animal with a crossbow during any open season on that wild bird or wild animal. A person over 70 may hunt deer with a crossbow during a regular archery-only season or in an expanded archery zone or during the muzzle-loading only deer season.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 57 - ([LD 570](#)) An Act To Authorize the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife To Postpone or Cancel an Open Hunting Season (*Effective October 15, 2015*)

This law gives the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife the authority to postpone or cancel an open hunting season without the Governor's authorization on any game species based on sound scientific wildlife management principles if the commissioner has concerns regarding disease, weather conditions, reduction in population or other unforeseen factors that may prevent publicly derived management goals from being met.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 71 – ([LD 275](#)) An Act To Allow the Use of a Crossbow for Recreational Target Practice within 100 Yards of a Building Without the Owner's Permission (*Effective October 15, 2015*)

For persons target practicing with a crossbow on their own land, or on land which they have permission to use, they may discharge a crossbow within 100 yards of a dwelling provided the projectile does not enter the property of another.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 79 – ([LD 399](#)) An Act To Establish a Youth Bear Hunting Day (*By Emergency Effective, May 15, 2015*)

This law will allow youth hunters to hunt on the Saturday prior to the opening day of the bear hunting season. For 2015 this will occur on [August 29, 2015](#). The youth hunter must have a junior hunting license and can hunt bear with a firearm, bow and arrow or crossbow. This will NOT allow the use of dogs. The adult supervisor, parent or guardian accompanying a youth on youth bear hunting day may not possess a firearm, bow and arrow or crossbow while the youth is participating in the bear hunt.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 90 – ([LD 320](#)) An Act Regarding the Tracking of Wounded Animals With a Leashed Dog (*Effective October 15, 2015*)

Law has allowed a licensed hunting guide to track and dispatch a client's wounded bear, deer or moose outside of legal hunting hours. If that hunting guide wanted to utilize a leashed dog to track the wounded animal they had to have a leashed dog tracking license. This law changed and will now allow a hunting guide to track and dispatch a client's wounded bear, deer or moose after legal hunting hours with one leashed dog but they must obtain authorization from the Commissioner of IFW (the local game warden) first. This is an exception to the requirement to purchase a leashed dog tracking license.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 95 – ([LD 373](#)) An Act To Allow a Moose Permit To Be Transferred to a Family Member (*Effective October 15, 2015*)

The law allows the transfer of a moose permit to a family member in cases determined by the Commissioner of IFW to involve exceptional extenuating circumstances. A family member as it relates to this law is defined as: the transferor's spouse, child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent, brother, sister, half-sister, half-brother or adopted child. The department had the option to

adopt rules necessary to implement a review process however; the Department will not adopt rules and instead will leave it to the Commissioner's discretion.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 121 - (LD 807) An Act To Amend Maine's Threatened and Endangered Species List *(Effective October 15, 2015)*

This bill changes the status of certain species on the State Endangered and Threatened Species list. It adds three mammals and three invertebrates to Maine's current list of Endangered and Threatened Species. All three mammals are cave-dwelling bats. The three invertebrates placed on the list are a butterfly, a tiger beetle, and a land snail.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 125 - (LD 1296) An Act To Repeal Authorization for Smelt Fishing in Mud Brook in Aroostook County *(By Emergency Effective on May 29, 2015)*

This law changed the smelt fishing regulations in Mud Brook in Aroostook County so that it is now closed to recreational smelting with a dip net. It was already closed to the taking of smelts by commercial harvest.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 127 – (LD 781) An Act To Expand Turkey Hunting Opportunities *(Effective January 1, 2016)*

Effective January 1, 2016 this law makes the holder of a big game or a small game hunting license eligible to hold a wild turkey permit. Formally, only a holder of a big game hunting license could purchase a wild turkey permit. It also directs the Commissioner of IFW to establish a November wild turkey hunting season (beginning fall 2016) that is in addition to the current fall wild turkey hunting season in October. During the November hunt a hunter will be required to wear hunter orange if that hunter is utilizing a firearm. The fall wild turkey hunting season allows a person to take a total of 2 wild turkeys during the October and November seasons combined, regardless of sex.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 130 – (LD 88) An Act To Authorize Snowmobile Registration Reciprocity with the Provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec *(Effective October 15, 2015)*

This law would allow the Commissioner of IFW to designate a 3-day weekend each year where a snowmobile registered in New Brunswick or Quebec could be operated in Maine without being registered in Maine. New Brunswick and Quebec would also have to allow snowmobiles registered in Maine to operate in those provinces for a 3-day weekend without being registered in those provinces. Current law allows this same arrangement between Maine and other states.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 136 – (LD 156) An Act To Eliminate the Minimum Age Requirement for a Junior Hunting License and Increase the Number of Times a Person May Hold an Apprentice Hunter License *(Effective January 1, 2016)*

- 1) Effective January 1, 2016 this law eliminates the minimum age requirement for junior hunting license holders and allows any hunter under the age of 16 to purchase a junior hunting license and hunt.
- 2) Hunters from 10-15 years of age must be in the presence of and under the effective control of an adult supervisor.

- 3) Hunters under the age of 10 must be in the presence of, and under the effective control of, an adult supervisor who remains at all times within 20 feet of the hunter.
- 4) The adult supervisor of the junior hunter must hold, or have held, a valid adult hunting license or have successfully completed a hunter safety course.
- 5) This law also increases the number of times a person may hold an apprentice hunter license from twice to 5 times before becoming ineligible to purchase the license.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 219 – (LD 142) An Act To Expand Deer Hunting Opportunities for Junior Hunters *(Effective First Day of Open Firearm Season on Deer, 2015)*

This law allows an antlerless deer permit holder who is 18 or older to transfer their antlerless deer permit to a person who holds a junior hunting license provided the transfer takes place a minimum of 48 hours prior to the junior hunter hunting for an antlerless deer and provided that the person transferring the permit has not harvested an antlerless OR antlered deer. Once the antlerless deer permit is transferred, the transferor loses the right to take an antlerless deer under that permit but remains eligible, unless otherwise prohibited, to take an antlered deer while following all other pertinent laws.

There are exceptions that would allow a hunter to harvest a deer and still transfer an antlerless deer permit. Those exceptions include:

1. Someone harvesting a deer during the expanded archery season within an expanded archery zone.
2. Someone harvesting a deer with a Bonus Permit.
3. Someone harvesting a deer with a Superpack license.

For more information on this please call the IFW Augusta Headquarters at 207-287-8000.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 226 – (LD 256) An Act To Allow Nonresident College Students To Obtain Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Licenses at the Resident Fee and with Resident Privileges *(Effective October 15, 2015)*

A nonresident student is eligible for any hunting, fishing, trapping license or permit at the resident fee and after obtaining that license or permit has the same privileges as a resident holder of that license or permit.

- The person must first demonstrate to the satisfaction of the IFW commissioner that the person is a nonresident student;
- Is 18 – 24 years of age and
- Has been enrolled as a full-time student in an institution of higher education (as defined by statute) for at least one semester prior to applying for a license or permit.
- The commissioner shall stamp or otherwise indicate on the license or permit issued to the nonresident student that it has been issued to a nonresident student.
- The license or permit remains valid for one year from issuance unless otherwise suspended or revoked.
- As it relates to this law "nonresident student" means a nonresident who is 18 years of age or older and under 24 years of age who is enrolled as a full-time student in an institution of higher education.

- For purposes of this subsection, "institution of higher education" means an institution of higher education located in this State that meets the requirements of and conforms to the definitions contained in the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, 20 United States Code, Section 1001(a) and the regulations, guidelines and procedures promulgated by the Secretary of Education pursuant to that Act.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 234 – (LD 1442) – An Act To Establish a Bag Limit for Brook Trout on Portions of Webster Stream in Piscataquis County *(By Emergency Effective June 22, 2015)*

This law allows anglers to keep one brook trout between August 16th and September 30th on Webster Stream in Piscataquis County from the Telos Lake dam downstream to Webster Lake.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 237 – (LD 716) – An Act To Amend the Fees for Snowmobile Registrations and To Create the Snowmobile Trail Fund Donation Sticker *(By Emergency Effective June 23, 2015)*

1. It increased the resident snowmobile registration fee from \$40 to \$45;
2. It increased the 3-day nonresident snowmobile registration fee from \$43 to \$49;
3. It increased the nonresident seasonal snowmobile registration fee from \$88 to \$99;
4. It created a 10-consecutive-day nonresident snowmobile registration fee and sets the fee at \$75;
5. It directs that the extra money from the fee increases go into the Snowmobile Trail Fund of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands;
6. It directs the Commissioner of IFW to create the Snowmobile Trail Fund Donation Sticker Program and to create donation stickers to reflect a donor's donation of \$25, \$50 and \$100, respectively, of which \$2 is retained by IFW and the remainder is transferred to the Snowmobile Trail Fund within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands. The donation stickers are not a part of or associated with the State's snowmobile registration requirements;
7. It also directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to develop written policies specifying the criteria the department will use to distribute additional revenues raised from these fee increases to snowmobile clubs and to submit those policies for review to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife no later than January 15, 2016.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 245 – (LD 913) An Act To Expand Public Opportunities for Wildlife Management Education *(Effective January 1, 2016)*

- 1) This law increases hunting and trapping license fees by \$1 and directs IFW to use that revenue to educate the public on the management of game species.
- 2) The hunting license fees will increase January 1, 2016 and the trapping license fees will increase July 1, 2016 to coincide with the annual license expiration dates.
- 3) It also requires the Commissioner of IFW to convene a stakeholders group to develop recommendations for a 5 yr. public outreach campaign for IFW on IFW's efforts to manage game species including a plan for how money in the Species Mgt. Education Fund is to be used. The Commissioner shall report on the recommendations of the stakeholders group including any suggested legislation to the IFW Committee by February 1, 2016. The IFW Committee may report out a bill in the 2nd Regular Session of the 127th in 2016.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 262 – (LD 942) An Act To Permit the Use of Firearm Noise Suppression Devices in Hunting and Provide for a Chief Law Enforcement Officer’s Certification for Certain Firearms *(Effective October 15, 2015)*

This law states the IFW Commissioner may issue a permit for the use of noise suppression devices while hunting.

Specifically it does the following:

- This law states that the Commissioner of IFW may issue a permit that is valid until August 1, 2018 for the use of noise suppression devices while hunting as long as the person has lawful possession of the device and has not had a hunting license revoked as a result of a serious hunting violation;
- Persons applying for this permit must contact Maine Warden Service for more information;
- Provides for enhanced penalties for a person who commits a hunting violation while in possession of a firearm with a noise suppression device;
- Provides for the permanent revocation of a person's hunting license and the seizure and libel of the person's firearm and noise suppression device if the person commits a serious hunting violation while in possession of a firearm with a noise suppression device;
- Provides definitions of "hunting crime" and "serious hunting violation";
- Until IFW has implemented an application process permits will not be available; and
- The cost of the permit will be \$12.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 277 – (LD 1321) An Act To Expand the Landowner Relations Program at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife *(Effective October 15, 2015)*

This bill amends the landowner relations program in the following ways:

- The bill gives the Commissioner of IFW, instead of the Governor, authority to appoint board members for the Landowners and Sportsmen Relations Advisory Board, and it reduces the size and membership of the board and expands the board’s duties to include an annual stakeholder meeting and an annual reporting requirement.
- This bill also directs the Commissioner of IFW to establish a Keep Maine Clean program to recruit volunteers to pick up trash in the fields and forests while they are walking, hiking, fishing and otherwise enjoying public and private lands and promote this program in various ways specified within the law.
- It also provides that any money received by the Commissioner of IFW for the Keep Maine Clean program must be deposited in the Landowner Relations Fund.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 281 – (LD 1409) An Act To Clarify and Simplify the Licensing and Registration Provisions of the Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Laws *(Effective October 15, 2015 unless the law specifies otherwise)* *To reduce confusion for the public, only major changes that affect the public are included while technical changes contained within this law were not summarized.*

Part A: These sections of law make a change that allows for electronic licenses or permits to be valid in addition to or in lieu of physical paper licenses or permits. Upon request an electronic license or permit

can now be displayed to a game warden, other law enforcement officer, an employee of the department, a Maine guide or the owner of the land on which the licensed activity is taking place.

Part C:

- This law changes the reference of a muzzle-loading “hunting license” to a muzzle-loading “permit”.
- It clarifies the number of antlerless deer and either-sex permits that certain license holders may be issued for the expanded archery season on deer (special season on deer) upon receiving their license. One antlerless deer permit and one either-sex permit must be issued to all qualifying license holders. The license holders included are:
 - Junior license holders
 - Residents over 70 who hold a senior lifetime license
 - Resident disabled veterans or nonresident disabled veterans who are residents of New Hampshire or Vermont who have a service-connected disability of 50% or more
 - Member of federally recognized nation, band or tribe

Part D:

- Beginning January 1, 2016, this allows holders of junior hunting licenses, after they turn 16 years of age, to hunt pheasants and migratory waterfowl and to hunt with a bow and arrow for the remainder of the calendar year for which their licenses are issued without their having to purchase pheasant permits, migratory waterfowl permits or archery hunting licenses. NOTE: Junior license holders who turn 16 but who continue to hunt on their junior license for the remainder of the calendar year are still required to purchase a federal migratory bird hunting stamp.

Part E: This does the following:

- It removes the reference to “big game” hunting license and after each reference to a hunting license it clarifies that it “permits hunting of all legal species, subject to the permit requirements”. This makes it clear that a “hunting license” qualifies a person to hunt big game AND small game. A hunting license that only allows a person to hunt small game will continue to be referred to as a “small game hunting license”. The reference to big game hunting license sometimes misled people to think that they must buy both, a “small game hunting license” as well as a “big game hunting license” to hunt small game.
- It changes the references to crossbow and muzzle-loading licenses to crossbow and muzzle-loading permits.
- It creates a new section of law that speaks to crossbow hunting permit requirements and this section is now located within law that lists other permits offered by IFW.

Part F: It makes changes to the taxidermy license provisions by:

- Making the taxidermist license a 3-year license;
- Increasing the application fee from \$10 to \$50;
- Setting an examination fee of \$50 and allowing a person to retake the examination once without paying an additional examination fee;
- Beginning January 1, 2016 an examination is required for any person who has not held a valid taxidermist license within the previous 3 years;

- It changes the taxidermist license schedule to provide for an expiration date of December 31st.
 - It also changes the license fee if an applicant qualifies from \$67 to \$77 for the 3-year license.
- ** A license issued between June 30, 2015 and before December 31, 2015 is valid until December 31, 2016.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 298 – ([LD 1410](#)) An Act To Strengthen Maine’s Fisheries Laws
(Effective October 15, 2015)

Sections 1, 2, 3 & 6: This amends the definition of baitfish by repealing 3 baitfish on the list that are either rare, not being used or may be considered a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Maine, those include the Bridle Shiner, Longnose dace and the Creek chubsucker. This also amended the definition of baitfish by adding a definition of sucker. Sucker includes both the white sucker and the longnose sucker.

Section 4: In order to comply with management direction taken by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission concerning American Eel, the size defining the life cycle stage from an elver to an eel went from 6 inches to 9 inches. So an eel is defined as being 9 inches or more in length.

Section 5: This part of law defines a Lamprey eel which means a sea lamprey.

Section 7: This repeals law that had allowed eel permits to be issued to fur trappers.

Section 8: Part of this section clarifies that the holder of an individual permit for harvesting suckers, lampreys or yellow perch may purchase a crew permit that authorizes up to 3 persons to engage in the permitted activity.

It also established a reporting requirement for persons licensed to fish for eels, suckers, lampreys or yellow perch. The reported information will be used for scientific purposes and is confidential. It provides for suspension or revocation of a permit for noncompliance with a permit restriction.

Section 9: This section provides that the holder of a smelt or baitfish dealer license may not receive, possess for resale, sell or offer to sell gift baitfish or gift smelts.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 301 – ([LD 1196](#)) An Act To Correct and Clarify Maine's Fish and Wildlife Laws (Effective October 15, 2015) *To reduce confusion for the public, only major changes that affect the public are included while technical changes contained within this law were not summarized. This bill encompasses several changes or clarifications within Title 12 summarized below:*

Section 2:

This portion of the new law establishes a youth camp program called Camp North Woods which offers youth opportunities to learn outdoor skills about conservation of the State’s natural resources.

Section 5:

This creates a new statute that makes a general violation for a person to possess a wild animal or wild bird or any parts of that animal or bird if they do not possess it lawfully.

Section 8 & 9:

It organizes the requirements for crossbow hunting and eliminates the 200 lb maximum draw weight on the use of crossbows.

Section 12: This changes the requirement for an adult supervisor of an apprenticeship hunter license from a person who is 18 years of age or older and holds a valid “Maine” hunting license to a person who is 18 years of age or older and holds a valid “adult” license under that subchapter.

Section 13: This section is an attempt to clarify again that nonresident junior hunters during the year in which that junior hunter turns 16, will have all permits, stamps and other permissions included in their hunting license at no additional cost. If the junior hunter continues to hunt on their junior license after turning 16 and they hunt migratory waterfowl they must purchase a Federal Migratory bird hunting stamp. This excludes any lottery related permits.

Section 14: This adds language to the section of law that allows for a moose permit holder to transfer their permit for a different hunting zone, area or season. It states that a person who holds a moose permit may not exchange their moose permit for another moose permit for any other consideration than to exchange the hunting zone, area or season.

Section 18 & 31: This makes it illegal to place or deposit medicinal substances (in addition to the law which already prohibited poisonous or stupefying substances) to entice an animal to a location when baiting bear or for the purpose of killing, taking, catching, wounding, harming or molesting any wild animal or wild bird.

Section 19: This part of the law makes it illegal for a person to hunt bear with a .17 or .22 caliber rimfire firearm or a shotgun using shot loads.

Section: 22: This clarifies the law that prohibits baiting of moose. It specifies that from Sept. 1st to Dec. 15th a person may not bait moose or hunt over bait for moose. It also makes it clear that a person can hunt moose over standing crops or foods that are left as a result of normal agricultural operations or as a result of a natural occurrence. This also removes the language related to the bear baiting exception.

Section 23, 24 & 25: This clarifies the law that prohibits baiting of wild turkeys and makes it consistent with baiting of moose. It specifies that from Sept. 1st to Dec. 15th and during the spring turkey season a person may not bait wild turkey or hunt over bait for wild turkey. It also makes it clear that a person can hunt turkey over standing crops or foods that are left as a result of normal agricultural operations or as a result of a natural occurrence.

Section 26: This includes the word “trap” to the prohibited act of hunting wild birds to clarify that someone may not trap a wild bird unless it is listed within the exceptions. It also changes the name rock dove to the common name of rock pigeon.

Section 28: This repealed penalties associated with violation of rules for wildlife in captivity which was rewritten in P.L.c. 374.

Section 30: It amends the supervisory requirements for apprentice hunter licenses and apprentice trapper licenses. It specifies that the holder of an apprentice hunter license must hunt in the presence of a person who is 18 years of age or older and who holds a valid adult hunting license and specifies that

the holder of an apprentice trapper license must trap in the presence of a person that has held a valid adult trapper license for the prior 3 consecutive years.

Section 32: This addressed tend requirements for trapping in an organized or incorporated place by requiring that drowning sets be checked once in every 3 calendar days except that a drowning set placed within ½ mile of a city, town or village center must be checked at least once in every calendar day.

Section 33: This changed the open-water fishing season on boundary waters between Maine and New Brunswick to April 1st through September 30th, inclusive. The open-water start date on these waters had been April 15th.

Section 34: This repealed the group, youth camp fishing license. This was done because statute was recently changed allowing nonresident youth under 16 to fish without a license just as resident youth can.

Section 36: This created a season closure of March 31st for smelt wholesalers to catch smelts through the ice. It states, in part that, "The holder of a smelt wholesale dealer's license may: 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.

Section 37: This repealed language that allows fishermen to take baitfish from waters at any time because permits are no longer required. IFW now closes specific water bodies to the taking of baitfish through rule making. All other waters allow the taking of baitfish, which makes the permitting process unnecessary now.

Section 39: This amended the April 1st deadline for ice fishing shack removal to a deadline that is prior to ice out or 3 days after the season ends, whichever comes first.

Section 40: This added an exemption to the Freedom of Access Act and grants the Commissioner discretion to protect species and natural area location information when threatened and endangered species are involved.

Section 41: This amended the taxidermy law to cause a taxidermist to retain a record of completed taxidermy work for a period of 4 years after the date of completion of the work.

Section 42: This amended the taxidermy law to cause a taxidermist to continue to be subject to records inspections for additional time after their license becomes expired or revoked, (30 days after the effective date).

Section 44 & 45: These sections increase the property damage amount for reporting a property damage watercraft accident from \$1,000 to \$2,000 to be consistent and compliant with the Code of Federal Regulations.

Section 50: This paragraph describing ATV noise levels will be the one that remains of the two conflicting paragraphs. It will now be clear that the noise emission standard for an ATV cannot exceed 96 decibels of sound pressure when measured from a distance of 20 inches.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 327 – (LD 652) An Act To Authorize the Carrying of Concealed Handguns without a Permit (*Effective October 15, 2015*)

This law allows a person to 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:

- 1) The person is 21 years of age or older and is not otherwise prohibited from possessing a firearm or;
- 2) The person is 18 years old 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.

This law also requires a person who is carrying a concealed handgun, legally and who does not have a valid permit, when that person first comes in contact with a law enforcement officer of Maine or its political subdivisions or during a routine traffic stop, that that person shall immediately inform the law enforcement officer that they have a concealed handgun. A prohibited act was enacted so if a person fails to inform an officer that they have a concealed handgun they commit a civil violation.

A firearm safety brochure will be developed and provided when a person purchases a handgun. This law, in no way allows a person to have a loaded crossbow or firearm (other than a handgun) in a motor vehicle, boat or on a trailer attached to a motor vehicle and in no way allows a person to shoot while in or on a motor vehicle, motor boat or while in or on a trailer being hauled by a motor vehicle. Certain exceptions still apply for migratory waterfowl hunting and persons with disabled hunting permits.

PUBLIC LAW 2015 CHAPTER 374 – (LD 1369) An Act To Restructure the Permitting Process for Wildlife and Exotic Species in Captivity (*Effective October 15, 2015*)

This law modified the current statute regulating wildlife in captivity in the following ways:

- 1) Requires IFW to maintain a list of unregulated fish and wildlife species that is available to the public;
- 2) Requires IFW to amend current IFW rules to maintain updated inspection provisions for applicants attempting to acquire a permit to possess or introduce, import and possess fish or wildlife in captivity;
- 3) Requires IFW to maintain a fee structure to establish fees for inspection provisions for regulated species;
- 4) Allows IFW to charge a responsible party for the costs incurred to remove or euthanize unpermitted regulated fish or wildlife species;
- 5) Increased the penalty for keeping wildlife in captivity illegally to not less than a \$500 fine;
- 6) Added educational purposes as a reason the commissioner may issue permits to hunt, trap, possess, band and transport wild animals and wild birds, this is in addition to granting permits for scientific purposes;

- 7) Listed the different types of permits provided for wildlife in captivity based on the reason in which the permit holder wants the animal. It also establishes the permit fees and length of terms that the permits are good for;
- 8) Requires IFW to amend rules to outline a process for applying for wildlife in captivity permits;
- 9) Allows IFW to provide a list of authorized and trained independent contractors for permit applicants to hire so that they may:
 - a. Educate applicants on minimum standard facility requirements and;
 - b. Inspect current facilities to recommend approval or denial of a permit;

NOTE: Due to the law change on October 15, 2015 and subsequent rule making, the IFW webpage relating to this topic is currently being updated. Continue to check the following web link for updated information in the upcoming months:

[Wildlife in Captivity Permitting & Unrestricted Species](#)

RESOLVE

RESOLVE 2015 CHAPTER 53 – ([LD 1202](#)) Resolve, To Ensure the Stocking of Inland Waters in the State

Sec. 1. Engineering study; purchase fish for stocking. Resolved: During fiscal year 2015-16, the Department may spend up to \$700,000 from the IFW carrying account, General Fund account within IFW to do the following:

1. Contract for an engineering study regarding upgrading the Grand Lake Stream Fish Hatchery. The study must include, but is not limited to, an analysis of the feasibility and cost of a new cold water supply to that hatchery to raise fall yearly brook trout;
2. Contract for an engineering study regarding the construction of a new fish hatchery in the State. The study must also include a comparative analysis on whether the State can best achieve its fish stocking objectives through the construction of a new fish hatchery or through upgrades to existing state-owned fish hatcheries; and
3. Use any funds authorized pursuant to this resolve in excess of the amount needed to conduct the engineering studies described in subsections 1 and 2 to purchase fish to stock the inland waters of the State; and be it further

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, no later than February 1, 2016, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall submit a report regarding its progress on meeting the provisions of this resolve, including any findings and recommendations, to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife may introduce a bill during the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature regarding matters related to the report.