§12457. Restricted areas

1. Closed waters. Except as the commissioner may by rule provide and as provided in subsection 2, the following waters are closed to fishing:

A. The area within 150 feet of any operational fishway, except:

(1) At the following places, the fishway and the area within 75 feet of any part of the fishway are closed to fishing at all times:

(a) Grand Falls Powerhouse Dam on the St. Croix River in Baileyville; and

(b) Woodland Dam on the St. Croix River in Baileyville;

(2) At the following places, the area within the fishway and within 75 feet of the downstream mouth of the fishway is closed to fishing at all times:

(a) East Grand Lake Dam in Forest City Township, T9 R4 NBPP, except that fishing upstream from the dam at the top of the fishway is lawful;

(2-A) At the following places, the area within 75 feet of the mouth of the fishway is closed to fishing at all times:

(a) Spednic Lake Dam in Vanceboro;

(3) At the so-called ice control dam on the Narraguagus River in the Town of Cherryfield, the area within 100 feet of the dam must be closed to fishing at all times;

(4) At East Outlet Dam in Sapling Township, T1R7, in Somerset County and in Big Moose Township, T2R6, in Piscataquis County at the outlet of Moosehead Lake, the fishway and the area within 50 feet of any part of the fishway must be closed to fishing at all times; and

(5) There is no fishing in or from the fishway at the Sheepscot Lake Dam in the Town of Palermo in Waldo County, Chain of Ponds Dam in Chain of Ponds Township in Franklin County, Long Pond Dam in Seven Ponds Township in Franklin County, Beaver Pond Dam in Seven Ponds Township in Franklin County, Little Island Pond Dam in Seven Ponds Township in Franklin County, Pushaw Lake Dam in the Town of Hudson in Penobscot County, Davis Pond Dam in the Town of Eddington in Penobscot County, Leonard's Mills Dam on Blackman Stream in the Town of Bradley in Penobscot County, Souadabscook Stream Dam at Grist Mill Road in the Town of Carmel in Penobscot County, Webber Pond Dam in the Town of Vassalboro in Kennebec County and Crooked Brook Dam in the Town of Danforth in Washington County; [PL 2025, c. 41, §1 (AMD).]

B. All waters within 200 feet of any fish hatchery or rearing station; and [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

C. The property owned by the Unity Utilities District located on Route 139 and Prairie Road in the municipality of Unity in Waldo County. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

For purposes of this subsection, "operational" means a fishway capable of fish passage whether or not it is allowing the passage of fish at any given time.
[PL 2025, c. 41, §1 (AMD).]

2. Prohibition. A person may not fish in inland waters closed to fishing as described in this section except that a person may fish for river herring and smelts in the manner provided under the laws regulating marine resources.
[PL 2017, c. 150, §3 (AMD).]

3. Penalty. A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime. The court shall also impose a fine of $20, none of which may be suspended, for each fish unlawfully possessed.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §245 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B245 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 477, §15 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 550, §8 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 253, §27 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 499, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 150, §3 (AMD). PL 2025, c. 41, §1 (AMD).

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