



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 537

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H.P. 342

House of Representatives, February 9, 2023

### **An Act to Remove the Limits on Bass Fishing in Washington County Rivers**

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Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative DAVIS of East Machias. (BY REQUEST)

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12458, sub-§3** is enacted to read:

3 **3. Washington County rivers.** A person may not be limited in the number, amount,  
4 weight or size of largemouth bass or smallmouth bass fished in the rivers of Washington  
5 County. A person may not be limited in the possession of largemouth bass or smallmouth  
6 bass fished in the rivers of Washington County. For purposes of this subsection, the rivers  
7 of Washington County include, but are not limited to, all or portions of Dennys River, St.  
8 Croix River, Machias River, East Machias River, Pleasant River, Narraguagus River,  
9 Union River, Tunk Stream and Orange River.

10 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12602, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 150, §5, is further  
11 amended to read:

12 **1. Fish in violation of certain rules.** Fish in violation of the number, amount, weight  
13 or size limits established by rules adopted by the commissioner, except that a person may  
14 not be limited in the number, amount, weight or size of largemouth bass or smallmouth  
15 bass fished in the rivers of Washington County, including, but not limited to, all or portions  
16 of Dennys River, St. Croix River, Machias River, East Machias River, Pleasant River,  
17 Narraguagus River, Union River, Tunk Stream and Orange River;

18 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §12602, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 224, §1, is further  
19 amended to read:

20 **2. Possess fish in violation of certain rules.** Possess fish in violation of the number,  
21 amount, weight or size limits established by rules adopted by the commissioner, except that  
22 a person may not be limited in the possession of largemouth bass or smallmouth bass fished  
23 in the rivers of Washington County, including, but not limited to, all or portions of Dennys  
24 River, St. Croix River, Machias River, East Machias River, Pleasant River, Narraguagus  
25 River, Union River, Tunk Stream and Orange River;

## 26 SUMMARY

27 This bill removes the limit on the number, amount, weight and size of largemouth bass  
28 and smallmouth bass fished in the rivers of Washington County. The bill also removes the  
29 limit on possessing largemouth bass or smallmouth bass fished in the rivers of Washington  
30 County. The bill specifies that the rivers of Washington County include, but are not limited  
31 to, all or portions of Dennys River, St. Croix River, Machias River, East Machias River,  
32 Pleasant River, Narraguagus River, Union River, Tunk Stream and Orange River.