OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 17 FY 19/20
DATE March 20, 2020

AN ORDER REGARDING CERTAIN LAWS ENFORCED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISH & WILDLIFE

WHEREAS, I proclaimed a state of emergency on March 15, 2020 to authorize the use of emergency powers in order to expand and expedite the State's response to the many different effects of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the governor's emergency powers expressly include the authorities to adjust time frames and deadlines imposed by law and to suspend the enforcement of a statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business; and

WHEREAS, this Order is necessary to promote healthy and safe activities, encourage social distancing; mitigate concerns related to isolation, and allow Department of Inland Fish & Wildlife enforcement staff to focus their attention on resource related issues;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, pursuant to 37-B M.R.S. Ch. 13, including but not limited to 37-B M.R.S. §742(1)(C)(1), (12), (13)(a) and §834, do hereby Order as follows:

I. ORDERS

A. The annual open season date of April 1st as set forth in 12 M.R.S. §12456(1-A)(A) is adjusted to March 20 for 2020. This change does not open any body of water to ice fishing that is currently closed to ice fishing.

B. Enforcement of the prohibition set forth in 12 MRS §12604(1) on taking or possessing certain fish during a closed season shall be suspended until April 1, 2020 consistent with section I.A of this Order. This change does not open any body of water to ice fishing that is currently closed to ice fishing.

C. Enforcement of the prohibition set forth in 12 MRS §12501(1) that a person may not fish for, transport or possess fish without a valid license shall be suspended through April 30, 2020 consistent with section I.A of this Order. This change does not apply to activities that require a commercial freshwater fishing license or permit.

All other pertinent tackle, length and bag limits and special regulations still apply, as do all safety recommendations.

II. EFFECTIVE DATE

The effective date of this Order is March 20, 2020.

Janet T. Mills
Governor