



Oppose LD 170: Don't Roll Back Rules Protecting Wild Brook Trout

Ensure our brook trout populations remain healthy;
Leave rulemaking authority with MDIFW.

Maine has been identified as "the last true stronghold for native brook trout," but LD 170 proposes to overrule MDIFW rules designed to protect important wild brook trout lakes. The potential introduction of non-native baitfish species threatens these special waters.

The use of live bait is a significant threat to Maine's wild brook trout

- Maine is home to over 97% of the remaining native and wild lake and pond populations of brook trout.
- Live bait fish are documented as the number one threat to wild brook trout populations by a series of reports and studies by Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) and others.
- The rules adopted in 2012 as a result of overwhelming support and public comments to Maine's Fish and Wildlife Advisory Council were intended to protect 9 additional waters.



In the 2009 Brook Trout Management Plan, brook trout biologist Forrest Bonney writes:

- "The often inadvertent spread of white suckers and a number of minnow species used as bait caused still further interspecific competition with brook trout, but is less of a problem today because their use as live bait is prohibited from most waters with native or wild brook trout populations."
- "It has long been the policy of fisheries biologists to recommend the imposition of regulations restricting the use of live fish as bait on newly-surveyed waters that have brook trout populations but few if any competing species."

LD 170 would overturn rules adopted in 2012 by the MDIFW.

- These decisions should be made through the DIFW's formal rule making process.

The Legislature should oppose LD 170: *Resolve, To Allow the Use of Live Bait When Ice Fishing in Certain Waters of the State* (Sen. Troy Jackson)

For more information, please contact Jeff Reardon, Maine Brook Trout Project Director for Trout Unlimited, at jreardon@tu.org



Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition

is a partnership of 26 environmental, conservation and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to make wise use of Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine's economy can thrive.

Appalachian Mountain Club
Atlantic Salmon Federation
Bicycle Coalition of Maine
Conservation Law Foundation
Environmental Health Strategy Center
Environment Maine
ENE
Friends of Casco Bay
Maine Audubon
Maine Center for Economic Policy
Maine Congress of Lake Associations
Maine Council of Churches
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited
Maine Interfaith Power & Light
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Natural Resources Council of Maine
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine Chapter
Product Policy Institute of Maine
RESTORE: The North Woods
Sierra Club, Maine Chapter
The Ocean Conservancy
The Wilderness Society
Toxics Action Center