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**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES**

TO: Senator Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair
Representative Melanie Sachs, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM: Senator Cameron Reny, Senate Chair
Representative Allison Hepler, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

DATE: March 15, 2024

RE: Marine Resources Committee Recommendations on the Governor's
Supplemental Budget Bill (LD 2214)

We are writing to provide the recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources on the initiatives under the committee's policy jurisdiction included in the Governor's Supplemental Budget Bill (LD 2214). These items were considered at a public hearing held on March 1, 2024 and again at a work session held on March 14, 2024. The 8 members¹ of the committee present and voting at the March 14th work session unanimously voted in all of the initiatives that fall under the committee's jurisdiction. We have attached the budget worksheet provided by the Office of Fiscal and Program Review, showing members' votes on all initiatives.

Present and voting members also unanimously voted to recommend the inclusion of 4 additional initiatives, to support 4 positions within the Department of Marine Resources (DMR). While the committee would like to see all of these initiatives included, they are ranked below in the order of importance.

Additional Recommendations for New Initiatives

1. Funding for a new Marine Resources Management Coordinator position;
2. Funding for a DMR fisheries pathologist position (currently self-funded);
3. Funding for a new Marine Scientist I position; and
4. Funding for a new Management Analyst position.

¹ Members present for the vote: Sen. Reny, Rep. Davis, Rep. Eaton, Rep. Hepler, Rep. Simmons, Rep. Strout and Rep. Thorne.
Members absent for the vote: Sen. Beebe-Center, Sen. Moore, Rep. Dill, Rep. Doudera and Rep. Landry.

We are attaching a memorandum from the Department which includes fiscal information for the above initiatives along with an explanation of why each position is needed. Please let us know if we can provide any additional information or assistance.

We appreciate your consideration of our recommendations and comments.

Sincerely,

Sen. Cameron Reny
Senate Chair

Rep. Allison Hepler
House Chair

Sec. A-24. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Continues one limited-period Office Specialist I Supervisor position previously continued by Financial Order 002852 F4, 2 limited-period Office Associate II positions previously continued by Financial Order 002853 F4 and one limited-period Office Associate II position previously continued by Financial Order 002854 F4 through June 7, 2025. This initiative also provides one-time funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 664 One Time Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent) AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$354,239
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$16,918
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$371,157

Justification:

A mandate from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to transition to 100% lobster harvester reporting requires the creation of these positions to support and implement this project. The positions will transition the Department from the current reporting level of approximately 500 harvesters to all 5,800 licensed commercial harvesters and oversee the transition of paper reporting in the lobster fishery to mandatory electronic reporting through two of the Department supplied electronic reporting options. These positions are vital to the success of the implementation of this initiative to provide industry with the support, feedback, and outreach needed to successfully make the transition to 100% lobster harvester reporting.

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Continues 2 limited-period Marine Resource Specialist II positions previously continued by Financial Order 002851 F4 and provides funding for the approved reorganization to Marine Resource Specialist positions. These positions end June 7, 2025. This initiative also provides one-time funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 665 One Time Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent) AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$178,480
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$8,525
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$187,005

Justification:

Continuation of these positions is vital to the success of the implementation of the 100% lobster harvester reporting mandate from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. These positions provide industry support, feedback, and outreach needed to make the transition successful. These positions are also included in a management-initiated reorganization approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on June 6, 2023.

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Provides funding to increase the baseline allocation for federal grants.

Ref. #: 666

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$690,386
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$690,386

Justification:

This initiative will increase the baseline allocation for ongoing federal grants in the Bureau of Marine Science.

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Provides funding to increase the baseline allocation for nonfederal grants.

Ref. #: 667

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$60,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$60,000

Justification:

This initiative will increase the baseline allocation for ongoing non federal grants in the Bureau of Marine Science.

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Moves a transfer from the Department of Environmental Protection's Maine Ground and Surface Waters Clean-up and Response Fund from the Bureau of Marine Science to the Bureau of Public Health.

Ref. #: 668

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	(\$25,000)	(\$25,000)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$25,000)	(\$25,000)

Justification:

Transfer adjustment coincides with ENV F-A-3016.

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Marine Resource Scientist II position to a Marine Resource Scientist III position, retroactive to May 31, 2022. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 669

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$13,186	\$3,146
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$13,186</u>	<u>\$3,146</u>

Ref. #: 670

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$9,093	\$9,442
All Other	\$0	\$434	\$451
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$9,527</u>	<u>\$9,893</u>

Justification:

This is an employee-initiated reclassification approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on May 19, 2023. The effective date for this reclassification is May 31, 2022. This initiative also funds the retroactive payment.

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Transfers one Marine Resource Specialist II position and related All Other costs from the Bureau of Policy and Management program to the Bureau of Marine Science program within the same fund.

Ref. #: 671

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$82,042	\$86,925
All Other	\$0	\$3,919	\$4,152
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$85,961</u>	<u>\$91,077</u>

Justification:

This initiative will align work effort with appropriate funding.

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of 5 Marine Resource Specialist I positions and 12 Marine Resource Specialist II positions to Marine Resource Specialist positions. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 672

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$8,136
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$8,136

Ref. #: 673

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$27,360
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$1,307
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$28,667

Ref. #: 674

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$10,168
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$487
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$10,655

Justification:

This is a management-initiated reorganization approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on June 6, 2023.

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of 9 Resource Management Coordinator positions to Marine Resource Management Coordinator positions. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 676

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$3,854
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$185
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$4,039

Justification:

This is a management-initiated reorganization approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on June 5, 2023.

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved range change of 9 Marine Resource Scientist I positions from range 23 to range 24, 23 Marine Resource Scientist II positions from range 25 to range 28, 15 Marine Resource Scientist III positions from range 28 to range 29 and 5 Marine Resource Scientist IV positions from range 31 to range 32. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 677

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$81,341
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$81,341</u>

Ref. #: 678

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$36,922
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$1,763
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$38,685</u>

Ref. #: 679

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$69,491
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$3,339
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$72,830</u>

Justification:

This is a management-initiated reorganization approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on May 17, 2023.

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved range change of one limited-period Marine Resource Scientist II position from range 25 to range 28 and 2 limited-period Marine Resource Scientist I positions from range 23 to range 24. This initiative also provides one-time funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 683

One Time

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$21,280
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$1,017
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$22,297</u>

Justification:

These positions assist in planning, coordinating, and conducting research projects in the offshore research array and assist with current acoustic monitoring efforts by the Department. These positions provide necessary data both on the impact of Maine's offshore wind array on marine resources and provide data on the presence of North Atlantic Right Whales in Maine's coastal waters.

Bureau of Policy and Management 0258

Initiative: Continues one limited-period Marine Resource Scientist I position previously continued by Financial Order 002865 F4 and one limited-period Marine Resource Scientist I position previously continued by Financial Order 002866 F4 and provides funding for the approved reorganization from range 23 to range 24. These positions end June 7, 2025. This initiative reduces All Other funding one time to fund the cost of the positions and the reorganization.

Ref. #: 692 One Time Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent) AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$198,104
All Other	\$0	\$0	(\$198,104)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$0

Justification:

These positions assist in planning, coordinating, and conducting research projects in the offshore research array and assist with current acoustic monitoring efforts by the Department. These positions provide necessary data both on the impact of Maine's offshore wind array on marine resources and provide data on the presence of North Atlantic Right Whales in Maine's coastal waters.

Bureau of Policy and Management 0258

Initiative: Transfers one Marine Resource Specialist II position and related All Other costs from the Bureau of Policy and Management program to the Bureau of Marine Science program within the same fund.

Ref. #: 693 Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent) AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$82,042)	(\$86,925)
All Other	\$0	(\$3,919)	(\$4,152)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$85,961)	(\$91,077)

Justification:

This initiative will align work effort with appropriate funding.

Bureau of Policy and Management 0258

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of 9 Resource Management Coordinator positions to Marine Resource Management Coordinator positions. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 694

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$35,337
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$35,337</u>

Ref. #: 695

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$7,709
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$369
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$8,078</u>

Ref. #: 696

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$17,700
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$847
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$18,547</u>

Justification:

This is a management-initiated reorganization approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on June 5, 2023.

Bureau of Policy and Management 0258

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved range change of 9 Marine Resource Scientist I positions from range 23 to range 24, 23 Marine Resource Scientist II positions from range 25 to range 28, 15 Marine Resource Scientist III positions from range 28 to range 29 and 5 Marine Resource Scientist IV positions from range 31 to range 32. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 698

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$21,990
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$21,990</u>

Ref. #: 699

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$3,796
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$182
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$3,978

Justification:

This is a management-initiated reorganization approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on May 17, 2023.

Bureau of Policy and Management 0258

Initiative: Continues one limited-period Marine Resource Scientist II position previously continued by Financial Order CV0599 F4 and provides funding for the approved reorganization from range 25 to range 28. This position ends on December 31, 2024.

Ref. #: 700 One Time Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent) AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$67,390
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$67,390

Justification:

This position provides administrative support and oversee \$7.6M in high priority fisheries connectivity and habitat restoration projects. Funds were authorized in Public Law 2021, chapter 483, An Act To Provide Allocations for the Distribution of State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Bureau of Policy and Management 0258

Initiative: Continues 2 limited-period Marine Resource Scientist I positions previously continued by Financial Order CV0600 F4 and provides funding for the approved reorganization from range 23 to range 24. These positions end on December 31, 2024.

Ref. #: 701 One Time Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent) AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$115,208
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$115,208

Justification:

These positions assist with acoustic data analysis for the Economic Sustainability for the State fisheries project. Funds were authorized in Public Law 2021, chapter 483, An Act To Provide Allocations for the Distribution of State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Bureau of Policy and Management 0258

Initiative: Adjusts funding to correct a negative allocation due to Public Law 2023, chapter 17, which transferred position count and related STA-CAP charges to a different funding source.

Ref. #: 702

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$906	\$930
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$906	\$930

Justification:

Public Law 2023, chapter 17 transferred funding for one Resource Management Coordinator position to different accounts and the associated STACAP reduction exceeded baseline All Other. This initiative adjusts funding to zero out the All Other allocation. See C-A-10.

Bureau of Policy and Management 0258

Initiative: Reallocates the cost of one Marine Resource Scientist II position from 50% Other Special Revenue Funds and 25% General Fund in the Bureau of Marine Science program and 25% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Bureau of Policy and Management program to 75% Other Special Revenue Funds and 25% General Fund in the Bureau of Marine Science program. This initiative also reallocates related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 703

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	(\$23,007)	(\$24,161)
All Other	\$0	(\$1,099)	(\$1,154)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$24,106)	(\$25,315)

Justification:

This initiative will align work effort with appropriate funding.

Bureau of Public Health Z154

Initiative: Moves a transfer from the Department of Environmental Protection's Maine Ground and Surface Waters Clean-up and Response Fund from the Bureau of Marine Science to the Bureau of Public Health.

Ref. #: 707

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000

Bureau of Public Health Z154

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved range change of 9 Marine Resource Scientist I positions from range 23 to range 24, 23 Marine Resource Scientist II positions from range 25 to range 28, 15 Marine Resource Scientist III positions from range 28 to range 29 and 5 Marine Resource Scientist IV positions from range 31 to range 32. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 712

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$36,016
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$36,016</u>

Ref. #: 713

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$8,114
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$388
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$8,502</u>

Ref. #: 714

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$101,071
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$4,829
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$105,900</u>

Justification:

This is a management-initiated reorganization approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on May 17, 2023.

Marine Patrol - Bureau of 0029

Initiative: Provides funding to support the increased cost of lobster trap tags.

Ref. #: 688

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$502,844
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$502,844</u>

Justification:

Fees have increased for printing lobster trap tags to \$0.173 per tag and will increase to \$0.184 per tag in January 2024. The department issues approximately four million lobster tags annually.

Marine Patrol - Bureau of 0029

Initiative: Provides one-time capital funding for renovations to the interior shared space of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Bureau of Marine Patrol's Division II.

Ref. #: 689 One Time Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent) AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$200,000

Justification:

The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) is requesting one-time capital funding to renovate the interior space of the barn, owned by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF), that houses Maine Marine Patrol's Division II offices. This facility requires a substantial renovation, both interior and exterior. DACF is assuming all A&E costs, as well as construction costs for the exterior and structural renovations, and DMR has responsibility for all interior costs. The estimate generated by the A&E work is that the interior work will cost approximately \$280,000. With these funds, DMR would complete interior renovations, including complete demolition and reconstruction of floors and walls, mold remediation (currently portions of the space are not suitable for personnel use due to mold), electrical and lighting, plumbing and relocation of bathroom, interior finish and HVA.

Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat Z295

Initiative: Provides funding to increase the baseline allocation for federal grants.

Ref. #: 719 Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent) AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$168,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$168,000

Justification:

This initiative will increase the baseline allocation for ongoing federal grants in the Bureau of Sea Run Fisheries.

Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat Z295

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of 5 Marine Resource Specialist I positions and 12 Marine Resource Specialist II positions to Marine Resource Specialist positions. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 720 Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent) AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$10,651
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Justification:

This is a management-initiated reorganization approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on May 17, 2023.

MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$33,381	\$456,601
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$10,433	\$1,636,413
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$6	\$799,742
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	\$0	\$0	\$182,598
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$43,820	\$3,075,354

Sec. B-1. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: RECLASSIFICATIONS

Ref. #: 686

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$8,358	\$5,501
All Other	\$0	\$399	\$263
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$8,757	\$5,764

Bureau of Policy and Management 0258

Initiative: RECLASSIFICATIONS

Ref. #: 704

Committee Vote: 8-0 (5 members absent)

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$26,901	\$15,179
All Other	\$0	\$1,285	\$726
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$28,186	\$15,905

MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$8,757	\$5,764
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$28,186	\$15,905
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$36,943	\$21,669

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES



21 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Phone: (207) 624-6553
Fax: (207) 624-6024

DATE: 3/13/2024
TO: REPRESENTATIVE ALLISON HEPLER AND SENATOR, CAMERON RENY ON THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES
FROM: PATRICK C. KELIHER, COMMISSIONER
RE: DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES – RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR AQ PRIORITIES

Per your request on how to possibly expedite the application process, I have put together the following list of priority positions. As discussed, aquaculture lease applications move through a “pipeline” and there are opportunities to expand capacity at each stage which would result in improved ability to process lease applications and monitor leases for ongoing compliance.

The process of obtaining an aquaculture lease begins with a pre-application meeting, the submission of a draft application, and a scoping session for the proposal within the community. This phase of the process requires planning and review by DMR staff for accuracy and completeness. DMR does not have dedicated staff for this entry point into the process currently, which is delaying applicants applying for a lease and moving to the next step. **A new Marine Resources Management Coordinator** would be assigned to foster this initial phase with applicants and help start the process on a strong footing, making later steps in the lease application process more efficient.

NEW Marine Resource Management Coordinator position (pre-app, scoping, hearings facilitation)
04-30 PS \$117,952 AO \$10,990

The next step in the Aquaculture Leasing process is the site review conducted by DMR scientists. Currently there are three staff members in the aquaculture science group who are primarily dedicated to conducting site reviews and writing the site reports which are submitted as evidence. They are also required to respond to other scientific inquiries from the public, researchers, and aquaculturists. In 2022, DMR received over 90 aquaculture lease applications, up from about 20 received five years earlier. The existing staff cannot keep up with the demand for site visits and **a new MR Scientist I position** would enable DMR to better meet this increasing demand and remove a bottleneck at this step in the process.

NEW MR Scientist I position (AQ compliance program)
PS \$91,207 AO \$10,990

Once applications move through the hearing process there is an enormous amount of administrative work that must be accomplished to fully execute the lease, secure bonds, and receive payment. With an increased volume of applications and other efficiencies created earlier in the pipeline, **a new Management Analyst position** is necessary to support administrative functions and bring new leases (as well as lease expansions, renewals and amendments) through the final step.

New Management Analyst position (administrative support)
PS \$88,840 OA \$10,990

Once leases are granted, compliance becomes a critical ongoing need. The state of Maine currently has 123 standard leases, 32 experimental leases and 715 Limited Purpose Aquaculture Licensed sites. According to state regulation and to remain in compliance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program which is audited by the US FDA annually, DMR must inspect each aquaculture site at least once a year. Currently, DMR has one staff member to accomplish this work along with responding to numerous public complaints and tracking compliance with payments, lease conditions, and bonding. **A new MR Scientist I position** is necessary to accomplish this work along with the Senior Aquaculture Inspector position and ensure the legitimacy of the aquaculture program.

NEW MR Scientist I position (AQ science program)
PS \$91,207 AO \$10,990

2 Finally, in order for the aquaculture industry to be successful, businesses need to have access to brood stock and juveniles, which often is accomplished through imports and transfers. These activities require special consideration due to possible disease transfer and evaluation of genetic composition. Climate change is also increasing the likelihood of novel diseases in the Gulf of Maine, potentially impacting the existing aquaculture operations and other marine resources. Supporting the existing fisheries pathologist position created in the last biennial budget, with general fund, will ensure the department has the expertise to support the responsible growth of the aquaculture industry and respond to disease issues in wild populations.

DMR's fisheries pathologist position transferred on to General Fund (currently self-funded)
PS \$128,657 AO \$10,990