



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE
284 STATE STREET
41 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA ME 04333-0041



**Testimony of Judith Camuso, Commissioner
Inland Fisheries & Wildlife**

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and
the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries & Wildlife**

**“An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State
Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law
Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30,
2021, June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023”**

Good afternoon Senator Breen, Representative Pierce, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Dill, Representative Landry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. My name is Judy Camuso, and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. I am here today to testify in support of the biennial budget bill, LD 221.

As Governor Mills said, at a time when Maine people are hurting, when small businesses are struggling to keep their doors open, when the ranks of the unemployed have swelled, and when we are fighting a deadly virus all around us, we are proposing balanced budgets as required by the Constitution that continue efficiencies, good fiscal management and curtailments to cover projected revenue shortfalls for all three fiscal years. They focus on combatting the COVID-19 pandemic by continuing to rebuild the State’s public health infrastructure and protecting essential health care, education, and life-saving services. They do not change Maine tax rates and they maintain the Budget Stabilization Fund. With a future made unpredictable due to the ongoing pandemic, these budgets make good on the promise of government, which is to protect and support the wellbeing of our people and institutions.

The Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife is the lead agency in Maine with the responsibility to preserve, protect and enhance the inland fisheries and wildlife resources of the State; to encourage the wise use of these resources; to ensure coordinated planning for the future use and preservation of these resources; and to provide for effective management of these resources.

The following is a presentation of the Department’s proposed budget.

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Administrative Services-IF&W 0530

I will begin on **page A-333** with the Administrative Services program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations and Other Special Revenue. This program supports the design, maintenance and repair of department owned facilities.

The first new initiative in this program found on **page A-333** reduces the General Fund appropriation by \$21,739 in FY22 and by \$22,385 in FY23 for a one-time reduction in maintenance activities at department owned facilities.

The second new initiative in this program found on **page A-333** reduces allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$7,298 in each year of the biennium to eliminate an account that is no longer in use.

ATV Enforcement Fund Z276

The next Budget program presented in the Budget document on **page A-334** is the ATV Enforcement Fund. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of Other Special Revenue. This program provides funding for the enforcement of ATV laws, ATV education, and the purchase of necessary equipment related to ATV safety and enforcement activities. There are no new initiatives for this program.

ATV Safety and Educational Program 0559

The next Budget program presented in the Budget document on **page A-334** is the ATV Safety and Educational Program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations and Other Special Revenue. This program ensures that persons aged ten to sixteen are in compliance with the law requiring them to complete a training program approved by the Department in order to operate such vehicles in the State of Maine. Recreational vehicle education programs are conducted to raise public awareness and promote better understanding of outdoor recreation safety issues and to encourage better support for recreational vehicle safety and enforcement efforts. There are no new initiatives for this program.

Boating Access Sites 0631

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-335** is the Boating Access Sites program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of Federal Expenditure Funds and Other Special Revenue. The Boating Access Sites program

was established to increase public access to boat launch sites and to acquire and develop access sites to Maine public waters and is funded by a portion of the proceeds from sales of the Sportsman license plates.

The first new initiative in this program found on **page A-335** increases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$575,000 in each year of the biennium and increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$175,000 in each year of the biennium in the Capital Expenditures line category to purchase and improve land for boat launch facilities throughout the state.

The second new initiative in this program found on **page A-335** increases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$130,000 in each year of the biennium and increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$90,000 in each year in the biennium in the Capital Expenditures line category for capital improvements and maintenance activities at publicly owned boat launch facilities on inland waters.

Camp North Woods Z193

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-336** is the Camp North Woods program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of Other Special Revenue. This program was established to provide opportunities to youth in the outdoors, where they can learn lifelong skills and the importance of sustaining Maine's natural resources. This program is funded through camp application fees and private donations. There are no new initiatives for this program.

Endangered Nongame Operations 0536

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-337** is the Endangered Nongame Operations program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations, Federal Expenditure Funds, and Other Special Revenue. This program provides management of nongame wildlife and endangered species to maintain and enhance various species of fish and wildlife as well as the ecosystems upon which they depend. Nongame wildlife includes all terrestrial, and freshwater species that are not ordinarily collected, or taken for sport or profit.

The first new initiative in this program found on **page A-337** decreases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$88,941 in FY22 and \$89,482 in FY23 and decreases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$2,389 in FY22 and \$1,068 in FY23. This represents the Endangered Nongame Species portion of a reallocation of 16 positions within the Bureau of Resource Management to better align funding sources with the actual work being performed by these positions. This initiative can also be found on **page A-341** and **page A-352** of the Budget document.

The next new initiative in this program found on **page A-337** increases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$76,369 in FY22 and \$77,005 in FY23 to reclassify one IF&W Senior Resource Biologist position to a IF&W Resource Supervisor position and reallocate the cost from 27% General Fund and 73% Federal Expenditures Fund within the Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations program to 34% Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations program, General Fund, 58% Endangered Nongame Operations program, Federal Expenditures Fund, and 8% Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations program, Federal Expenditures Fund. This initiative can also be found **page A-343** of the Budget document.

Enforcement Operations – IF&W 0537

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-339** is the Enforcement Operations program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations, Federal Expenditure Funds, and Other Special Revenue. The Maine Warden Service enforces Title 12, Chapters 901-939, enforces all rules promulgated by the Commissioner, and enforces the U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Maine Warden Service also enforces the Maine boating and recreational vehicle laws (snowmobile and ATV). The Maine Warden Service is, by statute, responsible for searches for persons presumed lost or drowned in the fields, forests and inland waters of the State of Maine. Game Wardens of the Maine Warden Service are uniformed law enforcement officers with full police powers and statewide jurisdiction.

The only new initiative in this program found on **page A-339** provides a one-time transfer of General Fund appropriation of \$86,525 in FY22 and \$90,340 in FY23 from Personal Services to All Other by freezing a vacant Game Warden position to fund a pilot program to hire contract employees to provide nuisance/sick/injured animal services to the public.

Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations 0535

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-341** is the Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations, Federal Expenditure Funds, and Other Special Revenue. The Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations program works to ensure that all species of inland fish in the State of Maine are maintained and perpetuated for their intrinsic, ecological and economic value. In addition, this program works to ensure that inland fisheries are available for recreational, scientific and educational use.

The first new initiative in this program found on **page A-341** reduces the General Fund appropriation by \$29,540 in FY22 and \$29,728 in FY23 and decreases allocation in Federal Expenditure Funds by \$78,698 in FY22 and \$79,219 in FY23. This represents the Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations portion of a reallocation of 16 positions within the Bureau of Resource

Management previously discussed on page three of my testimony. This initiative can also be found on **page A-337** and **page A-352** of the Budget document.

The second new initiative in this program found on **page A-341** provides one-time allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds of \$125,000 in each year of the biennium in the Capital Expenditures line category to replace capital equipment items that have become unsafe or unreliable. These funds will be used to replace four fish stocking trucks, two fish stocking truck beds, and two sets of fish stocking tanks.

The third new initiative in this program found on **page A-342** transfers \$2,250 in FY22 from the General Fund appropriation All Other line category to the Capital Expenditures line category and allocates \$6,750 in FY22 in the Federal Expenditures Fund and \$36,500 in FY22 in Other Special Revenue Funds Capital Expenditures line category to purchase new capital equipment items. These funds will be used to purchase one all-terrain vehicle, one boat, one boat motor, one trailer, and one electrofishing boat setup.

The fourth new initiative in this program found on **page A-342** transfers General Fund appropriation of \$7,125 in FY22 and \$11,000 in FY23 and Federal Expenditures Fund allocation of \$21,375 in FY22 and \$33,000 in FY23 from the All Other line category to the Capital Expenditures line category to replace capital equipment items that have become unsafe or unreliable. These funds will be used to replace two snowmobiles, one snowmobile trailer, one boat, one boat motor, one boat trailer, and one electrofishing backpack.

The fifth new initiative in this program found on **page A-342** reduces General Fund appropriation by \$16,500 in each year of the biennium for a one-time reduction of contractual expenses within this program.

The sixth new initiative in this program found on **page A-342** provides a one-time allocation of \$400,000 in FY22 in Other Special Revenue Funds for a storage building at the Dry Mills fish hatchery and for necessary repairs to the water intake at the Embden fish hatchery.

The seventh new initiative in this program found on **page A-342** reduces General Fund appropriation by \$125,000 in each year of the biennium. These funds were previously used to purchase replacement equipment for the Hatcheries and Operations program which will be purchased using Other Special Revenue Funds during this biennium.

The eighth new initiative in this program found on **page A-343** increases General Fund appropriation by \$23,276 in FY22 and by \$12,993 in FY23 and decreases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$45,859 in FY22 and by \$75,329 in FY23 to reclassify and reallocate the cost of one IF&W Senior Resource Biologist position to a IF&W Resource Supervisor position previously discussed on page four of my testimony. This initiative can also be found earlier in the Budget document on **page A-337**.

Landowner Relations Z140

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-344** is the Landowner Relations program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations and Other Special Revenue. The Landowner Relations program was established to foster good relationships between landowners and outdoor recreationists, and promote high standards of courtesy, respect and responsibility by outdoor recreationists in their relations with landowners. This program is funded through the sale of Outdoor Partners Program Membership and from a portion (20%) of the sale of the Sportsman License Plate.

The only new initiative in this program found on **page A-344** increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$268 in FY22 and by \$302 in FY23. This initiative reorganizes two part-time Recreation Safety Coordinator positions to one full-time Recreation Safety Coordinator position. This initiative can also be found further in the Budget document on **page A-352**.

Licensing Services – IF&W 0531

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-345** is the Licensing Services program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations, Federal Expenditure Funds, and Other Special Revenue. The Licensing Services – IF&W program is responsible for the administration and issuance of over 500,000 licenses, stamps and permits and the registration of 70,000 all-terrain vehicles, 80,000 snowmobiles and 120,000 boats. The Division accomplishes the sale of these licenses, permits and registrations through its work with over 750 sales agents located throughout Maine.

The only new initiative in this program found on **page A-345** reduces General Fund appropriation by \$6,000 in each year of the biennium due to the shifting of online store transaction costs to an alternate funding source for the biennium.

Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund 0829

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-346** is the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of Other Special Revenue. The Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund was established to provide funding for projects that would perpetuate Maine's outdoor heritage. The Outdoor Heritage Fund awards grants semi-annually to natural resource organizations for conservation and recreation projects that meet the guidelines stated in the Outdoor Heritage Fund's strategic plan. The fund is governed by a Board of seven members and is funded through the sale of special lottery tickets. There are no new initiatives for this program.

Office of the Commissioner – IF&W 0529

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-347** is the Office of the Commissioner program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations and Other Special Revenue. The Commissioner's Office is responsible for the administration and management of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, develops and implements long range plans for the management and use of the state's fish and wildlife resources and the use of recreational vehicles, and supports services provided by central service agencies in areas common to all divisions such as the Office of Information Technology and the Natural Resources Service Center. The office is also responsible for the development, coordination, maintenance and evaluation of the Department's comprehensive fish and wildlife programs.

The first new initiative in this program found on **page A-347** provides General Fund appropriation of \$150,000 in each year of the biennium to continue the same level of application and end user support provided by the Office of Information Technology.

The second new initiative in this program found on **page A-347** provides General Fund appropriation of \$50,000 in each year of the biennium to fund increased fees for the Natural Resources Service Center.

Public Information and Education Division 0729

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-348** is the Public Information and Education Division. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations and Other Special Revenue. The Public Information and Education Division administers programs to increase the public's knowledge and understanding of inland fisheries and wildlife resources through public education, promotion, and dissemination of information.

The first new initiative in this program found on **page A-348** increases General Fund appropriation by \$31,263 in FY22 and by \$32,584 in FY23 and increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$15,927 in FY22 and by \$16,596 in FY23 to reorganize one Office Associate II position to a Public Relations Specialist position. This initiative also transfers and reallocates the cost of this position from 60% Resource Management, General Fund, and 40% Resource Management, Federal Expenditures Fund, to 40% Resource Management, Other Special Revenue Funds, 40% Division of Public Information and Education, General Fund, and 20% Division of Public Information and Education, Other Special Revenue Funds. This initiative can also be found further in the Budget document on **page A-351**.

The second new initiative in this program found on **page A-348** reduces General Fund appropriation by \$9,303 in each year of the biennium due to a one-time reduction in anticipated out-of- state travel during the biennium.

The third new initiative in this program found on **page A-348** reduces General Fund appropriation by \$21,892 in each year of the biennium due to a one-time shifting of expenses for printed materials to an alternate funding source for the biennium.

The fourth new initiative in this program found on **page A-349** reduces General Fund appropriation by \$4,973 in each year of the biennium due to a one-time shifting of expenses for educational materials to an alternate funding source for the biennium.

The fifth new initiative in this program found on **page A-349** increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$68,547 in FY22 and by \$71,479 in FY23 to continue one Gamekeeper position at the Maine Wildlife Park established by financial order.

The sixth new initiative in this program found on **page A-349** increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$33,564 in each year of the biennium to support the operational needs of the Youth Conservation Education program.

The seventh new initiative in this program found on **page A-349** reduces General Fund appropriation by \$15,536 in FY22 and by \$16,142 in FY23 to reallocate the cost of one Media Graphics Supervisor position from 100% Division of Public Information and Education program, General Fund, to 80% Division of Public Information and Education program, General Fund, and 20% Resource Management, Other Special Revenue Funds. This initiative can also be found further in the Budget document on **page A-353**.

The eighth new initiative in this program found on **page A-349** reduces General Fund appropriation by \$9,427 in FY22 and by \$9,881 in FY23 and reallocates the cost of one IF&W Education Coordinator position from 70% Licensing Services program, Other Special Revenue Funds and 30% Division of Public Information and Education, General Fund, to 70% Licensing Services program, Other Special Revenue Funds, 20% Division of Public Information and Education program, General Fund, and 10% Resource Management, Other Special Revenue Funds. This initiative can also be found further in the Budget document on **page A-353**.

The ninth new initiative in this program found on **page A-349** increases General Fund appropriation by \$3,484 in FY22 and decreases General Fund appropriation by \$7,094 in FY23 and increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$8,361 in FY22 and by \$2,898 in FY23 to reclassify one Public Service Manager II position from range 30 to range 32. This initiative also reallocates the cost from 70% General Fund and 30% Other Special Revenue Funds within the Division of Public Information and Education program to 60% Division of Public Information and Education program, General Funds, 30% Division of Public Information and Education program, Other Special Revenue Funds, and 10%, Resource Management, Other Special Revenue Funds. This initiative can also be found further in the Budget document on **page A-353**.

Resource Management Services – IF&W 0534

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-351** is the Resource Management Services program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations, Federal Expenditure Funds, and Other Special Revenue. The Bureau of Resource Management is responsible for the management of the State's inland fisheries and wildlife resources and the development of rules governing the effective management of these resources. The Bureau maintains and enhances the State's fisheries and wildlife resources and habitats through acquisition and habitat improvement, manages wildlife sanctuaries and management areas, coordinates animal damage control functions and controls the importation and transportation of wildlife species and associated parasites and diseases within Maine.

The first new initiative in this program found on **page A-351** was previously discussed on page seven of my testimony and **page A-348** of the Budget document and reorganizes one Office Associate II position to a Public Relations Specialist position. This part of the initiative decreases General Fund appropriation by \$41,938 in FY22 and by \$44,034 in FY23, decreases allocation in Federal Expenditures Funds by \$28,745 in FY22 and by \$30,182 in FY23, and increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$31,556 in FY22 and by \$32,889 in FY23.

The second new initiative in this program found on **page A-352** was previously discussed on page six of my testimony and **page A-344** of the Budget document and reorganizes two part-time Recreation Safety Coordinator positions to one full-time Recreation Safety Coordinator position. This part of the initiative increases General Fund appropriation by \$3,407 in FY22 and by \$3,807 in FY23 and increases allocation in Federal Expenditures Funds by \$9,700 in FY22 and by \$10,838 in FY23.

The third new initiative in this program found on **page A-352** reduces General Fund appropriation by \$50,000 in each year of the biennium for a one-time reduction in funding for predator control efforts.

The fourth new initiative in this program found on **page A-352** was previously discussed on pages three and four of my testimony and **page A-337** and **page A-341** of the Budget document and reallocates 16 positions within the Bureau of Resource Management. This part of the initiative decreases General Fund appropriation by \$186,235 in FY22 and by \$190,765 in FY23, increases allocation in Federal Expenditures Funds by \$356,262 in FY22 and by \$361,004 in FY23, and increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$35,620 in FY22 and by \$35,470 in FY23.

The fifth new initiative in this program found on **page A-352** increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$17,000 in each year of the biennium to support the operational needs of the Black Bear Research Fund.

The sixth new initiative in this program found on **page A-352** increases allocation in Federal Expenditures Funds by \$740,000 in each year of the biennium to align expenditure levels with anticipated federal grant revenue.

The seventh new initiative in this program found on **page A-353** increases General Fund appropriation by \$1,422 in FY22 and by \$478 in FY23 and increases Federal Expenditures Fund allocation by \$3,409 in FY22 and by \$1,149 in FY23 for the reclassification of one Secretary Associate position to an Office Associate II Manager Supervisor position.

The eighth new initiative in this program found on **page A-353** increases General Fund appropriation by \$12,824 in FY22 and by \$9,274 in FY23 and increases Federal Expenditures Fund allocation by \$30,763 in FY22 and by \$22,249 in FY23 for the reclassification of one GIS Coordinator position to a Senior Programmer Analyst position.

The ninth new initiative in this program found on **page A-353** was previously discussed on page eight of my testimony and **page A-349** of the Budget document and reallocates the cost of one Media Graphics Supervisor position. This part of the initiative increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$15,974 in FY22 and by \$16,597 in FY23.

The tenth new initiative in this program found on **page A-353** was previously discussed on page eight of my testimony and **page A-349** of the Budget document and reallocates the cost of one IF&W Education Coordinator position. This part of the initiative increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$9,693 in FY22 and by \$10,159 in FY23.

The eleventh new initiative in this program found on **page A-353** was previously discussed on page eight of my testimony and **page A-349** of the Budget document reclassifies one Public Service Manager II position from range 30 to range 32. This part of the initiative increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$15,921 in FY22 and by \$14,174 in FY23.

Search and Rescue 0538

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-354** is the Search and Rescue program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations. The Search and Rescue program was established for the purpose of actively searching for any person who is lost, stranded or drowned in the woodlands or inland waters in the state. There are no new initiatives for this program.

Waterfowl Habitat Acquisition and Management 0561

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-355** is the Waterfowl Habitat Acquisition and Management program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of Federal Expenditure Funds and Other Special Revenue. The purpose of the Waterfowl Habitat Acquisition and Management Fund program is to acquire waterfowl habitat that supports waterfowl management goals and objectives and, where feasible, improve habitat and species abundance to enhance, restore or create new opportunities.

The only new initiative in this program found on **page A-355** increases allocation in Federal Expenditures Fund by \$1,800,000 in each year of the biennium for the purchase of wildlife habitat.

Whitewater Rafting – IF&W 0539

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-356** is the Whitewater Rafting IF&W program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of Other Special Revenue. The Whitewater Rafting Fund mitigates environmental problems and any adverse effect on competing uses of rivers, promotes safety, education, and enforcement of whitewater rafting laws and department rules. This program dedicates sixty-five percent of the revenue from fees and surcharges paid by white water rafting outfitters and guides to stay with Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for administration of the whitewater rafting laws and rules. There are no new initiatives for this program.

Whitewater Rafting Fund 0533

The last Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-356** is the Whitewater Rafting Fund program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of Other Special Revenue. The Whitewater Rafting Fund program mitigates environmental problems and any adverse effect on competing uses of rivers, promotes safety, education, and enforcement of whitewater rafting laws and department rules. This program returns ten percent of the revenue collected from fees and surcharges paid by white water rafting outfitters and guides to be credited back to the county in which the river is located. There are no new initiatives for this program.

Part GGG

Part GGG found on **page 45** amends the fiscal stability program to begin in the 2024-2025 biennium.

Part HHH

Part MMM found on **page 45** authorizes the State Controller to transfer \$45,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$46,000 in fiscal year 2023 from the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Carrying Balances - General Fund account to the Enforcement Operations – Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program General Fund account to purchase one replacement aircraft engine in each fiscal year.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to address any questions you may have.