

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

—
H.P. 1353 - L.D. 2023

Resolve, to Establish a Working Group to Identify Ways to Manage Moorings on Inland Waters

Sec. 1. Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to convene working group. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall convene a working group to educate those who use the State's inland waters under the public trust doctrine, explore issues related to moorings and develop proposals to manage and regulate moorings on inland waters. The working group must include, but is not limited to:

1. Two representatives of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, one of whom is a game warden representing the Maine Warden Service and one of whom represents the department's administration;
2. Three representatives of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands, one representing inland navigational aids, one representing the submerged lands program and one representing the Maine Land Use Planning Commission;
3. One representative who owns or operates a business that provides mooring rentals;
4. One representative of the State of Maine Harbor Masters Association;
5. One representative representing municipal interests from a municipality with moorings on inland waters that has a mooring ordinance;
6. One representative representing municipal interests from a municipality with moorings on inland waters that does not have a mooring ordinance;
7. One representative representing a lake association; and
8. One representative of a statewide organization that represents inland waters of the State.

Sec. 2. Working group duties. Resolved: That the duties of the working group convened under section 1 must include:

1. Identifying the issues related to moorings on inland waters at both a statewide and local level and identifying potential solutions;

2. Identifying the impacts and opportunities of moorings related to public safety, the environment, property ownership, recreation, commerce and fish and wildlife; and

3. Exploring how other states that have a public trust doctrine manage moorings on inland waters.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters by November 4, 2026 with the findings and conclusions of the working group under section 2, including any recommended legislation. The joint standing committee is authorized to submit a bill related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.