

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

S.P. 523 - L.D. 1286

Resolve, to Establish the Blue Economy Task Force to Support Maine's Emergence as a Center for Blue Economy Innovation and Opportunity in the 21st Century

Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved: That the Department of Economic and Community Development shall convene the Blue Economy Task Force, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," to support Maine's emergence as a center for blue economy innovation and opportunity in the 21st century. As used in this resolve, "blue economy" means business sectors that rely on the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic health, improved livelihoods, jobs or ecosystem health.

Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved: That the task force shall consist of no less than 13 members including representatives of public and private research institutions, businesses that are innovating in various blue economy sectors, fisheries businesses, aquaculture businesses and equity investors in blue economy businesses and the President of the Maine Technology Institute or the president's designee. A majority of the task force membership must represent either blue economy businesses or entities directly involved in the commercialization of blue economy-related research and innovation.

Sec. 3. Consultation. Resolved: That the task force, in conducting its duties under section 4, shall consult with individuals and entities involved in the blue economy, including, but not limited to:

1. Relevant state agencies, including the Department of Marine Resources, the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future and the State Economist;
2. Publicly funded institutions, including the Maine Maritime Academy, the University of Maine's MARINE initiative, the University of Maine's Aquaculture Research Institute, the Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center and the University of Maine's Maine Sea Grant;
3. Trade associations that represent businesses within sectors of the blue economy;
4. Businesses that build boats or manage boatyards, representatives of businesses that develop marine technologies, products and services, including innovative and emerging technology, and representatives of businesses that engage in marine construction or marine engineering;

5. Blue economy investors representing different stages and scale of business investment;

6. Representatives of the Seafood Economic Accelerator for Maine, or SEA Maine, and individuals involved in developing the Maine Aquaculture Roadmap and the Offshore Wind Roadmap;

7. Representatives of federally recognized Indian tribes in the State; and

8. Representatives of organizations engaged in conservation and sustainable coastal and island development.

Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved: That the task force shall develop a report that outlines the sectors of the State's blue economy and existing economic development plans or strategies for blue economy sectors and identifies opportunities where the State can enhance or facilitate the growth and scaling of blue economy businesses. The report developed under this section must include the following:

1. A description of the blue economy that includes references to the sectors or areas that rely on the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic health, improved livelihoods, jobs or ecosystem health;

2. A review of how other coastal states are approaching planning for or expanding the blue economy in those states;

3. A review of how at least 2 other countries with established blue economies are approaching planning and investments;

4. A clear identification of the sectors within the State's blue economy and which of those sectors have a specific economic development plan, strategy or roadmap and whether that plan, strategy or roadmap is either part of or separate from a statewide economic development plan;

5. For sectors within the State's blue economy that do not have a specific economic development plan, strategy or roadmap:

A. Identification of current and potential future opportunities for those sectors;

B. A description of the competitive advantage the State may have for the opportunities identified under paragraph A; and

C. Existing assets, physical or otherwise, within the State that can help the State take advantage of opportunities identified under paragraph A;

6. For sectors within the State's blue economy with an existing economic development plan, strategy or roadmap, an overview of that economic development plan, strategy or roadmap and an identification of any recommendations that could enhance or facilitate growth of those sectors. Recommendations made by the task force in its report under section 6 may not be inconsistent with, and must build upon, any recommendations identified under this subsection;

7. An identification of strategies within the Maine Economic Development Strategy and Maine Won't Wait climate action plan that are important to businesses in the blue economy; and

8. Recommendations about whether a state-level strategy, action plan or other mechanism would better position the State to take advantage of opportunities identified in the report.

In conducting its duties under this section, to the extent practicable, the task force shall focus on business opportunities, economic growth and research and technology transfers, including growth opportunities for businesses in the State as well as opportunities to attract businesses from elsewhere to expand operations in the State.

Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the Department of Economic and Community Development shall provide staffing assistance to the task force.

Sec. 6. Report. Resolved: That the task force shall submit a written report to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over innovation, development, economic advancement and business matters including its findings and recommendations developed under section 4 no later than February 1, 2025. The joint standing committee may report out legislation based on the findings and recommendations in the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

Sec. 7. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Administration - Economic and Community Development 0069

Initiative: Provides one-time funds for the cost of a consultant to facilitate and manage the work of the Blue Economy Task Force.

GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$100,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$100,000</u>