



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife



Judy Camuso, Commissioner, MDIFW



Our Mission



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife protects and manages Maine's fish and wildlife and their habitats, promotes Maine's outdoor heritage, and safely connects people with nature through responsible recreation, sport, and science.

How Many 'Inland' Fish and Wildlife Species are in Maine?



15,000
Invertebrates



423
Birds



61
Mammals



17
Reptiles



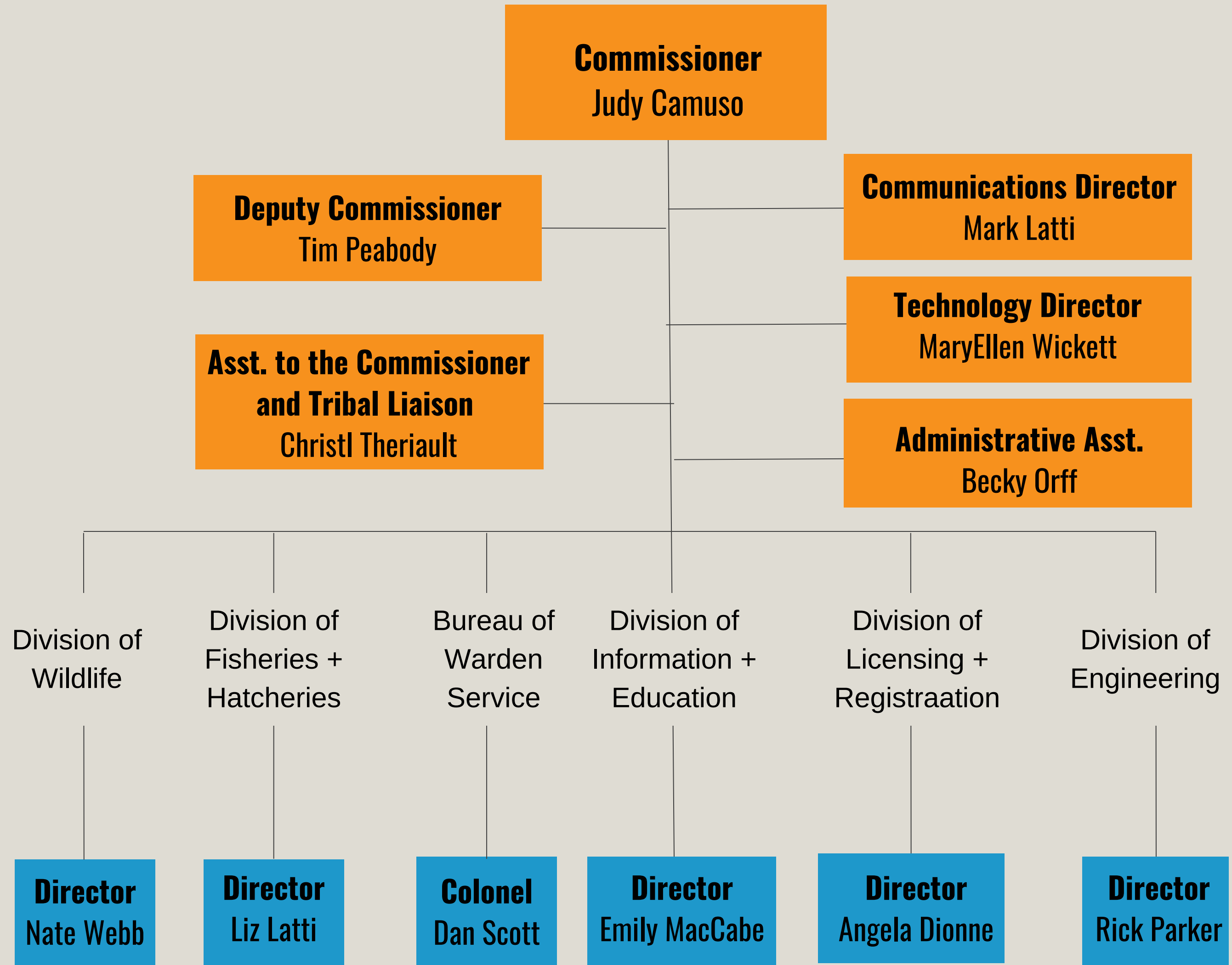
18
Amphibians



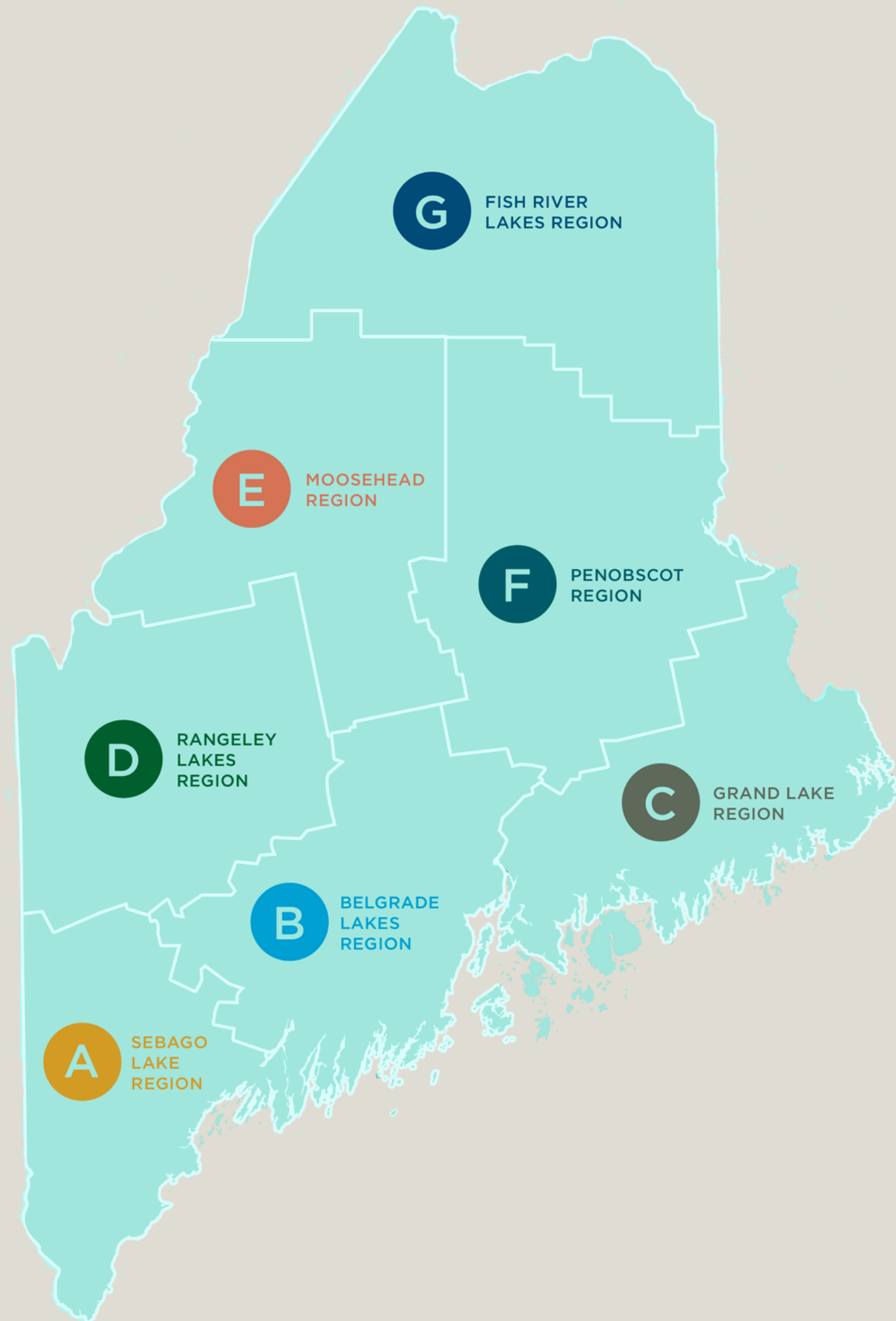
39
Fish

**Less than 100 of
these species are
hunted or fished.**

MDIFW Org Chart



Regional Offices



Economic Impact of Hunting + Fishing



- Outdoor recreation makes up 3.7% of Maine's economy, making Maine sixth in the country when it comes to the economic impact of outdoor recreation, contributing over \$3.4 billion to the state's economy.
- Outdoor recreation supports more than 29,000 jobs in the state, accounting for 4.5% of total employment in the state, and provides more than \$1.5 billion in compensation.
- The Department oversees the safety of all who enjoy Maine's woods and waters, and protects and regulates much of Maine's \$4.2 billion natural resource-based outdoor economy.

Economic Impact of Hunting + Fishing



- The most recent data from the US Fish and Wildlife shows that hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching contribute over 1.3 billion to Maine's economy.
- Maine has over 365,000 licensed anglers in the state that contribute over \$371 million to Maine's economy.
- Maine has over 229,000 licensed hunters in the state that contribute over \$230 million to Maine's economy.

Division of Wildlife



- We protect, conserve and enhance Maine's wildlife resources, including Maine's threatened and endangered species.
- Protect and enhance habitat for conservation and enhancement of Maine's wildlife resources.
- Work to develop rules for the effective management and wise use of Maine's wildlife.
- Oversee nearly 70 different Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) that encompass 136,000 acres.
- Maine has over 229,000 licensed hunters in the State.

Division of Wildlife: Accomplishments



- Began a comprehensive reconstruction of the Fryeburg Shooting Range, which when complete will provide a modern, world-class target shooting facility that is open to the public.
- Began updating the State Wildlife Action Plan, which identifies the conservation needs for all of Maine's at-risk wildlife and their habitats across this state. This Plan is a collaboration with the other natural resource agencies and partners and will guide wildlife conservation efforts for the next 10 years.

Division of Wildlife: Accomplishments



- Initiated a comprehensive survey and monitoring program to evaluate use of the Gulf of Maine by birds and bats to inform Offshore Wind Development. These efforts have resulted in some of the first information on these species in the Offshore environment.
- Managed wildlife habitat and public access on approximately 136,000 acres of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) distributed across the state, including an additional 1,100 acres that were acquired in 2024.

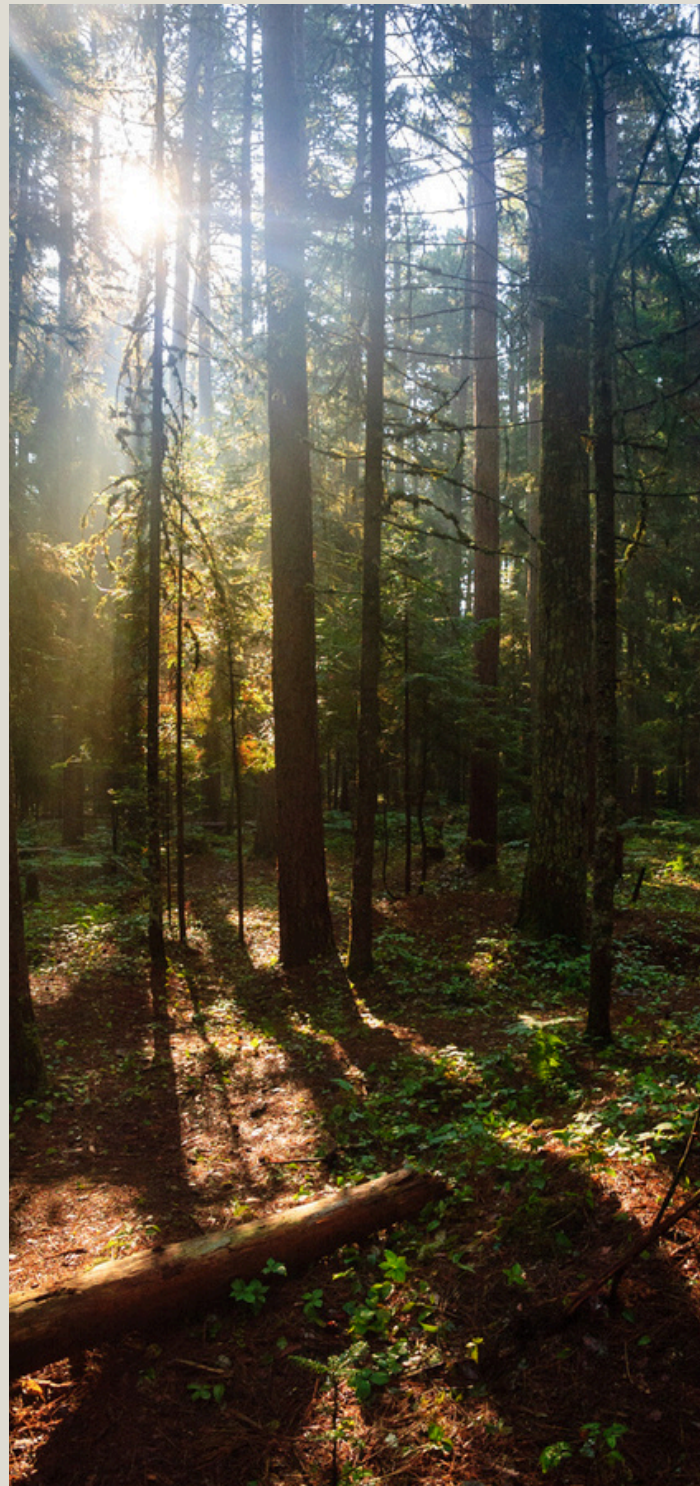


Division of Wildlife: Accomplishments



Land Access

- Secured approx. \$1.5 million in grant funding for two fish passage projects.
- Assisted DOT with a \$9.3 million Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program proposal for two crossings in Caribou that will reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve brook trout habitat.
- Partnered with the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future on statewide, regional, and municipal climate change planning efforts including participating in the successful \$69 million NOAA Resilient Maine grant proposal.
- Collaborated with private landowners, municipalities, and non-profit partners to integrate wildlife habitat conservation in over 700 forest management plans, over 30 municipal plans, and several land trust strategic conservation plans.
- Partnered to conserve an additional 7,400 acres.
- Awarded \$1 million from the National Coastal Wetlands Program to work with a partner land trust on a coastal restoration and resilience project in Trenton.



Division of Wildlife: Accomplishments



Environmental Review

Identify important habitat resources and provide recommendations on means to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse impacts to these resources to the extent practicable.

- Coordinated an estimated 1,304 project environmental reviews over the past year, including 160 shoreline stabilization projects, many of which were emergency projects resulting from the December 2023 and January 2024 winter storms, as well as 105 solar projects.

Division of Fisheries + Hatcheries



- We preserve and protect Maine’s native fish and their habitat.
- Responsible for management on over 6,000 lakes and ponds and over 30,000 miles of rivers and streams.
- Operate eight hatcheries and stock over 1,000,000 trout and salmon annually to provide opportunities to anglers of all abilities and to help maintain healthy wild populations.
- Work to ensure access to Maine’s waters, including over 180 access sites.
- Create recreational angling opportunity and regulate commercial harvest.
- Work to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive fish and fish diseases/pathogens.

Division of Fisheries + Hatcheries: Accomplishments



STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES



CLEAN

gear, boat, trailer, and
vehicle of plants, fish,
animals, debris, and mud.

DRAIN

bilge, ballast, wells and
buckets away from the
water before you leave.

DRY

equipment before
launching watercraft into
another body of water.

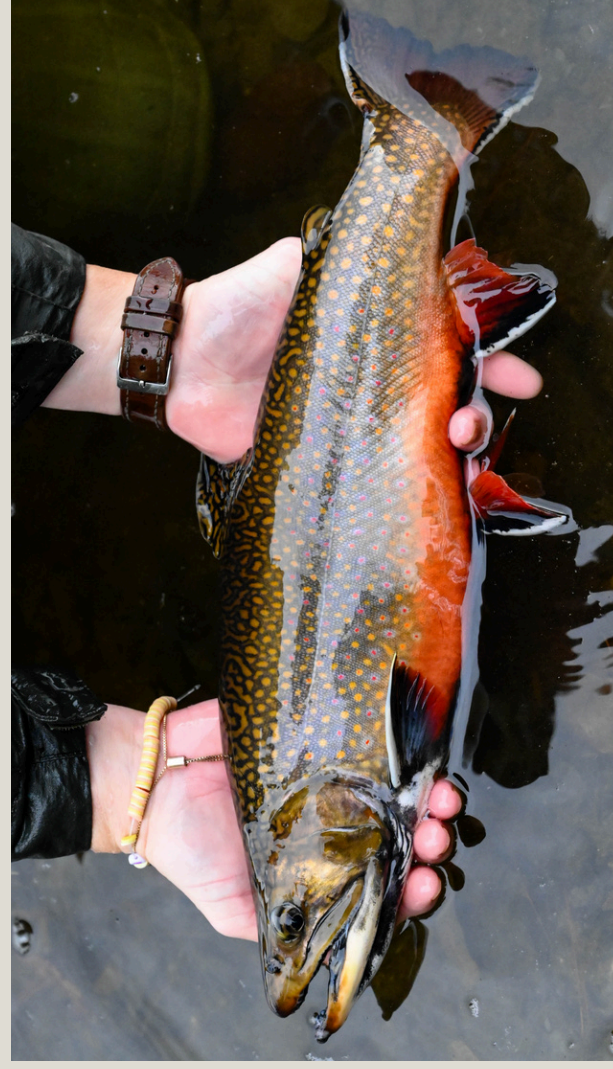


ALL IN FOR THE MAINE OUTDOORS

mefishwildlife.com/cdd

- The recently added aquatic invasive species program continues to improve and expand monitoring, tracking, and response capabilities. This includes environmental DNA monitoring for early detection of zebra mussels, dedicated mapping efforts, chemical reclamation training, and public education.
- The Department secured over \$28 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to completely rebuild the New Gloucester hatchery and renovate the Grand Lake Stream hatchery and the Embden hatchery.

Division of Fisheries + Hatcheries: Accomplishments



- Through the USGS Cooperative Research Unit, two research grants targeting Maine's fish species of greatest conservation need will further inform future management decisions and actions for the conservation of Arctic charr and lake whitefish.
- The Department co-hosted a workshop with DMR, UMaine's Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions and NGO partners on the use of high-resolution thermal infrared imagery (TIR) for the identification and conservation of high priority cold-water fish habitats that would greatly benefit wild brook trout and Atlantic salmon.

Bureau of Warden Service



- Enforce and educate the public on hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, and recreational vehicle laws.
- Oversees all search and rescue operations in the state for all persons presumed lost, stranded, or drowned in the fields, forests, and inland waters of Maine.
- Multiple specialty teams which perform key roles including an aviation wing, dive team, airboats, K9, crash reconstruction, and resource protection.

Bureau of Warden Service: Accomplishments



- With 124 full-time officers and 8 deputies, the Maine Warden Service inspected more than 67,000 outdoor users in 2024.
- Responded to over 26,000 calls for service last year involving law enforcement and search and rescue.
- Spent 16,500 hours on boating related activities inspecting watercraft and educating boaters. Focus was placed on safe boat operation, specifically imprudent boat operation, headway speed violations, awareness of aquatic invasive species, and boating under the influence.

Bureau of Warden Service: Landowner Relations



- Prioritizes landowner concerns to protect access for outdoor recreation and continued use of private lands for future generations.
- Two game warden corporals and two deputy wardens dedicate 100% of their time to supporting private landowners in Maine.
- Assist private landowners with concerns around property abuse, trespass, illegal dumping, and the education of user groups about landowner expectations.



OUTDOOR
PARTNERS

Division of Public Information + Education

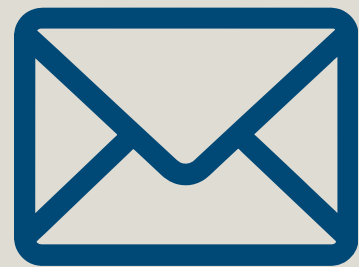


- The Information and Education division works to enhance public understanding of the Department and its programs and increase participation in outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, and trapping.
- Oversees Department communication efforts, including traditional and digital media, website, social media, and email communication.
- Develops and implements marketing and educational programs for all ages.
- Oversees the Maine Wildlife Park in Gray and Recreational Safety.

Division of Information + Education: Accomplishments



Reach of Digital Communication in 2024



Email

- 712,000 Email Subscribers
- 4,625,311 Subscriptions (+617,837 in 2024)
- 408 Bulletins Deployed Reaching 42,880,000

Recipients

- 67.6% Engagement Rate
- 25.4 Million Impressions



Facebook

- 3.7 Million Views on Posts
- 1.8 Million Reach
- 244,400 Interactions on Posts
- 165,500 Followers



Instagram

- 1.7 Million Views
- 210,800 Reach
- 72,300 Interactions
- 49,800 Followers

Information + Education: Recreational Safety Accomplishments



Recreational Safety - 2024 Safety Course Certifications

- Firearms Hunter Safety: 5,742 people (22 courses not yet accounted for)
- Archery Hunter Safety: 2,400 people (11 courses not yet accounted for)
- Trapper Education: 634 people
- Bear Trapping: 349 people
- Boater Education: 4,980 people (prior to 2024 when the course became required, the annual average was 1,400)
- ATV Safety: 1,831 people
- Snowmobile Safety: 963 people

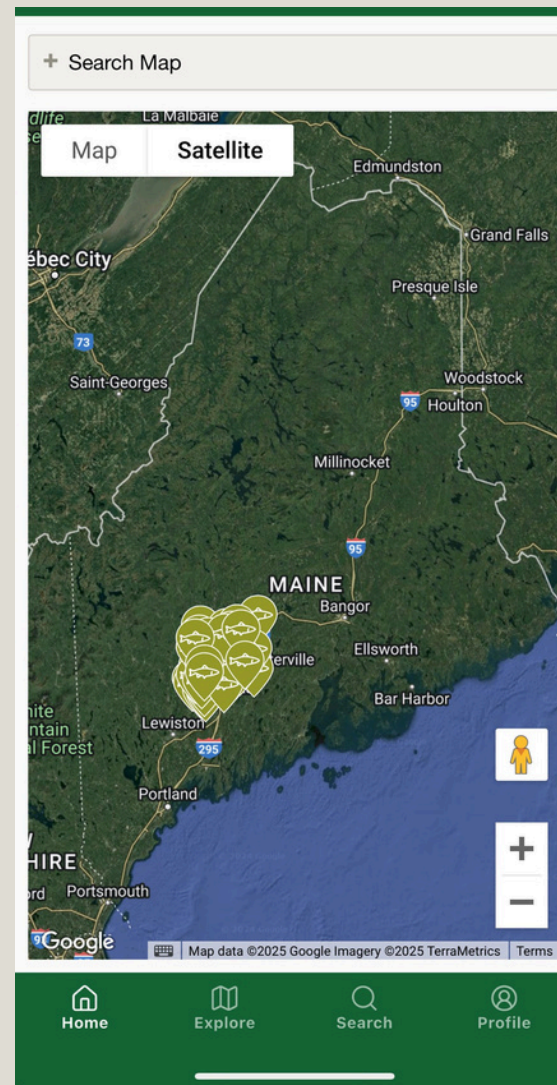
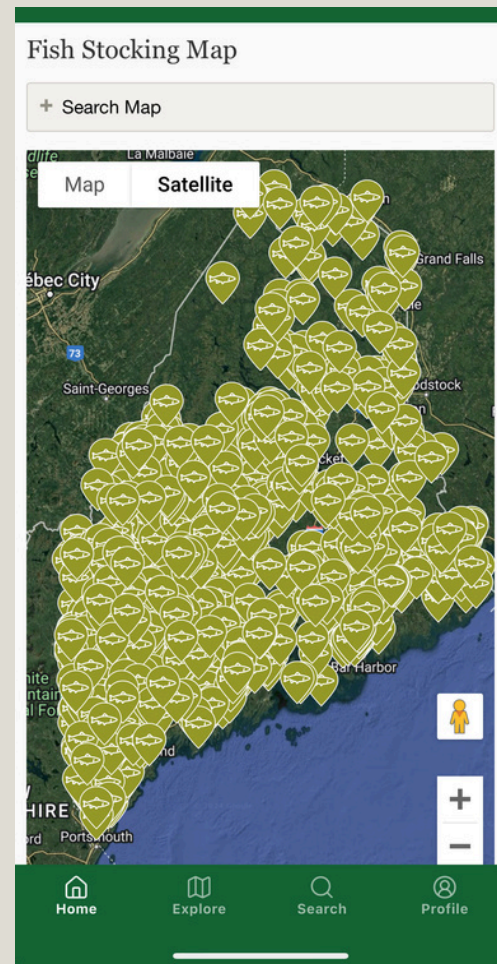
Over 50 Next Step enrichment programs were led across Maine, reaching hundreds of new or recently reactivated hunters, trappers, and target shooters.

Information + Education + Licensing: Accomplishments



New mobile application will be available winter 2025

- Ability to easily purchase license online and save license and permits for yourself and family
- Map with Wildlife Management Areas and hunting district layers
- Fish stocking map
- Game registration station map
- Meat processor map
- Off-line capabilities for law books, legal hunting hours, and more
- Future phases with updates + new features



Division of Licensing + Registration



- Oversees the sale and administration of approximately 480,000 licenses each year.
- Registers approximately 290,000 boats, snowmobiles, and ATVs annually.
- Generates over \$23 million in revenue annually.
- All licenses and permits are available online.
- In 2019, 43% of our customers purchased their license online. In 2020, that jumped to 61%. In 2024, 67% of licenses were purchased online.

Division of Licensing + Registration: Accomplishments



- **As of January 1, 2025, all MDIFW agents will be using MOSES to sell licenses and registrations.**
- **Worked with the wildlife division to further refine the game registration system. The game registration system interfaces directly with MOSES to pull the hunter's personal info as well as their current license and permit information.**

Division of Engineering



- Oversees and provides support for all capital improvement projects for the Department; solicits bids; administers and oversees professional and construction contracts; and maintains MDIFW-owned properties and facilities.
 - Seven regional MDIFW offices
 - Eight fish hatcheries
 - Maine Wildlife Park
 - 70 different WMAs that encompass over 136,000 acres and 250 seabird nesting islands
 - 224 buildings, structures, housing units, remote camps, and storage buildings, including a fish pathology laboratory.
 - 180 boat access sites
 - 77 dams, 113 fishways, 50 miles of access roads, 18 bridges, & numerous culverts

Division of Engineering: Accomplishments



- Completed a major update of the Sidney regional office and managed installation of heat pump heating and cooling systems in three regional offices as part of the Governor's Decarbonization initiative.
- Oversaw various new construction projects including the new Maine Wildlife Park Nature Store and Admin building, Fryeburg shooting range, and hatchery reconstruction projects.

Division of Engineering: Accomplishments



- Completed the design and are finalizing construction plans that will be put out to bid in order to select a new contractor for the new agency headquarters in Augusta. The new buildings consolidate office buildings and storage facilities, improve agency communication, and creates an outdoor learning area.



Division of Engineering: Accomplishments

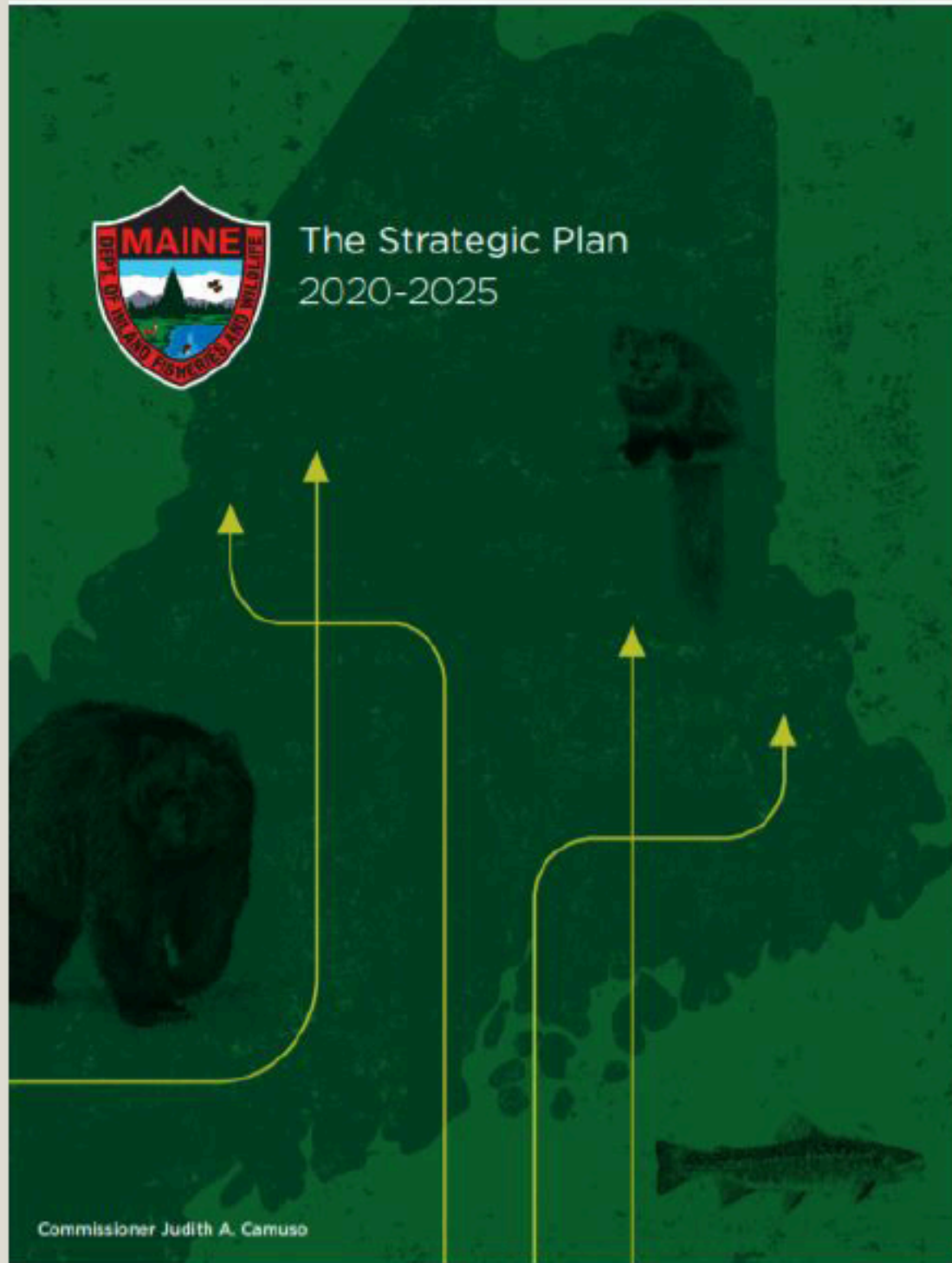


Big Indian Pond Water Access Site

Water Access Program

- Constructed a new reserve parking area at the Mere Point water access facility in Brunswick, which will increase public access opportunities for northern Casco Bay and the Maine Island Trail.
- Reconstructed the Big Indian Pond water access site in St. Albans, making the facility fully ADA-accessible.

Strategic Plan



- Framework to achieving Department goals related to:
 - Workforce
 - Maintaining healthy fish and wildlife habitats
 - Public access
 - Communication
 - Customer experience

Strategic Plan: Workforce



Successfully attract, support, and retain a highly skilled workforce and build an organizational structure and culture that values diversity, communication and teamwork.

Strategic Plan: Healthy Fish and Wildlife Habitats



Partner with the public to achieve shared goals for sustainability and maintaining and improving healthy fish and wildlife populations and habitats, despite environmental changes and shifts in land ownership.

Strategic Plan: Access



mefishwildlife.com

Even in Maine's most remote places, you may not be alone and are often on privately owned land



How to drive safely on privately owned forest roads

Many of Maine's dirt roads, frequently enjoyed by hunters each fall, are open thanks to private landowners and logging companies. These private entities built and maintain these roads, and generously share the roads and land with hunters, anglers, wildlife watchers, birders, and other outdoor enthusiasts. This gives outdoor enthusiasts access to thousands of acres of land, lakes and ponds, and miles of rivers. This access is an incredible gift, not a right. When hunting this fall, respect landowners and those around you:

ALL LOGGING TRUCKS AND OTHER COMMERCIAL VEHICLES HAVE THE RIGHT OF WAY. PLEASE PULL OVER WHEN MEETING THESE VEHICLES.

Engage landowners and the public to achieve stewardship goals and provide appropriate recreational access.



Strategic Plan: Communication



Measurably increase public knowledge of and support for the MDIFW's work

Strategic Plan: Customer Experience



Promote public engagement with Maine's natural resources and support safe, responsible, and positive outdoor experiences.

Priorities: Climate Change



**MAINE
WON'T
WAIT**

Maine Won't Wait

Conserve 30% of lands in Maine by 2030

- We have a full-time, dedicated climate position and are currently advertising for a 5-year limited term position focused on interagency habitat resiliency work.
- Reorganized programs to create a new Section focused on habitat conservation, which includes work on climate, renewable energy, off-shore wind, land conservation, and more.

Priorities: Communicating with a Broad Audience



- Getting our message out to the public in a way that is interesting and engaging is one of our biggest challenges as a State agency
- Staying relevant in an increasingly “digital world”

Priorities: Staying Relevant



R3: Recruit, Retain, Reactivate

- Help government agencies be more adaptive, nimble, and efficient
- Modern marketing techniques for traditional outdoor activities
- Targeted initiatives
- Data-driven
- Customer-focus

Priorities: Engaging New Audiences



Youth Programs	Adult Programs	Teachers & Educators	Safety Courses
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[Home](#) → [Programs & Resources](#) → [Educational Programs](#) → [Adult Programs](#) → [Next Step Hunting Programs](#)

Educational Programs
Home

Youth Programs

Adult Programs

Next Step Hunting Workshops

SustainME

Becoming an Outdoors Woman

Outdoor Ethics Course


Teachers & Educators

Safety Courses

Next Step Hunting Programs

Learning to hunt is a lifelong journey. Whether you are just starting out or have been hunting for years, there is *always* something to learn!

These Next Step workshops were designed to help all hunters take their skills to the next level. Classes are offered in the following three areas:



- **Introduction to Firearms:** MDIFW offers and oversees two state shooting ranges. Under the supervision of Range Safety Officers and trained staff, learn to safely use and care for a variety of firearms and hunting implements. [Learn more about Maine's shooting ranges.](#) **You may also consider one of these Firearms Fundamentals online courses to get started: *Firearms Fundamentals*** is great for the new hunter or recreational shooter as well as the new gun owner. Firearms education is an important component of responsible gun ownership and safe use, and although it won't replace hands-on experience, this course is a great place to start. It's also an excellent refresher for anyone with prior experience. [Learn more about the online Firearms Fundamentals courses.](#)
- **Learn to Hunt:** From understanding the laws to figuring out the best gear for you, there's a lot to learn when it comes to hunting. The Learn to Hunt workshops breakdown the essentials to get you out hunting safely and successfully.
- **Outdoor Safety & Survival:** Before heading afield to hunt, hike, fish, or explore, learn the basics of map & compass, survival skills, shelter building, and more.

RELATED LINKS

[Hunting Laws & Rules](#)

[Moose Hunting Guide](#)

[Bear Hunting Guide](#)

Priorities: Promoting Women in Wildlife and Fisheries



February 3, 2020

Episode 1: Netting fish and getting the family outside

Katie joins fisheries biologist Liz Thorndike for a trap netting session and a conversation about Liz's important work as a fisheries biologist as well as a broader conversation about spending time outdoors as a family—what it meant to her growing up, and how she's keeping the tradition alive with her own kids.

[Episode 1 Transcript \(PDF\)](#)

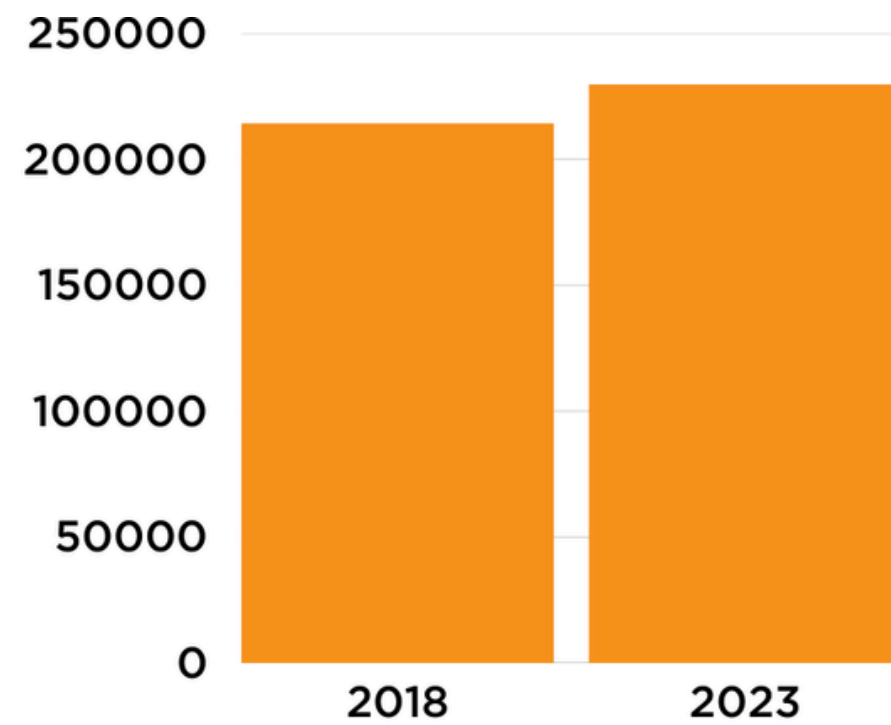
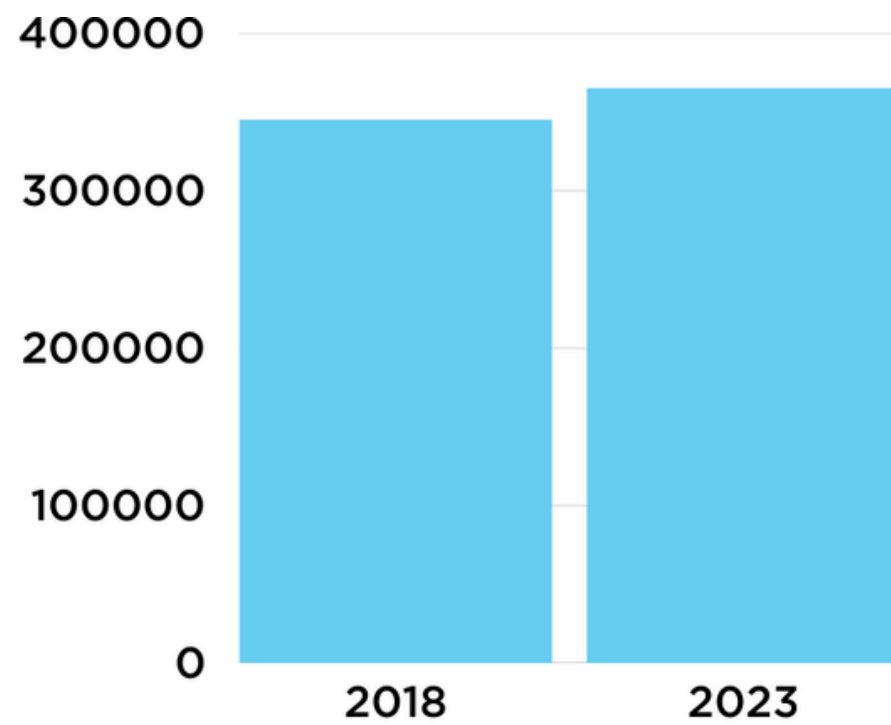


Numbers Tell the Story



- Hunting and fishing license sales and nearly all registrations continue to grow
- Significant increase in the number of people completing hunter safety courses, up 30%
- A nearly 20% increase in the number of women hunting
- Increase in people applying and purchasing permits over past 5 years. Moose, deer, bear and turkey permits are all up.
- Increased hunter success, with the fall turkey, deer, moose, and bear season harvest numbers up.

Hunting + Fishing License Sales

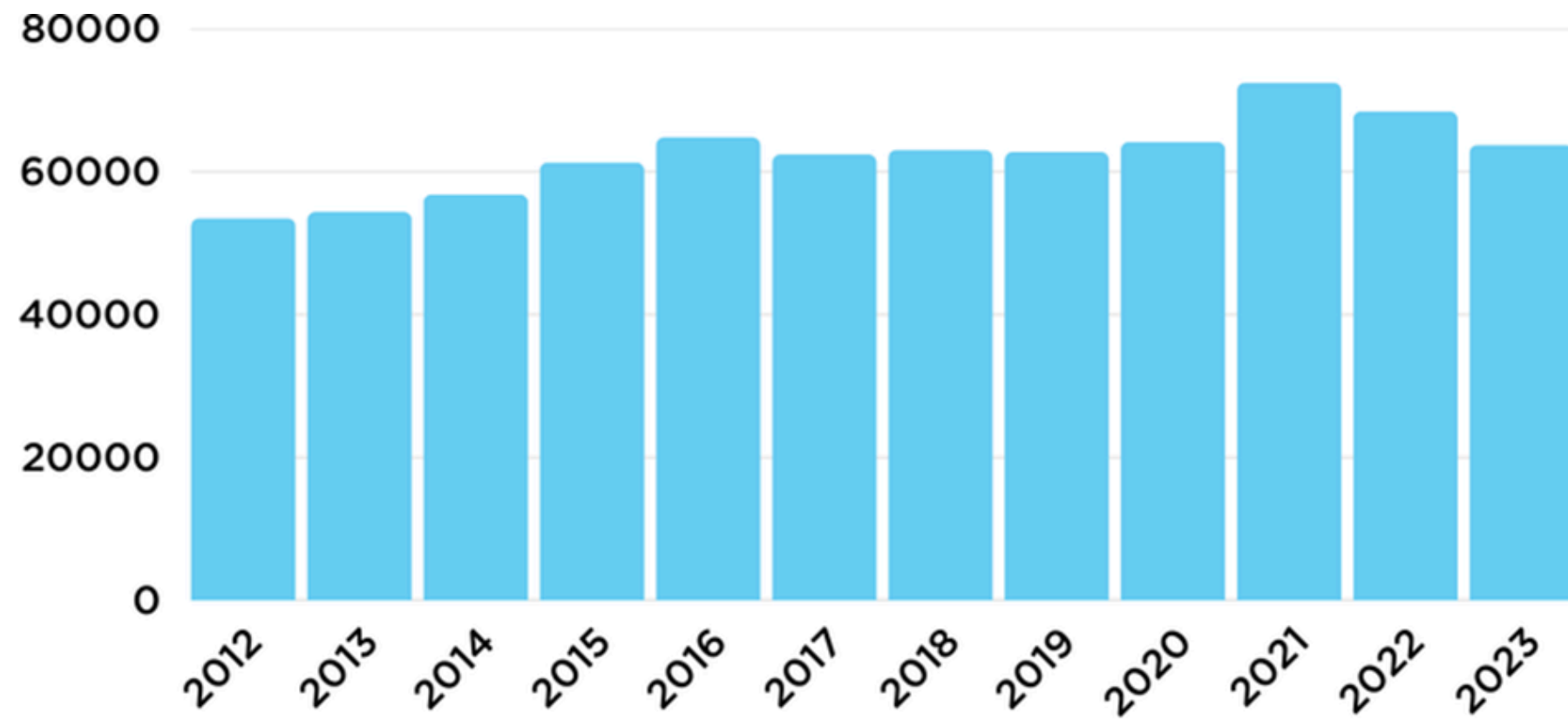


Fishing License Sales
6% Increase from 2018 to 2023

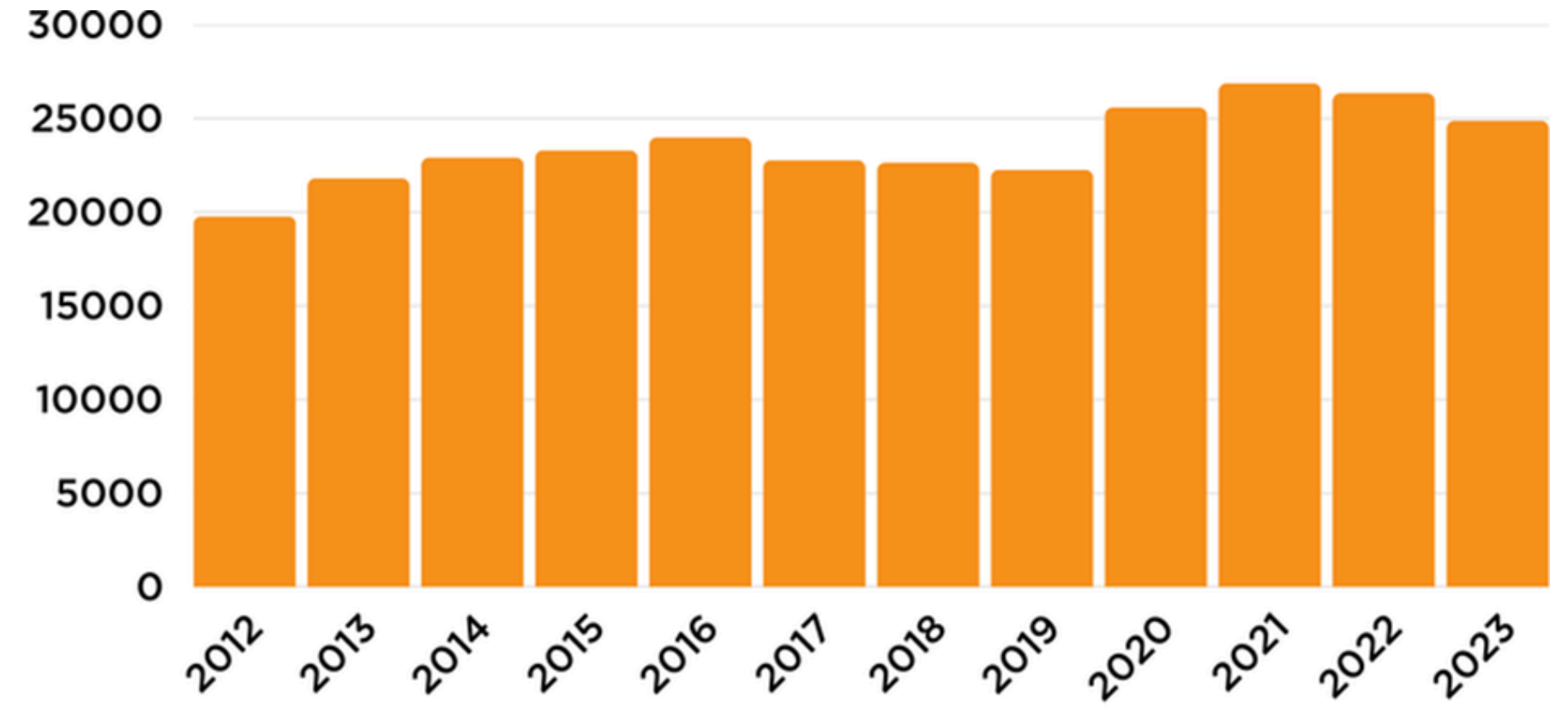


Hunting License Sales
7% Increase from 2018 to 2023

Hunting + Fishing License Sales: Females



Female Anglers - 19% Increase

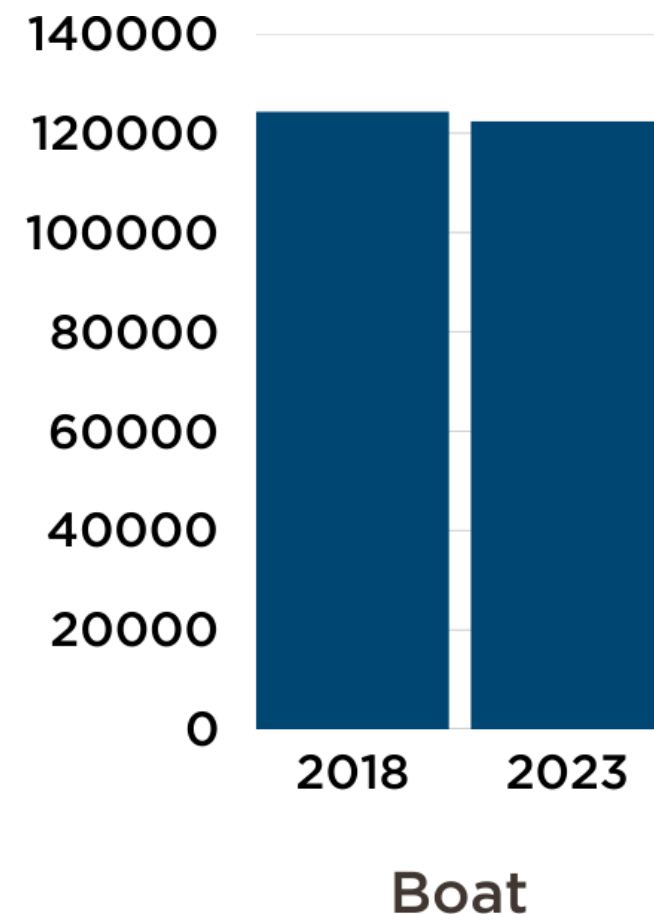
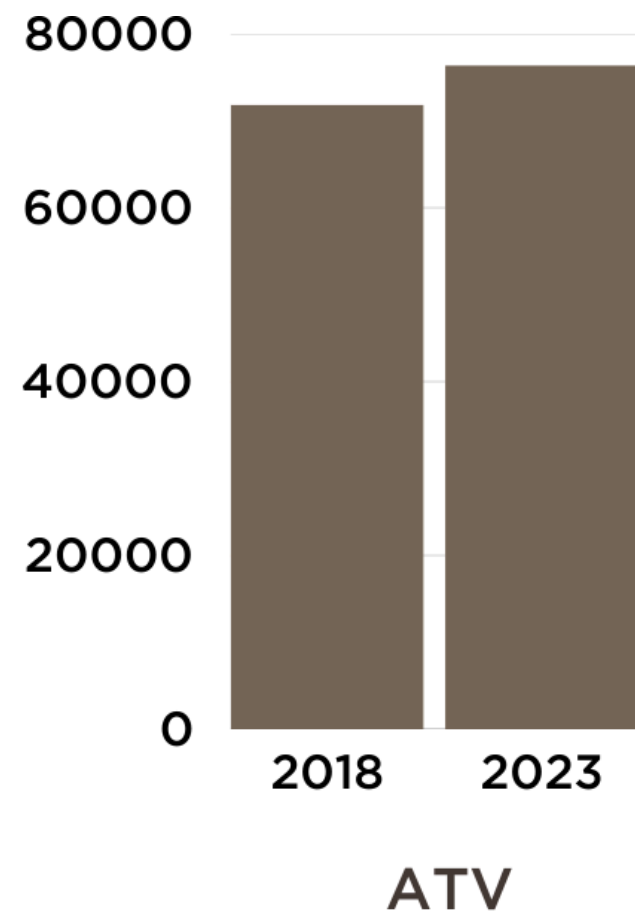
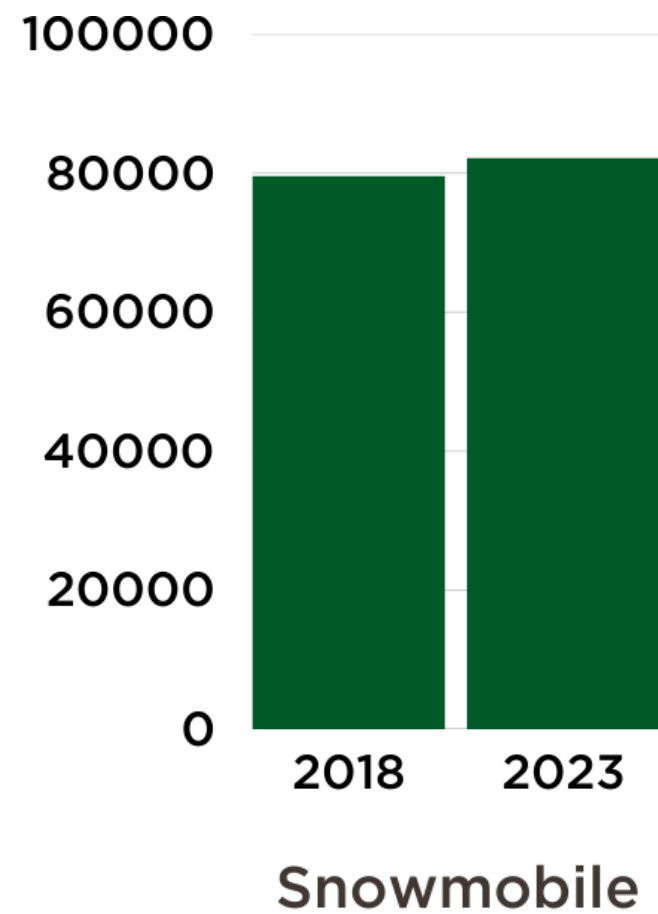


Female Hunters - 26% Increase

License sales have seen a 19% increase in female anglers from 2012 to 2023

License sales have seen a 26% increase in female hunters from 2012 to 2023

ATV, Snowmobile, + Boat Registrations



Snowmobile Registrations
3% Increase from 2018 to 2023



ATV Registrations
6% Increase from 2018 to 2023



Boat Registrations
2% Decrease from 2018 to 2023

All in for the Maine Outdoors



All in for the Maine Outdoors



**Wildlife Biologist
Doug Kane**



**Recreational Safety Supervisor
Ron Fournier**

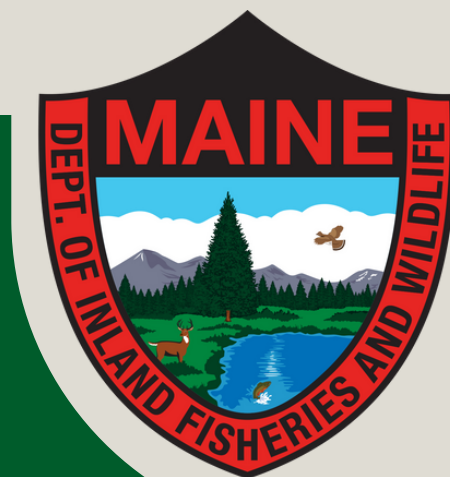


**Fisheries + Hatcheries Director
Liz Latti**



**Maine Warden Service Major
Aaron Cross**

All in for the Maine Outdoors



**Waterbird Specialist
Danielle D'Auria**



**Wildlife Park Assistant Superintendent
Ben Barrett**



**Moose Biologist
Lee Kantar**



**Communications Director
Mark Latti**

All in for the Maine Outdoors



**Wildlife Division Director
Nate Webb**



**Information Specialist
Angel Truman**

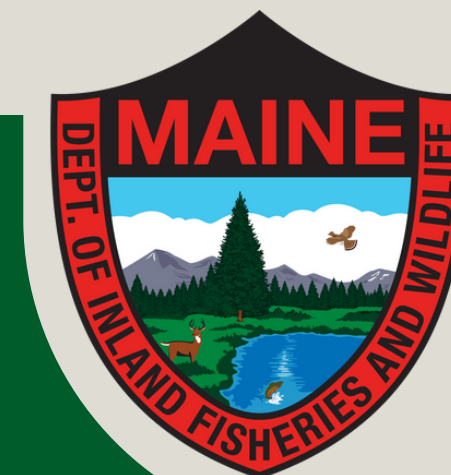


**Maine Warden Service Colonel
Dan Scott**



**Licensing Director
Angie Dionne**

All in for the Maine Outdoors



**Engineering Secretary Associate
Heather Rodrigue**



**Fisheries Resource Biologist
Jake Scoville**



**Marketing & Digital Comm. Supervisor
Courtney Sirois**



**Game Warden Corporal
Cody Louder**

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