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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: January 31, 2023

RE: Committee Recommendations on the Governor's Proposed Supplemental Budget Bill (LD 206)

The Marine Resources Committee has reviewed and discussed those portions of the Governor's proposed Supplemental Budget Bill (LD 206) that are under the committee's jurisdiction. Attached are the supplemental budget work sheet which indicates the committee's vote on each initiative. We appreciate your consideration of our recommendations and comments.

INITIATIVES

The committee voted unanimously to move IN all budget initiatives under the committee's jurisdiction.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Sen. Cameron Reny
Senate Chair

Handwritten signature of Cameron Reny in blue ink.

Handwritten signature of Allison Hepler in black ink.

Rep. Allison Hepler
House Chair

Sec. A-21. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for repairs and updates to the Maine State Aquarium.

Ref. #: 186 One Time Committee Vote: 13-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$800,000	\$0	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$800,000	\$0	\$0

Justification:

Department of Marine Resources (DMR) Education Division provides engaging marine science-based experiences at DMR's Boothbay Harbor (BBH) facility for students, educators and the public across the state and region. After 25 years the Maine State Aquarium building is in need of repairs and updates. The Aquarium is proposed to be updated to reflect the Gulf of Maine ecosystem itself. The centerpiece will be a large, several-thousand-gallon tank that simulates the physical and biological components of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem (habitats, waves, tides, plants and animals). An immersible bubble at the tank's deep end allows audiences to immerse themselves in the ecosystem for a 360-degree experience. Built-in technology will allow for a robust digital presence that connects audiences throughout Maine and beyond to DMR educational programming and research.

Bureau of Public Health Z154

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of 4 Marine Resource Scientist I positions to Marine Resource Scientist II positions.

Ref. #: 193 One Time Committee Vote: 13-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$3,737	\$0	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$3,737	\$0	\$0

Ref. #: 194 One Time Committee Vote: 13-0 AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$14,123	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$697	\$0	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$14,820	\$0	\$0

Justification:

This is a management-initiated reorganization approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on February 8, 2022.

Marine Patrol - Bureau of 0029

Initiative: Provides funding for increased fuel costs.

Ref. #: 188

One Time

Committee Vote: 13 - 0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$125,000	\$0	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$125,000	\$0	\$0

Justification:

The Department of Marine Resources - Bureau of Marine Patrol maintains a fleet of more than 30 watercraft used for patrol, enforcement, and search and rescue work in Maine's coastal waters. Marine Patrol Officers aboard these vessels patrol from the head of tide to remote areas of the Gulf of Maine in excess of 40 miles offshore year-round and in all weather conditions. With a watercraft fleet of patrol vessels in Maine only rivaled by the U.S. Coast Guard, the Marine Patrol is the only statewide law enforcement agency on the coast of Maine with year-round response capabilities for enforcement and search and rescue needs. Patrol vessels are powered by either gasoline or diesel engines and the Bureau's ability to maintain a presence on the coastal waters of the State are directly tied to our ability to staff, maintain, and fuel these vessels. As with many agencies, the Bureau of Marine Patrol has not been immune to the significant fuel cost increases over the last year. As an example of this increased burden, diesel fuel prices at a fuel dock used by Marine Patrol in Rockland were \$2.96 per gallon on August 30, 2021; on December 2, 2022 diesel fuel prices at the same Rockland fuel dock were \$5.43 per gallon. This price per gallon difference for diesel fuel represents a 83% per gallon increase over fifteen months. Even after refocusing available funds to help cover this increased cost, the Bureau may not be able to fully maintain its traditional level of presence on the water in light of these unprecedented operating cost increases.

MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
GENERAL FUND	\$928,737	\$0	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$14,820	\$0	\$0
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$943,557	\$0	\$0