

STATE OF MAINE

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

—  
H.P. 856 - L.D. 1342

**An Act to Increase Funding for the Prevention and Control of Invasive  
Aquatic Species**

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10206, sub-§3, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 264, §1, is further amended to read:

C. All revenues collected under the provisions of this Part relating to watercraft, including chapter 935, including fines, fees and other available money deposited with the Treasurer of State, must be distributed as undedicated revenue to the General Fund and the Department of Marine Resources according to a formula that is jointly agreed upon by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Commissioner of Marine Resources biannually that pays to the department the administrative costs of the Division of Licensing and Registration. The Legislature shall appropriate to the department in each fiscal year an amount equal to the administrative costs incurred by the department in collecting revenue under this subsection. Those costs must be verified by the Department of Marine Resources and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. The remainder of revenues after reduction for administrative costs and after allowing for any necessary year-end reconciliation and accounting distribution must be allocated 75% to the department and 25% to the Department of Marine Resources and approved by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of the Budget.

Prior to January 1, 2020, the fees outlined in section 13056, subsection 8, paragraphs A and B for watercraft operating on inland waters of the State each include a \$10 fee for invasive species prevention and control. Beginning January 1, 2020, the fees outlined in section 13056, subsection 8, paragraphs A and B for watercraft operating on inland waters of the State each include a \$15 fee for invasive species prevention and control. Beginning January 1, 2025, the fees outlined in section 13056, subsection 8, paragraphs A and B for watercraft operating on inland waters of the State each include a \$25 fee for invasive species prevention and control. Beginning January 1, 2028, the fees outlined in section 13056, subsection 8, paragraphs A and B for watercraft operating on inland waters of the State each include a \$35 fee for invasive species prevention and control. This fee is disposed of as follows:

(1) ~~Eighty percent~~ Prior to January 1, 2025, 80% must be credited to the Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance Species Fund. Beginning January 1, 2025, 70% must be credited to the Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance Species Fund; and

(2) ~~Twenty percent~~ Prior to January 1, 2025, 20% must be credited to the Lake and River Protection Fund established within the department under section 10257. Beginning January 1, 2025, 30% must be credited to the Lake and River Protection Fund.

**Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §13056, sub-§8, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 264, §3, is further amended to read:

A. For a watercraft requiring or whose owner requests a certificate of number and that is equipped with a motor having a manufacturer's horsepower rating of:

(1) Ten horsepower or less, prior to January 1, 2020 the fee is \$25 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$15 for operating only on tidal waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2020, the fee under this subparagraph is \$30 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$15 for operating only on tidal waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2025, the fee under this subparagraph is \$40 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$15 for operating only on tidal waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2028, the fee under this subparagraph is \$50 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$15 for operating only on tidal waters of the State;

(2) Greater than 10 horsepower but not more than 50 horsepower, prior to January 1, 2020 the fee is \$30 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$20 for operating only on tidal waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2020, the fee under this subparagraph is \$35 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$20 for operating only on tidal waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2025, the fee under this subparagraph is \$45 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$20 for operating only on tidal waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2028, the fee under this subparagraph is \$55 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$20 for operating only on tidal waters of the State; and

(3) Greater than 50 horsepower but not more than 115 horsepower, prior to January 1, 2020 the fee is \$36 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$26 for operating only on tidal waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2020, the fee under this subparagraph is \$41 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$26 for operating only on tidal waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2025, the fee under this subparagraph is \$51 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$26 for operating only on tidal waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2028, the fee under this subparagraph is \$61 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$26 for operating only on tidal waters of the State.

**Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §13056, sub-§8, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 264, §4, is further amended to read:

B. Prior to January 1, 2020, for a personal watercraft requiring or whose owner requests a certificate of number and watercraft equipped with a motor having a manufacturer's horsepower rating of greater than 115 horsepower ~~or greater~~, the fee is \$44 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$34 for operating only on tidal waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2020, the fee under this paragraph is \$49 for

operating on inland waters of the State and \$34 for operating only on tidal waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2025, the fee under this paragraph is \$59 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$34 for operating only on tidal waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2028, the fee under this paragraph is \$69 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$34 for operating only on tidal waters of the State.

**Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §13058, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 264, §5, is further amended to read:

**3. Nonresident motorboat and personal watercraft lake and river protection sticker and resident and nonresident seaplane lake and river protection sticker; fee.** No later than January 1st of each year, the commissioner shall provide the agents authorized to register watercraft or issue licenses with a sufficient quantity of lake and river protection stickers for motorboats and personal watercraft not registered in the State and for all seaplanes, whether or not registered in the State, for that boating season. The sticker must be in 2 parts so that one part of the sticker can be affixed to each side of the bow of a motorboat or personal watercraft or to each outside edge of a seaplane's pontoons. Prior to January 1, 2020, the fee for a sticker issued under this subsection is \$20, \$1 of which is retained by the agent who sold the sticker. Beginning January 1, 2020, the fee for a sticker issued under this subsection is \$35, \$1 of which is retained by the agent who sold the sticker. Beginning January 1, 2022, the fee for a sticker issued under this subsection is \$45, \$1 of which is retained by the agent who sold the sticker. Beginning January 1, 2025, the fee for a sticker issued under this subsection is \$60, \$1 of which is retained by the agent who sold the sticker. Beginning January 1, 2028, the fee for a sticker issued under this subsection is \$75, \$1 of which is retained by the agent who sold the sticker.

The remainder of the fee is disposed of as follows:

A. ~~Eighty percent~~ Prior to January 1, 2025, 80% must be credited to the Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance Species Fund. Beginning January 1, 2025, 70% must be credited to the Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance Species Fund; and

B. ~~Twenty percent~~ Prior to January 1, 2025, 20% must be credited to the Lake and River Protection Fund established within the department under section 10257. Beginning January 1, 2025, 30% must be credited to the Lake and River Protection Fund.

A motorboat, personal watercraft or seaplane owned by the Federal Government, a state government or a municipality is exempt from the fee established in this subsection.

**Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF  
Water Quality 0248**

Initiative: Provides allocations for costs related to conducting inspections and invasive aquatic plant prevention, for containment, eradication and management activities and to contract with municipalities or other entities to conduct inspection, prevention or eradication programs to protect the inland waters of the State from invasive aquatic plant and nuisance species.

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
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All Other	\$0	\$628,342
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$628,342</u>

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,  
DEPARTMENT OF  
DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$628,342</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<u><b>\$0</b></u>	<u><b>\$628,342</b></u>

**INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE, DEPARTMENT OF  
Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0537**

Initiative: Provides allocations for enforcing laws pertaining to invasive aquatic plants and nuisance species, for inspecting watercraft for invasive aquatic plant and nuisance species materials and for educational and informational efforts targeted at invasive aquatic plant and nuisance species prevention, eradication and management activities and the production and distribution of lake and river protection stickers.

	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$533,345</b>
All Other	\$0	\$533,345
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$533,345</u>

**INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE,  
DEPARTMENT OF  
DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$533,345</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<u><b>\$0</b></u>	<u><b>\$533,345</b></u>

**SECTION TOTALS**

	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,161,687</b>
<b>SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<u><b>\$0</b></u>	<u><b>\$1,161,687</b></u>