

STATE OF MAINE

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

—  
S.P. 615 - L.D. 1552

**An Act to Create the Lobster Innovation Fund**

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

**Sec. 1. 12 MRSA c. 619, sub-c. 4-A, headnote** is amended to read:

**SUBCHAPTER 4-A**

**LOBSTER RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND AND  
LOBSTER INNOVATION FUND**

**Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6465, first ¶**, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 623, §1, is amended to read:

The Lobster Research, Education and Development Fund, referred to in this ~~subchapter~~ section as "the "fund," is established in the department. Balances in the fund may not lapse and must be carried forward and used for the purposes of this section.

**Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §6466** is enacted to read:

**§6466. Lobster Innovation Fund**

The Lobster Innovation Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established in the department. The fund consists of money received as appropriations and contributions from public and private sources. Balances in the fund may not lapse and must be carried forward. The fund must be used to provide stipends to holders of Class I, Class II or Class III lobster fishing licenses to participate in the testing of new lobster fishing technologies.

**Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Lobster Innovation Fund N439**

Initiative: Provides a one-time appropriation to provide stipends to holders of Class I, Class II or Class III commercial lobster fishing licenses to participate in the testing of new lobster fishing technologies.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$50,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>

**Lobster Innovation Fund N439**

Initiative: Provides a base allocation for outside funding received for stipends to holders of Class I, Class II or Class III commercial lobster fishing licenses to participate in the testing of new lobster fishing technologies.

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$500	\$500
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<u>\$500</u>	<u>\$500</u>

**MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<u><b>\$500</b></u>	<u><b>\$50,500</b></u>