

STATE OF MAINE

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

—
S.P. 441 - L.D. 1023

**Resolve, to Reestablish 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 the State'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, and "sustainable" means practices that support the economic growth of a community while maintaining or improving the health of marine ecosystems and without negatively impacting social, environmental and cultural aspects of the community.

Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved: That the task force consists of 23 members as follows.

1. The President of the Senate shall appoint one member of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall appoint 2 members of the House of Representatives, including a member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature. Members appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House serve at the pleasure of their respective appointing authority.

2. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall appoint 19 members.

A. Members appointed by the commissioner serve at the pleasure of the commissioner and must include 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. The commissioner shall ensure that a majority of the members of the task force membership appointed pursuant to this subsection represent a blue economy business or an entity directly involved in the commercialization of blue economy-related research and innovation.

B. The commissioner shall to the greatest extent practicable ensure that members who served on the Blue Economy Task Force, as established by Resolve 2023, chapter 119 and referred to in this resolve as "the prior task force," are provided an opportunity to serve on the task force established by this resolve. If a member of the prior task force is unable or unwilling to serve on the task force established in section 1, the commissioner shall ensure that the member appointed to serve on the task force in that prior member's place represents the same interests or background as the prior member.

3. The President of the Maine Technology Institute or the president's designee shall serve as a member of the task force.

The appointing authorities identified in this section shall ensure that all appointments are made no later than 30 days after the effective date of this resolve.

Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall appoint 2 cochairs from among the task force's members, one who is employed by a state agency and one who is not employed by a state agency. The cochairs shall set the schedule and agenda for task force meetings and preside at the meetings.

Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved: That the task force has, but is not limited to, the following duties.

1. The task force shall develop recommendations for the establishment of the Center for the Blue Economy, referred to in this section as "the center," which must include, but is not limited to:

- A. An organizational structure and budget for the ongoing funding of the center;
- B. A requirement that the center be either housed within an existing institution, such as the University of Maine System, or as a stand-alone, independent entity; and
- C. The scope of the authorities and responsibilities of the center, which may include, but are not limited to:

(1) Supporting businesses and other institutions in the State to build on the blue economy advantages of and reduce the obstacles to further development of the blue economy in the State identified by the prior task force in its report submitted pursuant to Resolve 2023, chapter 119, section 6;

(2) Advancing research and development and supporting innovation in the blue economy, including the financing of innovations and growth in blue economy output and employment;

(3) Promoting communication and collaboration among blue economy institutions and businesses;

(4) Providing common services to blue economy businesses and institutions, including research support and access to journals and technologies such as laboratories, 3-D printing and data management; and

(5) Supporting the development of blue economy sectors as outlined in current or future sector-specific development plans and roadmaps.

2. The task force shall recommend improvements and expansions of blue economy workforce education and training to encompass the elementary and secondary school system and public and private institutions of higher education.

Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the Department of Economic and Community Development shall provide necessary staffing assistance to the task force. At the request of the task force, other state agencies and state entities shall provide information and analysis to assist the task force in its deliberations and reporting.

Sec. 6. Funding. Resolved: That the task force may accept grants, private contributions and any other outside funding to support the task force in carrying out its duties.

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That the task force shall prepare and submit a written report containing its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development no later than December 3, 2025. After reviewing the report, the committee may report out legislation relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF
Blue Economy Task Force N546**

Initiative: Provides one-time funds to match funds for research, development and other support to the blue economy.

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| All Other | \$100,000 | \$0 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$100,000 | \$0 |

Maine Technology Capacity Fund N545

Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize expenditures of money received from public or private sources.

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| All Other | \$500 | \$500 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$500 | \$500 |

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF
DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | \$100,000 | \$0 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | \$500 | \$500 |
| DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS | \$100,500 | \$500 |