

**Testimony of Patrick Keliher, Commissioner
Maine Department of Marine Resources**

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
and
The Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources**

LD 2214 "An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025."

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, Honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations, Senator Reny, Representative Hepler, and Honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources, I am Patrick Keliher, Commissioner of the Department of Marine Resources. I am here today to testify on behalf of the Administration in support of the LD 2214, specifically the portions of the supplemental budget pertaining to the Department of Marine Resources (DMR).

The supplemental budget is a balanced, prudent, and responsible proposal that advances the Governor's long-held belief that we must continue to invest in the people of Maine, our greatest asset.

That is why the Governor's proposal strikes the balance between making timely investments to address urgent needs – like public safety, mental health, housing, education, and health care – and saving money to ensure that our state continues to stand on strong fiscal footing in the future.

We look forward to working with the Legislature in the coming weeks to arrive at a budget that protects our fiscal health and that makes prudent and timely investments to support the health, safety, and welfare of Maine people.

DMR is proposing both Part A and B initiatives.

Part A is comprised of a net increase of \$489,982 in the General Fund, a net increase of \$1,646,846 in Federal Expenditure Funds and a net increase of \$799,748 in Other Special Revenue Funds over the biennium.

Part B includes two initiatives for self-funded reclasses that result in no increase in the general fund, a net increase of \$14,521 in Federal Expenditure Funds and a net increase of \$44,091 in Other Special Revenue Funds over the biennium.

DMR has one primary General Fund funding request for renovations at Maine Marine Patrol's offices in Lamoine. The facility is owned by the Dept of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) and houses DMR's Marine Patrol Division Two office. The facility requires substantial renovation, both interior and exterior, because currently portions of the space are not safe for personnel use due to a growing mold issue. While DACF is responsible for exterior renovations and repair, DMR would complete the necessary interior renovations. This work will include mold remediation, demolition and reconstruction of floors and walls, plumbing, electrical work, HVAC, and interior finishes.

Several of the DMR initiatives address position reclassifications in the department. The 91 reclasses are spread throughout the Bureaus and across General Fund, Federal Funds and Other Special Revenue Funds. These reclassifications have been approved by the Bureau of Human Resources and include 9 Resource Management Coordinator positions, 60 Marine Resource Scientist positions and 22 Marine Resource Specialist positions.

BUREAU OF MARINE SCIENCE 0027

The Department of Marine Resources is requesting 16 initiatives within the **Bureau of Marine Science** which begin on **page A-108**.

The first Part A initiative increases the baseline allocation in the Other Special Revenue. The baseline allocation requires adjustment as additional funding has been received from grants.

The next initiative reallocates the cost of one Marine Resource Scientist II position from 50% Other Special Revenue Funds and 25% General Fund in the Bureau of Marine Science program and 25% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Bureau of Policy and Management to 75% Other Special Revenue Funds and 25% General Fund in the Bureau of Marine Science program. This initiative can also be found on page A-111.

The next initiative continues one limited-period Office Specialist I Supervisor position and 2 Office Associate II positions previously continued by financial order through June 7, 2025. These positions are all federally funded.

The next initiative provides funding for the approved reorganization of 5 Marine Resources Specialist I positions and 12 Marine Resource Specialist II positions to Marine Resource Specialist Positions. Specifically in the Bureau of Marine Science this initiative reclassifies 2 Marine Resource Specialist I positions and 11 Marine Resource Specialist II positions to Marine Resource Specialist positions. These reclassifications have been approved by the Bureau of Human Resources. This initiative can also be found on page A-113 and A-115.

The next initiative provides funding for the approved range change of one limited-period Marine Resource Scientist II position from range 25 to range 28 and 2 limited-period Marine Resource Scientist I positions from range 23 to range 24.

The final initiative on page A-108 adjusts the transfer from the Department of Environmental Protection Maine Ground and Surface Waters Clean-up and Response Fund from the Bureau of Marine Science to the Bureau of Public Health and can also be found on page A-113.

The first initiative on page A-109 provides funding for the approved range change of 9 Marine Resource Scientist I positions from range 23 to range 24, 23 Marine Resource Scientist II positions from range 25 to range 28, 15 Marine Resource Scientist III positions from range 28 to range 29, and 5 Marine Resource Scientist IV positions from range 31 to range 32. Specifically in the Bureau of Marine Science this initiative funds range changes for 12 Marine Resource Scientist I positions, 9 Marine Resource Scientist II positions, 6 Marine Resource Scientist III positions and 2 Marine Resource Scientist IV positions. This initiative can also be found on pages A-111, A-113 and A-115.

The next initiative transfers and reallocates one Marine Resource Specialist II from 100% Other Special Revenue in the Bureau of Policy and Management to 100% Other Special Revenue in the Bureau of Marine Science. This initiative aligns the work effort with the appropriate funding and can also be found on page A-111.

The next initiative provides funding for the approved reorganization of 9 Resource Management Coordinator positions to Marine Resource Management Coordinator positions. This initiative can also be found on page A-112.

The next initiative provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Marine Resource Scientist II position to a Marine Resource Scientist III position, retroactive to May 31, 2022. This employee initiated reclass was approved by the Bureau of Human Resources May 19, 2023.

The next initiative increases the baseline allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund. The baseline allocation requires adjustment as additional funding has been received from several federally funded awards.

The last Bureau of Marine Science initiative continues 2 limited-period Marine Resource Specialist II positions previously continued by financial order and provides funding for the approved reorganization to Marine Resource Specialists as approved by the Bureau of Human Resources.

BUREAU OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT 0258

The Department of Marine Resources is requesting 9 initiatives within the **Bureau of Policy and Management** which begin on **page A-111**.

The next initiative reallocates the cost of one Marine Resource Scientist II position from 50% Other Special Revenue Funds and 25% General Fund in the Bureau of Marine Science program and 25% Other Special Revenue Funds, Bureau of Policy and Management to 75% Other Special Revenue Funds and 25% General Fund in the Bureau of Marine Science program. This initiative aligns the work effort with the appropriate funding This initiative can also be found on page A-108.

The next initiative continues 2 limited-period Marine Resource Scientist I positions previously continued by financial order and provides funding for the approved reorganization from range 23 to range 24. These funds were authorized in Public Law 2021, chapter 483, An Act To Provide Allocations for the Distribution of State Fiscal Recovery Funds and the positions end on December 31, 2024.

The next initiative continues one limited-period Marine Resource Scientist I position and one limited-period Marine Resource Scientist I previously continued by financial order and provides funding for the approved reorganization from range 23 to range 24. These positions end June 7, 2025. This initiative reduces All Other funding one-time to fund the cost of the positions and the reorganization.

The next initiative continues 3 limited-period Marine Resource Specialist II positions and one Marine Resource Scientist I position previously continued by financial order through June 7, 2025. This initiative reduces All Other funding one-time to fund the cost of the positions and the reorganization.

The next initiative on page A-111 provides funding for the approved range change of 9 Marine Resource Scientist I positions from range 23 to range 24, 23 Marine Resource Scientist II positions from range 25 to range 28, 15 Marine Resource Scientist III positions from range 28 to range 29, and 5 Marine Resource Scientist IV positions from range 31 to range 32 in the Department of Marine Resources.

Specifically in the Bureau of Policy and Management this initiative funds range changes for 1 Marine Resource Scientist I position, 1 Marine Resource Scientist II position, and 1 Marine Resource Scientist III position. This initiative can also be found on pages A-109, A-113 and A-115.

The last initiative on page A-111 transfers and reallocates one Marine Resource Specialist II from 100% Other Special Revenue in the Bureau of Policy and Management to 100% Other Special Revenue in the Bureau of Marine Science. This initiative aligns the work effort with the appropriate funding and can also be found on page A-109.

The first initiative on page A-112 continues one limited-period Marine Resource Scientist II position previously continued by financial order and provides funding for the approved reorganization from range 25 to range 28. These funds were authorized in Public Law 2021, chapter 483, An Act To Provide Allocations for the Distribution of State Fiscal Recovery Funds and the positions end on December 31, 2024.

The next initiative adjusts funding to All Other allocation to correct a negative allocation that occurred when Public Law 2023, chapter 17 transferred funding for one Resource Management Coordinator position to different accounts. The associated STACAP reduction exceeded baseline All Other.

The last initiative for the Bureau of Policy and Management provides funding for the approved reorganization of 9 Resource Management Coordinator positions to Marine Resource Management Coordinator positions. This initiative can also be found on page A-109.

BUREAU OF PUBLIC HEALTH Z154

The Department of Marine Resources is requesting four initiatives within the Bureau of Public Health which can be found on **page A-113**.

The first initiative provides funding for the approved reorganization of 5 Marine Resources Specialist I positions and 12 Marine Resource Specialist II positions to Marine Resource Specialist Positions. Specifically in the Bureau of Public Health this initiative reclassifies 6 Marine Resource Specialist I positions and 2 Marine Resource Specialist II positions to Marine Resource Specialist positions. These reclassifications have been approved by the Bureau of Human Resources. This initiative can also be found on page A-108 and A-115.

The next initiative provides funding for the approved reorganization of 2 Marine Resource Specialist I positions to Marine Resource Specialist positions, retroactive to February 17, 2022. These are employee-initiated reclassifications approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on September 11, 2023. The effective date for these reclasses is February 17, 2022. This initiative also funds the retroactive payments.

The next initiative adjusts the transfer from the Department of Environmental Protection Maine Ground and Surface Waters Clean-up and Response Fund from the Bureau of Marine Science to the Bureau of Public Health and can also be found on page A-108.

The last initiative on page A-113 provides funding for the approved range change of 9 Marine Resource Scientist I positions from range 23 to range 24, 23 Marine Resource Scientist II positions from range 25 to range 28, 15 Marine Resource Scientist III positions from range 28 to range 29, and 5 Marine Resource Scientist IV positions from range 31 to range 32 in the Department of Marine Resources. Specifically in the Bureau of Public Health this initiative funds range changes for 2 Marine Resource Scientist I positions, 7 Marine Resource Scientist II positions, 2 Marine Resource Scientist III positions and 3 Marine Resource Scientist IV positions. This initiative can also be found on pages A-109, A-113 and A-115.

BUREAU OF MARINE PATROL 0029

The Department of Marine Resources is requesting two initiatives within the Bureau of Marine Patrol which can be found on **page A-114**.

The first initiative on page A-114 provides one-time capital funding in the amount of \$200,000 for renovations at Maine Marine Patrol's Division II offices in Lamoine. This facility, owned by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF), requires substantial renovation, both to the interior and exterior. The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has responsibility for all interior costs and the work will include mold remediation, demolition and reconstruction of floors and walls, electrical work (including lighting, plumbing, and HVAC) and interior finishes. Currently portions of the space are not safe for personnel use due to mold.

The final initiative recognizes additional funding to support the increased cost of lobster trap tags. Tag fees have increased significantly over the last 2 fiscal years and funding needs have been addressed by financial order. This initiative aligns the revenue with the increased expense.

SEA RUN FISHERIES AND HABITAT Z295

The Department of Marine Resources is requesting three initiatives within Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat which can be found on **page A-115**.

The first initiative provides funding the approved reorganization of 5 Marine Resources Specialist I positions and 12 Marine Resource Specialist II positions to Marine Resource Specialist Positions. Specifically in the Bureau of Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat this initiative reclassifies 1 Marine Resource Specialist II position. These reclassifications have been approved by the Bureau of Human Resources. This initiative can also be found on page A-108 and A-113.

The next initiative on page A-113 provides funding for the approved range change of 9 Marine Resource Scientist I positions from range 23 to range 24, 23 Marine Resource Scientist II positions from range 25 to range 28, 15 Marine Resource Scientist III positions from range 28 to range 29, and 5 Marine Resource Scientist IV positions from range 31 to range 32 in the Department of Marine Resources. Specifically in the Bureau of Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat this initiative will reclassify 2 Marine Resource Scientist I positions, 7 Marine Resource Scientist II positions, and 5 Marine Resource Scientist III positions. This initiative can also be found on pages A-109, A-111 and A-113.

The final initiative increases the baseline allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund. The baseline allocation requires adjustment as additional funding has been received from several federally funded awards.

This concludes the testimony of the Department of Marine Resources. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.