

**Testimony of Carl Wilson, 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 2212 "An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from
the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government
and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper
Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026 and
June 30, 2027"**

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, Honorable members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Senator Tepler, Representative Hepler, and Honorable members of the Committee on Marine Resources, I am Carl Wilson, Commissioner of the Department of Marine Resources. I am here today to testify on behalf of the Administration in support of LD 2212, specifically the portions of the supplemental budget pertaining to the Department of Marine Resources (DMR).

Please note that initiatives related to reclassifications, reorganizations, and range changes will not be covered in this presentation, but a summary of these initiatives can be found on the last page of this written testimony.

BUREAU OF MARINE SCIENCE 0027

The first initiative within the Bureau of Marine Science on page **A-98** increases the baseline allocation in the Lobster Research, Education and Development Fund to align with projected available resources. Previously, financial orders were needed annually to increase the allocation in this fund.

The next item corresponds with the second initiative on **page A-99** and transfers two limited-period positions from the Bureau of Marine Science, Federal Expenditures Fund to the Bureau of Policy and Management, Other Special Revenue Funds. These administrative positions support both federal and non-federal programs across the department, and this will align their budgets with the work being performed.

The next item corresponds with the third initiative on **page A-99** and transfers one limited-period position from the Bureau of Policy and Management, General Fund to the Bureau of Marine Science, Federal Expenditures Fund. This position no

longer supports the Offshore Wind Monitoring program but instead supports federally funded whale work. These items also relate to both the fifth initiative on **page A-98**, which provides general fund All Other in the Bureau of Marine Science to fulfill the needs of a more limited Offshore Wind Monitoring program, and the sixth initiative on **page A-99**, which eliminates a vacant limited-period position within the Offshore Wind program. These initiatives take effect in fiscal year 2026-27, and the net impact to General Fund is zero.

The next item on **page A-98** corresponds with the fourth initiative on **page A-99** and transfers the remaining six limited-period positions within the Offshore Wind Monitoring program and related All Other from the Bureau of Policy and Management, General Fund to the Bureau of Marine Science, General Fund in fiscal year 2026-27. The Offshore Wind program operates within the Bureau of Marine Science, and this initiative will align the program's resources with the appropriate budget program.

The last initiative within the Bureau of Marine Science on **page A-98** establishes a baseline allocation for the Marine Science Research and Boat Operations Fund established under Language Part LLL, which can be found on **page 76** of the Language document. This new Fund will improve efficiency and cost effectiveness for the Bureau of Marine Science research programs by providing a billing program for use of a DMR-owned vessel by the agency's programs. The funds collected will be used to support the Bureau's operations and maintenance of the vessel.

There are two other Language items that pertain to the Bureau of Marine Resources. Language Part MMM, found on **pages 76 and 77** of the Language document, provides authority to carry the balance of the \$400,000 appropriated in Public Law 2025, chapter 2 to the next fiscal year until fully expended. This funding supports the department's obligation of the total project costs for FEMA public assistance mitigation funding related to storm damages from January 2024.

Language Part NNN, found on **page 77** of the Language document, provides authority to transfer up to \$400,000 from Personal Services to All Other within the Bureau of Marine Science program General Fund in fiscal year 2025-26 to support a condition assessment and master plan for the department's facility in West Boothbay Harbor. This no-cost initiative will provide the agency with an opportunity to develop a strategic facility maintenance plan for our lab facility. The department would also request that the Committees consider an amendment to extend this authority into fiscal year 2026-27 to allow for additional time and flexibility to identify funding for this critical project.

BUREAU OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT 0258

Back in the Part A budget document, on **page A-99** under the Bureau of Policy and Management, the second, third, and fourth initiatives were referenced earlier in this testimony under the Bureau of Marine Science program.

The fifth initiative increases the baseline allocation for the Marine Science, Management and Enforcement Fund to align with projected available resources beginning in fiscal year 2026-27. Previously, financial orders were needed annually to increase the allocation in this fund.

The sixth initiative was referenced as part of our earlier testimony on offshore wind monitoring under the Bureau of Marine Science program.

The last initiative on **page A-99** establishes a baseline allocation for the Division of Administrative Services, Federal Expenditure Fund beginning in fiscal year 2026-27 to support both active and future federal grants received by the Bureau of Policy and Management.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND AQUACULTURE Z154

On Page A-100, under the Bureau of Public Health and Aquaculture program, the second initiative provides a baseline allocation for the Aquaculture Research Fund beginning in fiscal year 2026-27.

There are no initiatives to present for both the Bureau of Marine Patrol and Bureau of Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat. A summary of our reclassification initiatives can be found on the last page of this testimony.

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

Summary of Reclassifications, Reorganizations, and Range Changes
Department of Marine Resources

Page A-99 (Bureau of Policy and Management program) provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Public Service Executive II position from range 34 to range 36. This is for the Director of Policy and Management position.

Page A-100 (Bureau of Public Health and Aquaculture) provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Planning and Research Associate II to a Marine Resource Management Coordinator position.

Page A-100 (Bureau of Marine Patrol) provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Planning and Research Associate I to a Management Analyst II position.

Page A-100 (Bureau of Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat) provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Public Service Executive II position from a range 34 to a range 36. This is for the Director Bureau of Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat position.