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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES

TO: Senator Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair
Representative Drew Gattine, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM: Senator Denise Tepler, Senate Chair *Denise Tepler*
Representative Allison Hepler, House Chair *Allison Hepler* **AD**
Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

DATE: March 4, 2026

SUBJECT: Recommendations on the Governor's Proposed Supplemental Budget, LD 2212

The Marine Resources Committee is pleased to provide its recommendations on LD 2212, the supplemental budget bill. Pursuant to Joint Rule 304, the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources met to review the supplemental budget initiatives and language pertaining to the agencies under our jurisdiction.

A summary of the committee's vote on the initiatives and language parts is below.

The following initiatives, all within the Department of Marine Resources, are supported by a majority of committee members¹:

- Bureau of Marine Science, Reference numbers 597, 598, 601, 602, 603 and 604
- Bureau of Policy and Management, Reference numbers 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613 and 614
- Bureau of Public Health and Aquaculture, Reference numbers 616 and 617
- Bureau of Marine Patrol, Reference number 606
- Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat, Reference number 619 and 620

A majority of members (10-1) also supported moving language parts LLL, MMM and NNN into the budget, with an amendment requested for Part NNN (Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; DMR) to extend authority into fiscal year 2026-27 to allow the Department of

¹ 11 members registered votes and of these, 10 supported all budget initiatives.

Marine Resources extra time and flexibility to identify funding for their facility in West Boothbay Harbor.

Full voting information is attached to this memo.

Thank you for your consideration of the recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources.

Encl: MAR Report-back document

cc: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

Lucia Nixon, OFPR Analyst, AFA Committee

Majlinda Mulla-Everett, Clerk, AFA Committee

Mandy Connor, OFPR, Legislative Researcher

Rebekah Davis, OFPR, Administrative Secretary

LD 2212 - MAR REPORT BACK

Ref. #: 616

Committee Vote: 10-1 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$12,677	\$10,513
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$12,677	\$10,513

Notes:

Not Part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on approved Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

Justification:

This is an employee-initiated reclassification approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on June 3, 2025. The effective date for this reclass is December 17, 2024. This initiative also provides one-time funding for retroactive pay.

Bureau of Public Health and Aquaculture Z154

Initiative: Provides allocation to align with available resources.

Ref. #: 617

Committee Vote: 10-1 IN

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$74,404
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$74,404

Justification:

This initiative provides allocation to align with available resources.

Marine Patrol - Bureau of 0029

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Planning and Research Associate I position to one Management Analyst II position, retroactive to April 18, 2025 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 606

Committee Vote: 10-1 IN

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$6,418	\$7,140
All Other	\$0	\$295	\$329
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$6,713	\$7,469

Notes:

Not Part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on approved Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

Language Parts

Part LLL (see pg: 9) Committee Vote: 10-1 IN AFA Vote: _____

Part MMM (see pg: 9) Committee Vote: 10-1 IN AFA Vote: _____

Part NNN (see pg: 10) Committee Vote: 10-1 AMD AFA Vote: _____

NOTE:

Amendment requested for Part NNN, see

PART LLL

Sec. LLL-1. 12 MRSA §6043 is enacted to read:

§6043. Marine Science Research and Boat Operations Fund

1. **Fund established.** The Marine Science Research and Boat Operations Fund, referred to in this Part as “the fund”, is established as a dedicated, nonlapsing fund administered by the Department for the purpose of providing funds for research, boat operations and boat maintenance in support of marine science programs. Balances may not lapse and must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

2. **Sources of funding.** The fund consists of any money received from the following sources:
 - A. Fees charged to marine science research programs based on research conducted and boat use;
 - B. Contributions from private sources;
 - C. Federal funds and awards;
 - D. Any other funds received in support of the purposes for which the fund is established.

3. **Disbursements from the fund.** The Department shall apply the money in the fund toward the support of marine science programs in the State, including, but not limited to, funding marine science research, boat operations and boat maintenance.

**PART LLL
SUMMARY**

This part establishes the Marine Science Research and Boat Operations Fund to provide funding to support marine science research, boat operations and maintenance.

PART MMM

Sec. MMM-1. Carrying balances; Department of Marine Resources, Bureau of Marine Science. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, at the end of fiscal year 2025-26, the State Controller shall carry forward any unexpended balance remaining of the \$400,000 appropriated in Public Law 2025, chapter 2 in the Department of Marine Resources, Bureau of Marine Science program, General Fund account, Capital Expenditures line category to the next fiscal year until fully expended. This funding supports the department's obligation of the total cost for federal Public Assistance 406 Mitigation funding from the United States Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency related to storm damages from January 2024.

**PART MMM
SUMMARY**

This part authorizes the Department of Marine Resources, Bureau of Marine Science to carry up to \$400,000 for the State's share of match funding related to storm damages from January 2024.

PART NNN

Amendment requested, shown below.

Sec. NNN-1. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Marine Resources. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2025-26, the Department of Marine Resources is authorized to transfer up to \$400,000, of available balance of Personal Services appropriations after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the All Other line category of the Bureau of Marine Science program for the purpose of funding a building condition assessment and master plan for the department's facility in West Boothbay Harbor. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

**PART NNN
SUMMARY**

This Part authorizes the Department of Marine Resources to transfer Personal Services to the All Other line category in order to fund a building condition assessment and master plan for the department's facility in West Boothbay Harbor.

and 2026-27