

131st Legislature (2023)– Summary of Laws Enacted 1st Regular Session



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NOTE:

- This is not law as written and should only be used as guidance and to locate the actual law language.
- To read the chaptered law, right click on the PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER #, scroll down and click on “open hyperlink”. **Ctrl+F:** allows a search for a key word.

PUBLIC LAWS

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 49](#) – (LD 189) **An Act to Include an Expanded Archery Permit in the Super Pack License Issued by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**

(Effective: January 1, 2024)

- This law increases the fee for a super pack license by \$6 and the super pack license will now include the either-sex expanded archery permit.
- It has a specific effective date of January 1, 2024.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 60](#) – (LD 57) **An Act to Amend Maine's Endangered and Threatened Species List**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This law makes amendments to the State's list of endangered and threatened species. It removes the box turtle and the rapids clubtail from the endangered species list. It adds the

Ashton's cuckoo bumble bee and the saltmarsh sparrow to the endangered species list. It adds the bank swallow, the Bicknell's thrush, the blackpoll warbler, the cliff swallow, the margined tiger beetle and the tricolored bat to the threatened species list. It also makes some taxonomic nomenclature changes.

- In recommending a species be listed as endangered or threatened an additional duty **the Commissioner must Report to the IFW Legislative Committee no less frequently than every 4 years on any recommendations, status updates or changes to the list of species designated as endangered or threatened.**

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 88](#) - (LD 239) **An Act to Establish the Pink-edged Sulphur as the State Butterfly**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

This law designates the Pink-edged Sulphur as the official state butterfly.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 106](#) – (LD 497) **An Act to Prohibit the Use of Personal Watercraft on Keyes Pond in the Town of Sweden**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This law adds Keyes Pond in the Town of Sweden in Oxford County to the list of water bodies in the State on which the operation of personal watercraft is prohibited.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 127](#) – (LD 481) **An Act to Allow the Deferral of a Moose Hunting Permit If More than One Permit Is Awarded Within the Same Household**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This law allows the commissioner to authorize a person who holds a valid moose permit to defer the permit until the next moose hunting season in circumstances in which a member of that permit holder's household also holds a valid moose permit for the same hunting season. For the purposes of this subsection, members of a household are limited to a grandparent, parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, grandchild and stepgrandchild sharing the same legal address. The person is ineligible to be selected for another moose permit until the 4th calendar year after the calendar year that the person uses the deferred permit. For the purposes of this subsection, "next moose hunting season" means the moose hunting season in the calendar year immediately following a person's selection.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 134](#) – (LD 531) **An Act to Add Gray Squirrels and Red Squirrels to the Species List for the Open Training Season for Hunting Dogs**

(Effective by Emergency: June 8, 2023)

This law adds gray and red squirrels to the list of animals that a person may train dogs on during the open training season for dogs.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 163](#) – (LD 732) **An Act to Prohibit Off-trail Operation of a Snowmobile in an Area Closed to Off-trail Operation**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This law prohibits a person from operating a snowmobile off a snowmobile trail identified by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands (DACF) as having been funded by the Snowmobile Trail Fund and posted as being closed to off-trail snowmobile operation. It provides for a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$500 for

the first violation of the prohibition and that a violation after 3 or more civil violations of the IFW laws is a Class E crime.

- It also defines "posted" to mean containing signage that is reasonably likely to come to the attention of a person operating a snowmobile that indicates that off-trail snowmobiling is prohibited and that is placed by the landowner, the landowner's representative, a local snowmobile club trail master serving as the landowner's representative, a local snowmobile club representative or an employee of IFW or DACF.

PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 156 – (LD 1246) **An Act to Include Endangered and Threatened Species Habitat in the Definition of "Significant Wildlife Habitat" Under the Natural Resources Protection Act**
(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This law amends the Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA) to include state endangered and state threatened species habitat in the definition of "significant wildlife habitat", along with significant vernal pool, high and moderate value waterfowl and wading bird habitat, shorebird nesting, feeding, and staging areas, and seabird nesting islands. Prior to regulatory implementation, IFW and MDEP must cooperate in defining "habitat for state endangered and state threatened species" by way of major substantive rules, which requires further legislative review and approval.
- Effectively, this law expands the circumstances in which MDEP and LUPC must consult with IFW on strategies to avoid or minimize impacts to state endangered and threatened species habitat, though only in cases where a land use permit is under consideration on the subject parcel as per provisions of the Site Location Law, NRPA, and Gravel and Mining Act.

PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 172 - (LD 547) **An Act to Amend the Hunting Laws as They Pertain to the Training of Dogs**
(Effective by Emergency: June 15, 2023)

- This law went into effect by emergency and has a sunset provision, meaning it will be repealed on May 1, 2025 unless the Legislature extends the law after the report back from IFW.
- It allows a resident to train up to 6 dogs at any one time on bear in portions of Washington and Hancock counties that are situated south of Route 9 however landowner permission is required to train dogs on land used for wild blueberry production.
- IFW shall report any findings and recommendations resulting from the changes in practice to the IFW Committee by January 15, 2025.
- **The committee may report out a bill related to the subject matter of the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.**

PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 187 - (LD 1826) **An Act to Designate Deer Wintering Areas Under the Jurisdiction of the Bureau of Parks and Lands**
(Effective: October 25, 2023)

This law allows the DACF, BPL to designate, pursuant to a habitat management agreement with the IFW, deer wintering areas on parcels of land under the jurisdiction of the bureau that are high-quality deer wintering habitat with a documented history of significant use by deer. The bureau is required to manage the designated area with deer conservation as the highest management priority and may also manage the designated area to benefit other wildlife species that rely on mature softwood forests, and

the designated areas are eligible for funding from the Maine Deer Management Fund. This law also directs the DACF, BPL and the IFW to survey public lands in the northern, eastern and western regions of the State for unmapped deer wintering areas for inclusion as designated deer wintering areas by the bureau. **This law requires a summary of additions or changes to deer wintering areas under this section of law in an annual report to the IFW and DACF Legislative Committees.**

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 190](#) – (LD 92) **An Act to Minimize the Propagation of Invasive Aquatic Plants**

(Effective by Emergency: June 16, 2023)

This law makes changes to Title 38 MRSA §419-C and requires a person when removing and prior to launching a watercraft from an inland water body to drain the watercraft and other equipment and to remove or open drain plugs, bailers, valves and other devices to drain the water before that watercraft is transported. It exempts emergency response watercraft from these requirements. It also prohibits draining or releasing water held on or within a watercraft and allowing that water to enter any inland water body of the State if the water in the watercraft is from a different water source.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 191](#) – (LD 482) **An Act to Extend the Time for Youth Deer Hunting**

(Effective by Emergency: June 16, 2023)

- It establishes a 2-day youth deer hunting period for 2023 to begin 8 days before the start of the regular deer hunting season on a Friday and Saturday (October 20, 2023 and October 21, 2023).
- It directs the Commissioner of IFW to examine the impact of an additional dedicated youth deer hunting day on the deer population and wildlife management goals.
- **It directs the Commissioner of IFW to report to the IFW Committee on the findings and recommendations of the examination and authorizes the committee to report out legislation on those findings by March 1, 2024.**

NOTE: [PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 656](#) is the mandatory boater education law that was passed in 2022 but goes into effect 1-1-24. At the direction of the legislature, a stakeholder group met, proposed exceptions to this law in 2023 and after the report back to the Legislature was provided, another law with the exceptions to the mandatory boater education requirement will also take effect on 1-1-24, this law is: [PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 206](#).

[PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 656](#) – (LD 1663) **An Act To Improve Boating Safety on Maine Waters**

(Effective: January 1, 2024)

- It defines a boater safety and education course as an online or in-person course that:
 - Provides basic information for recreational boaters about how to identify and reduce primary boating risk factors and mitigate the dangers of recreational boating; and
 - Meets a national association of boating law administrators (NASBLA) standard and is approved by the commissioner.
- It defines a boater safety and education course certificate as a certificate or evidence of completion of a boater safety and education course approved by the commissioner.
- Beginning January 1, 2024, it requires a person born on or after January 1, 1999 to be 12 years of age or older and to have completed a mandatory boater safety and education course to

operate on inland waters of the State a motorboat capable of producing more than 25 horsepower. The 2 exceptions to this requirement are if a person:

- Possesses a valid Maine guide license and has met the requirements for carrying passengers for hire under section 13063 *This does not apply to sea kayaking or tidewater classifications (Boater Education would be required); or
- Possesses a valid maritime license of any type that the commissioner determines meets the boater safety education.
- Beginning January 1, 2024, it requires a person born on or after January 1, 1999 to be 16 years of age or older and to have completed a boater safety and education course to operate a personal watercraft on inland waters of the State.
- Beginning January 1, 2024, it requires a person born on or after January 1, 1999 to be 16 years of age or older and to have completed a boater safety and education course to supervise a person under 12 years of age who operates on inland waters of the State a motorboat propelled by machinery capable of producing more than 10 horsepower.
- It required the Commissioner of IFW to convene a stakeholder group on boater safety and education. The commissioner was required to provide a report to the Legislature by January 15, 2023 on the findings of the stakeholder group. After receiving the report, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over IFW matters had authority to report out a bill relating to boater safety and education to the 131st Legislature in 2023 and that occurred.
- Maine Boating Education Equivalency Exam IFW intends to offer the equivalency exam is a 75-question, multiple-choice exam designed for experienced boaters. This test is proctored by IFW staff and the volunteers that teach the Maine classroom Boating Education Safety Courses. Testing dates and locations may be found on the MDIFW webpage and Pre-registration is required. To prepare for this exam it is recommended you review [The Boaters Guide to Maine's Boating Laws and Responsibilities \(PDF\)](#).

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 206](#) – (LD 1807) **An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's Report on Boater Safety Education**
(Effective: January 1, 2024)

This law implements recommendations of the mandatory boater education stakeholder group formed at the direction of the legislature after the mandatory boater education law was passed (this all goes into effect on January 1, 2024):

- It defines recreational boating as being primarily used for pleasure and excluding from that definition the use of motorboats carrying passengers for hire;
- It applies the boater safety and education course requirement for inland waters to territorial waters defined by Title 12, section 6001 (but commercial fishing on territorial waters is exempt); and
- It adds exemptions to the requirement of a boater safety and education course to:
 - possessors of valid or expired United States merchant marine licensure documents;
 - persons test driving a motorboat as part of a possible purchase from a dealer as long as the person is under the direct supervision of a person 16 years of age and older and who has had a boater safety course;
 - persons renting a motorboat who have completed a temporary boater safety course;
 - and noncitizens who arrive by sea and are temporarily using Maine's territorial waters.

PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 209 - (LD 221) **An Act Regarding Airboat Noise**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This adds unallocated language directing the Commissioner of DMR and the Commissioner of IFW to reconvene the stakeholder group established to discuss issues related to airboat noise.
- It also sets a **report deadline of January 15, 2025** and authorizes the IFW Legislative Committee to report out a bill relating to airboats to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 213 – (LD 296) **An Act to Ensure Municipalities Receive a Higher Percentage of All-terrain Vehicle and Snowmobile Registration Fees to Cover Increased Expenses**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

This increases the service fee an agent may charge for issuing a registration or renewal registration for a snowmobile or ATV to not more than \$5.

PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 226 – (LD 1319) **An Act to Exempt Certain Boat Operators from Having to Become Maine Guides**

(Effective by Emergency: June 20, 2023)

- This allows a person who has satisfactorily completed a boater safety education course under section 13063 (section of law that describes operators who carry passengers for hire with a motorboat) and is certified in first aid may, without a guide license, operate a watercraft in the course of employment with a seasonal business engaged in recreational towed-sport activities if that seasonal business was engaged in recreational towed-sport activities during the 2022 season. This paragraph is repealed January 15, 2024.
- **Review.** IFW shall establish a stakeholder group to examine the guide requirements for recreational sports.
- **Stakeholder group.** IFW shall ensure that the stakeholder group established is as broadly representative of interested parties and groups as possible and shall invite participation from at least the Maine Professional Guides Association, the Maine Marine Trades Association and governmental and nongovernmental organizations related to recreational tow sports in this State.
- **Report.** IFW shall report the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group established under section 2 to the IFW Committee no later than **January 15, 2024**. The committee may report out a bill related to recreational guide requirements to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 228 – (LD 131) **An Act to Clarify and Correct Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

(Specific Effective Date of January 1, 2024) applies to the portion of the law that relates to clarifying information on the steps a person takes to receive an antlerless deer permit with the super pack license.

Sec. 1. This section repeals an annual report to the Legislative Committee on deer management because this information is already provided within an extensive resource management report written annually by the department, which can be given to the committee each session.

Sec. 2. This renames the “Species Management Education Fund” the “Fish and Wildlife Management Education Fund” and allows funding to be used for education on the management of fish and wildlife and to communicate with the public about department programs. The amendment also removes the requirement in current law that education provided under the fund must include information about how hunting and fishing help to manage specific species.

Sec. 3. This section modifies the Black Bear Research Fund. Currently it can only be used to fund research on black bears, but it cannot be used to help conduct bear management activities such as conflict response. Allowing this fund to be used for both research and management activities, will ensure the Department has adequate funding for all of its program needs and responsibilities related to black bear management while minimizing the need for general funds to manage bears.

Sec. 4. This removes the requirement that a person involved in a hunting incident, or a watercraft, snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle crash submit to a mandatory chemical test and removes references to that requirement.

Sec. 5. In response to State v. Weddle, 2020 ME 12 case, this repeals Title 12, section 10703, subsection 11, which was found to be unconstitutional in that it required blood to be taken without consent and without probable cause to believe a person was impaired by alcohol or drugs at the time the person’s blood was taken. This is specific to hunting, watercraft, snowmobile, and ATV incidents resulting in serious injury or death.

Sec. 6. A person who is an enrolled member of any of a Maine federally recognized nation, band or tribe who presents certification from the respective reservation chief or governor or the Aroostook Micmac Council stating that the person is an enrolled member of a federally recognized nation, band or tribe listed in this paragraph is exempt from taking the trapping education course. IFW implemented a specific bear trapping course in 2022 and this proposal makes it clear that Members of the federally recognized “Indian” tribes are also exempt from this course. The term “Indian” was added to be consistent with other statutory references to the Maine Tribes.

Sec. 7. This language explains and provides clarity on how a super pack licensee applies for an antlerless deer permit. Since the new antlerless deer permit lottery system has been implemented (2022) this provides clear steps on how super pack license holders can apply for or purchase some type of antlerless deer permit. Previously superpack license holders were confused when they had to pay for a permit and when the permit was included in their license. **This has a specific effective date of January 1, 2024.**

Sec. 8. This describes changes to the paragraph title to “Deer harvest authorizations” and amends a reference to subsection 2-A.

Sec. 9. This section repeals an annual report to the Legislative Committee on moose management because this information is already provided within an extensive resource management report written annually by the department, which can be given to the committee each session.

Sec. 10. This provides clarity that members of federally recognized nations, bands or tribes in Maine are not required to complete the new bear trapping education course, to be consistent with other trapping education course requirements for them.

Sec. 11 and 12. This corrects the cost of a resident combination hunting and fishing license and the resident combination archery hunting and fishing license because there is a conflict between two sections of Title 12 regarding the cost of a combination license. IFW charges \$43 for a combination hunt/fish license, which is the correct cost.

Sections 13-15. Removes reference to specific types of personal flotation devices from boating safety statutes. The U.S. Coast Guard conducts a compliance check on all states and the removal of the reference to specific types of life jackets from statute is required for Maine to be in compliance with federal Coast Guard law. In the past, IFW publications referred to life jackets as either Type I, II, III, IV or V but they will now simply be referred to as personal flotation devices. Specific types will now be referenced in rule which essentially adopts the Coast Guard requirements for PFDs.

Sec. 16. This removes the requirement that a person under 16 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian in an ATV training program. Someone under 16 couldn't take an online course the way the law was written and it wasn't practical to require parental presence for online safety training. In-person courses will still be offered but this change allows a parent to make the decision to have their child attend online instead of an in-person course if they choose.

Sec. 17. This section creates a **specific effective date of January 1, 2024**, as it relates to clarifying information on the steps a person takes to receive an antlerless deer permit with the super pack license (within Sec. 7 of the law).

PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 231 – (LD 958) **An Act to Expand Protections to Maine's Loons from Lead Poisoning by Prohibiting the Sale and Use of Certain Painted Lead Jigs**

(Specific Effective Dates of 9-1-24 on the ban of selling and 9-1-26 on the use of painted lead jigs that fall within the weight and length category described below.)

This law expands the prohibition on use and sale of some painted lead jigs by making it illegal **to sell or offer for sale** painted lead jigs weighing one ounce or less or measuring 2 1/2 inches or less in length **beginning September 1, 2024** and making it illegal **to use** them **beginning September 1, 2026**.

NOTE: The prohibition is intended for inland waters only although the law doesn't specifically state that.

PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 239 – (LD 1879) **An Act to Align Laws Governing Crossbow Hunting with Those Governing Archery Hunting**

(Effective: January 1, 2024)

- **Sec. 1. & 2.** It provides that a person commits a Class E crime if while within the jurisdiction of the DACF, BPL the person towns archery equipment (which will include bow and arrow and crossbows) within 300 feet of any picnic area, designated camping area, parking area, building, shelter or boat launching site or in violation of park rules or in areas closed to hunting by rule, law or ordinance and refers to IFW Title 12 10001 for the definition of archery equipment.
- **Sec. 3.** It defines "archery equipment" to mean a bow or crossbow.
- **Sec. 7.** Repeals the laws governing the crossbow hunting education program;
- **Sec. 6.** Adds instruction on all types of archery equipment to the archery hunting education program;
- **Sec. 8., 9., 10, 11. 12., 14., 22.-30., 32., 33.** changes reference of bow and arrow or crossbow to "archery equipment".

- **Sec. 13., 15.** It provides that except as provided in the laws governing the muzzle-loading-only deer hunting season, a person may hunt any wild bird or wild animal with archery equipment during any open season on that bird or animal if the person holds a valid archery hunting license.
- **Sec. 16.-19.** It repeals the laws governing open seasons for hunting with a crossbow, issuance of crossbow permits and crossbow permits and fees.
- It provides that beginning January 1, 2024, a person who previously held a crossbow permit is eligible to obtain an archery hunting license.
- **Sec. 21.** It changes reference of bow and arrow or crossbow to “archery equipment” and removes the discharge of a crossbow within 100 yards of a building or residential dwelling without the permission of the owner from the laws governing prohibited discharges and allows the discharge of a crossbow on a landowner's own land for any purpose, including target practice and hunting. It also provides that a person may not discharge an arrow or bolt from archery equipment when on land of another person and within 100 yards of a building or residential dwelling on that land without the permission of the owner of that building or residential dwelling or cause an arrow or bolt from archery equipment to pass across the land of another person and within 100 yards of a building or residential dwelling on that land without the permission of the owner of that building or residential dwelling.
- **Sec. 31.** In the section that specifies that there is a continual closed season on deer on the Cranberry Isles in Hancock County, with the exception that allows use of a shotgun or “archery equipment”, the term “archery equipment” was changed to bow. IFW consulted with this town and they didn’t want to allow the use of crossbow so it will continue to allow use of shotgun and bow and arrow only.
- **Sec. 34.** In the section that describes legal methods of hunting wild hares or rabbits it changes reference of “shooting with a long bow and arrow” to “archery equipment”.
- **Sec. 34.** It provides that a person may take suckers by the use of a hand spear, by archery equipment or by snagging.

NOTE: Hunter orange wear requirements won’t change with this law, for a refresher on hunter orange wear requirements see page 24.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 246](#) - (LD 313) An Act to Allow Game Wardens to Transfer Retirement Service, Allow Certain Employees of Participating Local Districts to Purchase Service Credit and Allow Transfer of Membership from the State Employee Retirement Plan to Another Plan

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This law allows a game warden who has accumulated retirement benefits under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System while working in law enforcement positions covered under different retirement plans to buy back that accumulated service time.
 - This allows a former employee of a local district to purchase retirement service credit if the employee is still employed by the local district and had previously elected not to maintain membership within the local district’s retirement plan.
 - It also allows the transfer of membership from one state employee retirement plan to another.
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[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 265](#) - (LD 1525) An Act to Allow for a Suspension of Licenses and Permits Issued Under the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws for a Deferred Disposition or Written Filing Agreement

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

It allows for a suspension of licenses and permits issued by IFW for a deferred disposition or when there is a written filing agreement with the State.

PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 308 - (LD 438) **An Act to Clarify and Amend the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Licensing Laws**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

(Specific Effective Date of January 1, 2024) for Sec. 8 of the law of the law that increases the pheasant hunting permit fee.

This law makes the following changes to the laws governing IFW's licensing and registration.

1. It provides that all members of the Advisory Board for the Licensing of Guides except state employees are entitled to receive compensation. It also increases the daily rate of compensation for examiners of the Advisory Board for the Licensing of Guides and the Advisory Board for the Licensing of Taxidermists from \$50 per day to \$150 per day plus per diem.
2. It increases the guide examination fee from \$100 to \$125 and the taxidermist application fee from \$50 to \$125 and clarifies that the taxidermist application fee also applies to examinations for general classification.
3. It repeals the provision of law that allows a guide applicant to take a 2nd test for free.
4. It clarifies that the owner of a snowmobile is not required to register that snowmobile if it is operated on land that the owner lives on or land that the snowmobile operator owns or leases. This provision is already in law for ATVs so it will bring consistency between ATV and snowmobile laws.
5. **On January 1, 2024**, this law increases the fee for a pheasant hunting permit from \$18 to \$29 and increases the amount that is retained by the authorized agent of the Commissioner of IFW from \$1 to \$2.

PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 431 (LD 428) - **An Act to Reclassify Certain Offenses Under the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws**

(Effective: January, 2024)

- It changes the penalty for the following IFW crimes from a Class E crime for which a fine may be imposed and a term of incarceration may not be imposed to a Class E crime for which a sentencing alternative may include only the penalties provided in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17-A relating to maximum fines for Class E crimes:
 - Hunting without a license;
 - Interfering with another person's bait site during the open season on hunting bear;
 - When a live bait retailer possesses any species of fish that cannot be sold as bait at that retailer's place of business;
 - When the holder of a baitfish wholesaler's license takes baitfish other than by use of a seine, a baitfish trap, a dip net, a drop net, a lift net or a bag net, or by hook and line; attempts to take live bait for resale from the inland waters of the State by fishing through the ice using drop nets unless the holder marks all holes made in the ice by the holder for that purpose; takes eels; takes or sells suckers greater than 10 inches in length between April 1st and September 30th of each year; or possesses at that person's place of business any species of fish that may not legally be sold as bait; and
 - Several violations pertaining to holders of a smelt wholesale dealer's license.
- It changes the penalty for the following offenses from a civil violation to a Class E crime for which a sentencing alternative may include only the penalties provided in Title 17-A relating to maximum fines for Class E crimes.

- When the holder of a baitfish wholesaler's license, when engaged in taking, or assisting in taking, live baitfish for resale from inland waters, fails to exhibit a baitfish wholesaler's license to any agent of IFW upon request; and
- When the holder of a smelt wholesale dealer's license, when engaged in taking, or assisting in taking, live smelts for resale from inland waters, fails to exhibit the license to any agent of the commissioner upon request.
- It adds a one-time appropriations and allocations section for the court system in 2024 that provides funding for computer programming costs to update classifications of offenses.

IFW Work Prior to Next Session

Resolves, Carryovers, Studies, Stakeholders Groups, Report Backs

Study & Report Back

PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 226 – (LD 1319) **An Act to Exempt Certain Boat Operators from Having to Become Maine Guides**

(Effective by Emergency: June 20, 2023)

- This allows a person who has satisfactorily completed a boater safety education course under section 13063 (operators who carry passengers for hire with a motorboat law) and is certified in first aid may, without a guide license, operate a watercraft in the course of employment with a seasonal business engaged in recreational towed-sport activities if that seasonal business was engaged in recreational towed-sport activities during the 2022 season. This paragraph is repealed January 15, 2024.
- **Review.** IFW shall establish a stakeholder group to examine the guide requirements for recreational sports.
- **Stakeholder group.** IFW shall ensure that the stakeholder group established is as broadly representative of interested parties and groups as possible and shall invite participation from at least the Maine Professional Guides Association, the Maine Marine Trades Association and governmental and nongovernmental organizations related to recreational tow sports in this State.
- **Report.** IFW shall report the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group established under section 2 to the IFW Committee no later than January 15, 2024. The committee may report out a bill related to recreational guide requirements to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

Report Back

PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 191 – (LD 482) **An Act to Extend the Time for Youth Deer Hunting**

(Effective by Emergency: June 16, 2023)

- It establishes a 2-day youth deer hunting period for 2023 to begin 8 days before the start of the regular deer hunting season.

- It directs the Commissioner of IFW to examine the impact of an additional dedicated youth deer hunting day on the deer population and wildlife management goals.
- It directs the Commissioner of IFW to report to the IFW Committee by March 1, 2024 on the findings and recommendations of the examination and authorizes the committee to report out legislation on those findings in 2024.

Stakeholder Group/Report Back

PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 209 - (LD 221) **An Act Regarding Airboat Noise**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This adds unallocated language directing the Commissioner of DMR and the Commissioner of IFW to reconvene the stakeholder group established to discuss issues related to airboat noise.
- It also sets a **report deadline of January 15, 2025** and authorizes the IFW Legislative Committee to report out a bill relating to airboats to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

Resolve

RESOLVE 2023 CHAPTER 6 – (LD 390) **Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 25: Standards for Placing Wood into Stream Channels to Enhance Cold Water Fisheries Habitat, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry**

(Effective by Emergency: April 10, 2023)

This law authorizes final adoption of Chapter 25: Standards for Placing Wood into Stream Channels to Enhance Cold Water Fisheries Habitat, a major substantive rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry, contingent on clarification of the effective date of the rule.

Resolve

RESOLVE 2023 CHAPTER 8 - (LD 392) **Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 305: Natural Resources Protection Act - Permit by Rule, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

This resolve allows final adoption of portions of Chapter 305: Natural Resources Protection Act - Permit by Rule, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Environmental Protection that has been submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, is authorized.

Resolve

RESOLVE 2023 CHAPTER 16 – (LD 660) **Resolve, Naming a Pond in the Town of New Gloucester as MacDonald Pond**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This law names the pond located in the Town of New Gloucester and having IFW, Maine Information Display and Analysis System identification number 5886 as MacDonald Pond.

Resolve

RESOLVE 2023 CHAPTER 26 – (L.D. 491) Resolve, to Require the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Develop a Plan for Communication Regarding Certain Municipal Regulation

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- IFW shall develop a plan to inform municipalities about the limits on local regulation of hunting, fishing and trapping and the operation of watercraft, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles. The department shall coordinate with a statewide organization representing municipalities to create a distribution scheme for the information. **The department shall submit a report with the plan and distribution scheme, together with any necessary legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on IFW no later than January 1, 2024.** The committee is authorized to report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature. IFW shall use a multimedia approach to this situation.

Resolve

RESOLVE 2023 CHAPTER 33 – (LD 379) Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Study the Effects of Wake Boats on Shoreline Property and the Environment

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

Department to study effects of wake boats. IFW shall establish a stakeholder group to review completed studies relating to wake boats and their effects on shoreline property and the environment. The stakeholder group shall pay special attention to issues relating to the types of boats used, the appropriate distance from the shoreline and depth of the body of water, enforcement mechanisms, including fines, and the definition used for "wake boat."

2. Stakeholder group. Resolved: That the department shall invite participation in the stakeholder group from at least the following:

1. A member of the Joint Standing Committee on IFW from the Senate;
2. A member of the Joint Standing Committee on IFW from the House of Representatives;
3. A member of the IFW Advisory Council;
4. A member representing the Department of Environmental Protection;
5. A member representing Maine Audubon;
6. A member representing the Lakes Environmental Association;
7. A member representing an association for Maine youth camps;
8. A member representing Maine Marine Trades Association;
9. A member representing Maine lake associations; and
10. A member representing the water sports industry.

The department may hold public meetings to gauge public support for any recommendations that are developed by the stakeholder group.

Report. Resolved: That the department shall report the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group established under section 1 to the Joint Standing Committee on IFW no later than February 1, 2024. The committee may report out a bill related to wake boats and their effects on shoreline property and the environment to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

Resolve

RESOLVE 2023 CHAPTER 35 – (LD 661) Resolve, Naming a Pond in Elm Stream Township as Plummer Pond

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

A pond located in Elm Stream Township and having IFW, Maine Information Display and Analysis System Identification number 9772 is named Plummer Pond.

Resolve

RESOLVE 2023 CHAPTER 36 - (LD 831) **Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Examine Issues Related to Moose Hunting Seasons**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

Resolve directing IFW to establish a stakeholder group to study season conflicts among other issues related to the moose hunt and report back in 2024.

Examination. That IFW shall establish a stakeholder group to examine issues and make recommendations related to the timing and length of moose hunting seasons and strategies to reduce conflicts during moose hunting seasons.

Stakeholder group. That IFW shall invite participation from at least the following:

1. A Senate member of the Joint Standing Committee on IFW;
2. A House member of the Joint Standing Committee on IFW;
3. A member of the IFW Advisory Council under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 10151;
4. A member of a statewide organization representing professional guides;
5. A member of a statewide organization representing sporting camp owners;
6. A representative of a large private landowner;
7. A representative of an entity managing recreational access in the North Maine Woods;
8. A member of a statewide organization representing trappers;
9. A representative of the moose viewing industry;
10. A representative of the tourism industry;
11. A representative of municipal interests;
12. A representative of a statewide association representing hunters;
13. A Maine game warden; and
14. A department wildlife biologist.

The department may hold public meetings to gauge public support for any recommendations that are developed by the stakeholder group.

Report. That IFW shall report on any findings and recommendations resulting from the examination under section 1 to the Joint Standing Committee on IFW by January 15, 2024. The committee may report out a bill related to the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

Resolve

RESOLVE 2023 CHAPTER 48 – (LD 1868) **Resolve, to Name 2 Brooks in the Town of Orient**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- That the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Information Technology, Office of Geographic Information Systems shall name the following brooks and provide a recommendation about the naming of the brooks to the United States Department of the Interior, United States Geologic Survey, United States Board on Geographic Names:
 - The brook in the Town of Orient, Aroostook County, that flows under Boundary Road and into MacAllister Cove of Grand Lake is the Calais Bound Brook; and
 - The brook in the Town of Orient, Aroostook County, that flows under Boundary Road and Route 1, towards Skagrock Brook is the Bangor Bound Brook.

Carryover, Study & Report Back

L.D. 977 - Resolve, to Study the Gasoline Tax Allocations for Nonhighway Recreational Vehicles and Make Recommendations for Changes

- A letter was sent to IFW from the IFW Committee asking the agency to update data used in the creation of the gas tax allocations for recreational vehicles in Title 36, section 2903-D. The Committee requested IFW work with Dr. Jonathan Rubin of Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center at UMaine as well as include key staff from DACF. They requested that the Department use current registration data for ATVs and snowmobiles to run the study model that was originally used by Dr. Rubin in 2001 as part of the Maine Legislature’s Commission to Study the Equity in the Distribution of Gas Tax Revenues Attributable to Snowmobiles, ATVs and Watercraft in 2001.
- A report back to the Committee is required by January 15, 2024, that includes recommendations on changes to the distribution of gas tax allocations, if any. The report should include a summary of the process, and any recommendations including any proposed statutory changes, if needed.



LD 977 Letter to IFW
Carry Over 6-13-23.pc

Carryover

L.D. 163 - An Act to Increase Communication Between the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Lifetime License Holders by Requiring Free License Renewals Under Certain Circumstances

- This was a department-initiated bill that would require holders of a lifetime license to hunt, trap or fish to notify the IFW in each year the person intends to use the license by completing renewal process with the department at no charge. There was much debate within the Committee about how this could best be accomplished and if they could support this. The Committee decided to carry it over and discuss during the next session.

Carryover

L.D. 614 - An Act to Provide a Free Antlerless Deer Permit to Certain Landowners Who Allow the Public to Hunt on Their Property

- A letter will be sent to IFW from the Committee requesting the following: That the current ADP process remains as it was in 2022 to allow the “dust to settle” on the new process. IFW shall look at and make recommendations on any possible modifications that are related to the following bills: LDs 458, 608, 613, 763 & 798. (These bills were killed but the committee may want to take some of the ideas within them and put them forward in 2024.) Nathan Bieber, IFW’s Deer Biologist will take the lead on this and put a summary of the ADP system together, explain how it went in 2023 to report back on in 2024.

Carryover

LD 629 - An Act to Improve, Protect and Defend the Individual Civil Right to Bear Arms Through Exemption of Firearms and Ammunition from Taxation

- This bill proposes to prohibit the State Tax Assessor from assessing a sales or use tax on any firearms or ammunition sold or possessed in the State. It prohibits a municipality or a county

officer from assessing a tax or fee on any firearms or ammunition sold or possessed in the State. It went before Taxation Committee but was re-referred to IFW Committee and then carried over to next session. S.A.M. asked the bill sponsor to amend the bill to use the gun, ammo and archery equipment tax on those sold in ME to fund IFW conservation efforts. The following testimony explains the intent in more detail:

[David Trahan S.A.M. Testimony](#)

Carryover

L.D. 795 - An Act to Clarify Requirements for Moose Hunting Permittees

- This was a concept draft that was carried over to the next session. James Cote lobbyist for The Maine Sporting Camp Association and Maine Professional Guides Association asked to have this bill sponsored to discuss some possible changes to the moose lodge permits. As of the end of the session the 2 groups hadn't come to an agreement on proposed language. Perhaps in the next session there will be bill language for the Committee to consider.
-

Carryover

Resolve 2023 Chapter 36 - (LD 831) Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Examine Issues Related to Moose Hunting Seasons

see full Resolve information above on page 13.

Carryover

L.D. 1342 -An Act to Increase Funding for the Prevention and Control of Invasive Aquatic Species

- This aims to increase the fees for original or renewal certificates of number with 2 validation stickers that are required for all resident motorboats and personal watercraft, and the fees for lake and river protection stickers for all motorboats and personal watercraft not registered in the State and seaplanes, operating on inland waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2024, the fee is increased by \$10 and, beginning January 1, 2026 and each January 1st biennially thereafter, the fee is increased by \$2.
-

Carryover

L.D. 1919 - An Act to Designate a State Wildlife Sanctuary at Blue Hill Falls

- This was voted to be carried over to have a public hearing next session as it was printed too late in the session and needs substantial discussion.
-

Carryover

LD 1049 - An Act to Protect Maine's Inland Fisheries from Invasive Fish

- A draft MOU is being developed between IFW and DMR that outlines how the State agencies will manage aquatic invasive species (AIS) where fish passage is being planned. The Committee will review the MOU and then make any appropriate changes in legislation, which could include elements in the bill. IFW has requested that broad language be adopted in statute requiring the state agencies to manage AIS in planning for fish passage. There is currently no statutory direction provided to the Commissioners regarding management of AIS in regard to fish passage.

Laws/Resolves of Interest:

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 3](#) - (LD 206) **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 Year Ending June 30, 2023**

(Effective by Emergency: February 21, 2023)

- This law made supplemental appropriations and allocations from the General Fund and other funds for the expenditures of State Government and made law changes necessary to continue proper operations of State Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 5](#) - (LD 10) **An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Invasive Aquatic Plants**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This law includes in the definition for certain conservation and environmental protection laws of "invasive aquatic plant" all Myriophyllum species that are nonindigenous to the State, as well as all Trapa species, all Cabomba species and the plants water soldier, giant salvinia, swollen bladderwort and starry stonewort. Sales of invasive aquatic plants are prohibited in the State under current law. It also prohibits the sale in Maine of any plant of the genus Myriophyllum that is indigenous to the State.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 11](#) - (LD 344) **An Act to Establish Maine Alewife Day**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- The Saturday before Memorial Day of each year is designated as Maine Alewife Day, and the Governor shall issue annually a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State to observe this day in suitable places with appropriate activity.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 17](#) - (LD 424) **An Act Making Certain Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This law makes unified appropriations and allocations for the expenditures of State Government from the General Fund and other funds 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.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 56](#) - (LD 24) **An Act to Prohibit Certain Open Burning Under a Red Flag Warning and Regulate Recreational Campfires**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- The law prohibits the director of the Bureau of Forestry, within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF), from issuing a permit or other permission for open burning to take place in a geographic area subject to a red flag warning. It provides an exception for wild blueberry growers by allowing the director to issue a permit for a controlled burn on a

commercially managed wild blueberry field in a geographic area subject to a red flag warning as long as the application for the permit includes a prescribed burn plan approved by the issuing authority.

- The law requires the director to revoke any permit for open burning in a geographic area in which a red flag warning is in effect. It provides that the director is not required to revoke a permit for a controlled burn on a commercially managed wild blueberry field during the period in which a red flag warning is in effect if the permit includes an approved prescribed burn plan. It also clarifies that a red flag warning is a forecast warning issued by the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service in consultation with the Bureau of Forestry.
- The law prohibits a person who kindles or uses a recreational campfire from allowing the recreational campfire to exceed 3 feet in diameter on the ground at the base of the fire or 3 feet in height. It also exempts a licensed camp facility from this prohibition. It prohibits open burning, both permissible open burning with a permit and permissible open burning without a permit, during the period in which a red flag warning is in effect. It exempts from this prohibition open burning without a permit at a licensed camping facility and at campsites under the jurisdiction of the DACF or the Baxter State Park Authority, as long as the campsite and the use of out-of-door fires and charcoal and gas grills at the campsite comply with department rules.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 84](#) - (LD 96) **An Act to Ensure Release of Relevant Background Investigation Material to Current Employers of Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers**
(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This law clarifies that when a law enforcement officer or corrections officer who is employed by a law enforcement agency, correctional facility or county or regional jail, or who was employed within 90 days prior to making an application for employment, applies for a new position with a law enforcement agency, correctional facility or county or regional jail, that applicant is required to sign a release waiving the applicant's rights to privacy in the exchange of information resulting from a background investigation or polygraph examination conducted for the purposes of the employment application.
- The law also specifies that the head of the law enforcement agency, correctional facility or county or regional jail that conducted the background investigation or polygraph examination, or for whom the investigation or examination was conducted, is immune from civil or criminal liability for sharing the information gathered from the investigation or examination with the head of the law enforcement agency, correctional facility or county or regional jail that employs the law enforcement officer or corrections officer.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 97](#) - (LD 478) **An Act to Improve Coastal Sand Dune Restoration Projects**
(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This law amends the Natural Resources Protection Act to provide that the Department of Environmental Protection is allowed to authorize through a permit or a permit by rule a coastal sand dune system restoration project that uses allowable stabilization materials for the planting of native dune vegetation as long as the project meets certain statutory requirements and satisfies all other applicable requirements for the permit or permit by rule. "Allowable

stabilization materials" is defined to mean natural, plant based biodegradable or compostable fabrics, erosion control blankets, logs or rolls made from coir, jute, straw, polylactic acid polymers or other similar materials, including such materials that contain or use gravel or cobble, discarded holiday trees, other trees fallen or washed up in proximity to the site and stakes or anchors used to secure any of these materials. The use or placement of such materials within a coastal sand dune system in accordance with an authorized permit or permit by rule is not considered a permanent structure under the Natural Resources Protection Act.

PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 153 - (LD 1036) **An Act to Require All Uniformed Patrol Officers to Carry Naloxone Hydrochloride When on Duty**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This law requires that all law enforcement officers carry naloxone hydrochloride while on duty, obtain medical training in accordance with protocols adopted by the Medical Direction and Practices Board and administer or dispense intranasal naloxone hydrochloride as clinically indicated. The amendment narrows this requirement to apply only to law enforcement officers who perform duties as uniformed patrol officers.

PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 155 - (LD 1208) **An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Time Estimates for Responding to Public Records Requests**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- Clarifying that an agency or official must specify the estimated time frame within which an agency or official will comply with a request for public records; and
- Clarifying statutory language to better describe the scope of the fee charged by an agency or official for searching for, retrieving and compiling a requested public record.
- It clarifies that an agency or official may charge a fee to the person who requests a public record for the actual cost of a device used to store the public record, if the storage device will be given to the requester by the agency or official.
- The law also increases the cost threshold for when an agency or official must inform a requester of the estimate of the total cost before proceeding with a request for public records. Under current law, an estimate of the total cost is required when the cost is estimated to be greater than \$30. The law will now require an estimate of the total cost to be provided when the cost is estimated to be greater than \$50, to be consistent with Public Law 2021, chapter 375, which increased the hourly fee for staff time that may be charged by an agency or official from \$15 to \$25.

PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 158 - (LD 1322) **An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Remote Participation**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This law implements the recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee by making the following changes to the law authorizing a public body to adopt a written policy governing the conditions upon which members of the public body and the public may participate in public proceedings using remote methods.
- It adds additional language to reinforce the authority of a public body to allow not only the members of the public body but also members of the public to participate in a public proceeding by remote methods.
- It clarifies that the county commissioners of a county, the municipal officers of a municipality or the officers of a regional or other political subdivision may adopt one remote participation

policy that applies to all public bodies within the county, municipality or regional or other political subdivision unless they specifically authorize an individual public body within that county, municipality or regional or other political subdivision to adopt its own policy.

PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 180 - (LD 920) **An Act Regarding Temporary Transfers of Elver Fishing**

Quotas for Medical Reasons

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This law allows for an elver fishing license holder to request a temporary medical transfer of that license holder's quota at any point during the year and that the license holder receiving the transferred quota receives the amount of the transferor's quota that remains at the time the request is made.
- The law also provides that the Commissioner of Marine Resources may adopt rules that allow for a transferor to choose whether the transferor retains the income and tax burden from the transferor's transferred quota or whether it is transferred to the license holder receiving the quota.

PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 185 - (LD 1425) **An Act to Strengthen Freedom of Access Protections by Allowing Remote Meetings to Be Recorded**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This law requires that when the public may attend a public proceeding by remote methods, the public body must allow members of the public to record the proceeding remotely using the same electronic platform that is used to conduct the proceeding remotely as long as the electronic platform allows participants other than the host to record the proceeding remotely, additional costs are not incurred by the public body and the recording of the proceeding does not interfere with the orderly conduct of the proceeding.

PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 221 - (LD 670) **An Act to Protect Birds in the Construction, Renovation and Maintenance of Public Buildings**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This law requires the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services to develop, by December 31, 2024, guidance regarding integration of bird collision risk management into public improvements.
- The guidance must:
 - be developed in consultation with expert stakeholders;
 - include an explanation of architectural design threats and landscape design threats to birds;
 - include an explanation of the cost differentials and the comparative effectiveness of materials, designs and other methods for reducing bird collisions;
 - include an explanation of other considerations for reducing bird collisions; and
 - be available on the bureau's publicly accessible website.
 - The guidance is intended for use in construction of public improvements and renovations of public improvements in which more than 50% of a building facade is substantially altered.
- The guidance does not apply to public buildings, landscapes or districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places or determined to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, including the State House and the Blaine House.

- The bureau must submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters no later than December 31, 2024 detailing the guidance developed. and biennially thereafter, detailing use of the guidance during the previous 2-year period.
- The committee may submit legislation relating to the subject matter of the report to the 132nd Legislature.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 242](#) - (LD 229) **An Act to Compensate Tribal Governments for Basic Training for a Law Enforcement Officer Hired by Another Government Agency**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This law includes tribal governments and full-time law enforcement officers trained at the Indian police academy at the federal law enforcement training center that whenever a full-time law enforcement officer trained at a police academy at the expense of a particular governmental entity is subsequently hired by another governmental entity as a full-time law enforcement officer within 5 years of graduation from the academy, that governmental entity must reimburse the first governmental entity according to a specified formula.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 284](#) - (LD 1969) **An Act to Expand the Use of Funds to Support Land Conservation**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This law eliminates the Land for Maine's Future Fund, replaces it with the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund and transfers the balance in the Land for Maine's Future Fund. It requires that the funds transferred be used for the purposes identified in Public Law 2021, chapter 398, Part FFFF, section 8. The Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund may be used for the purposes of the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund, the Maine Working Waterfront Access Protection Fund, the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund and the new funds established in this legislation.
- This amends provisions of law affecting the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund, the Maine Working Waterfront Access Protection Fund and the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund.
- This establishes the Conservation and Recreation Fund to achieve the purposes of the former Land for Maine's Future Fund. It establishes the Conservation Land Management Fund to make capital improvements to and enhance wildlife habitat protection on permanently conserved state, municipal and private conservation lands.
- It clarifies that upon repeal the of the Land for Maine's Future Fund any funds within the Land for Maine's Future Fund, both the Community Conservation Projects Other Special Revenue Funds account and the Land for Maine's Future Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account, are required to be transferred to the Land For Maine's Future Trust Fund.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 369](#) - (LD 1620) **An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Mi'kmaq Nation and to Provide Parity to the Wabanaki Nations**

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This provides for greater parity between the jurisdiction recognized by the State of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and the Mi'kmaq Nation, referred to collectively as the Wabanaki Nations.
- The summary of LD 1620 began on pg 25 and is 6 pages long so for brevity sake, the portion that directly impacts IFW is provided:
 - It recognizes the Mi'kmaq Nation's authority to enact ordinances regulating hunting, trapping and fishing within Mi'kmaq Nation Jurisdiction Land and requires that lands or waters subject to regulation by the nation be clearly posted. The hunting, trapping and fishing ordinances adopted by the nation must be equally applicable to members and nonmembers of the nation except that members of the Mi'kmaq Nation may take fish for their individual sustenance within the boundaries of Mi'kmaq Nation Jurisdiction Land to the same extent that members of the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation may exercise sustenance fishing rights within the boundaries of their respective reservations under current law. It also provides that the Commissioner of IFW may conduct fish and wildlife surveys within Mi'kmaq Nation Jurisdiction Land and establishes a process for the adoption of remedial measures if a tribal ordinance or the absence of a tribal ordinance is causing or there is a reasonable likelihood that it will cause a significant depletion of fish or wildlife stocks on lands or waters outside the boundaries of Mi'kmaq Nation Jurisdiction Land.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 385](#) - (LD 1007) **An Act to Ban the Video Hosting Service TikTok on All State-owned Devices**

(Effective by Emergency: July 6, 2023)

- This creates a law that states that a computer or other electronic device owned or controlled by any branch of State Government may not be used to access, contain or download the video hosting service known as TikTok, except as necessary for life, health, safety or investigative purposes in accordance with a policy adopted by a state agency.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 405](#) - (LD 2010) **An Act to Correct Inconsistencies, Conflicts and Errors in the Laws of Maine**

(Effective by Emergency July 10, 2023)

- This is the State's Errors and Omissions law. The specific portions that impacted IFW law were to make changes to the word sportsmen by making it gender neutral.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 406](#) - (LD 2017) **An Act to Fund Collective Bargaining Agreements with Executive Branch Employees**

(Effective by Emergency July 10, 2023)

- This law implements the cost items in the collective bargaining agreements reached between the State and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the Maine State Troopers Association, the Maine State Law Enforcement Association, the Maine Service Employees Association, the Fraternal Order of Police and any other certified bargaining representative for an executive branch bargaining unit and provides for equitable treatment for confidential employees and certain other employees excluded from collective bargaining.

- It specifies the costs from the General Fund and Highway Fund to fund salary increases and authorizes the transfer by financial order of available General Fund and Highway Fund balances as necessary.
- It provides for the adjustment of certain salary schedules in fiscal year 2023-24 and in fiscal year 2024-25 consistent with agreements ratified by December 31, 2023.
- It provides for similar and equitable treatment of confidential employees, probationary employees and other employees excluded from collective bargaining.
- It authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to be reimbursed up to \$1,200,000 for finalization of the ongoing comprehensive review of the classification and compensation system for executive branch employees and for a market pay study comparing state salaries with those of employees performing comparable work of a sampling of certain private and public employees.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 412](#) (LD 258) - An Act Making Unified 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, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This is the state budget bill that passed for fiscal year 2024-2025.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 420](#) (LD 1947) - An Act to Amend the Maine Food Sovereignty Act

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

- This amends the Maine Food Sovereignty Act by changing the definition of “direct producer-to-consumer transaction” and by stating that a farmers’ market may impose more stringent requirements on its sellers than those imposed by municipal, plantation or county ordinances.

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 481](#) (LD 1895) - An Act Regarding the Procurement of Energy from Offshore Wind Resources

(Effective: October 25, 2023)

This law is lengthy and makes significant changes to the Maine Wind Energy Act. A summary of changes can be reviewed within the amendment: [LD 1895 Senate Amendment](#).

Hunter Orange Clothing Requirement



Crossbow and Firearms

Two Articles of Orange Required

- When hunting ANY species with a firearm or crossbow during the firearms or muzzleloader season for deer, this includes deer hunting Youth Days
 - Example: When hunting ruffed grouse during the firearms season on deer, you must wear two articles of orange



One Article of Orange Required

- When hunting ANY species with a firearm or crossbow in a WMD open to moose hunting
 - Example: When hunting ruffed grouse in a WMD open to moose hunting, you must wear one article of orange; when grouse hunting in a WMD closed to moose and deer hunting, no orange is required



No Articles of Orange Required

- Waterfowl Hunting - Must be hunting from a boat, blind, or in conjunction with waterfowl decoys.
- When hunting ANY species with a bow and arrow
- When hunting wild turkey, bear, small game, or furbearers with a firearm or crossbow - Unless that WMD is open to moose hunting or during a firearms or muzzleloader season for deer



Vertical Bow

Bow and Arrow Hunters

When hunting with bow and arrow, hunter orange is not required. Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife recommends bow and arrow hunters wear at least one article of orange when navigating through the landscape during firearms and muzzleloader season on deer and during open moose hunting seasons.