

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date:

5/28/25 Majority

L.D. 77

(Filing No. H-323)

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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STATE OF MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 132ND LEGISLATURE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 41, L.D. 77, "An Act to Stabilize and Sustainably Fund the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Fisheries and Hatcheries Division by Increasing the Inland Fishing License Fees and Establishing the Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Fund"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Stabilize and Sustainably Fund the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Fisheries and Hatcheries Division by Increasing the Inland Fishing License Fees and Establishing the Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Program'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10108, sub-§13 is enacted to read:

13. Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Program. The Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Program, referred to in this subsection as "the program," is established within the department's fisheries and hatcheries division.

A. The program must:

(1) Prioritize native inland fish conservation and the research, management and enhancement of the State's native fish, including but not limited to those identified by the department as species of greatest conservation need, brook trout, lake whitefish, arctic charr and lake trout;

(2) Identify and implement actions to enhance native fish production and stocking, including assessment of native fish production programs; and

(3) Continue to conserve, protect and enhance the State's sport fish fisheries.

B. To the extent that resources allow, the program must also support and incorporate the following elements:

(1) The design and implementation of regional and statewide fisheries research programs to conserve the State's native inland and sport fish fisheries, ensuring the long-term sustainability and health of the State's fisheries;

(2) Investment in new technology, equipment and training programs to enhance the success and effectiveness of the program;

(3) Effective communication regarding ongoing program actions, success and collaboration;

(4) The establishment of collaborative partnerships to engage organizations, communities and companies representing conservation groups, anglers, land trusts and other organizations involved in outdoor recreation in implementing and publicizing the program; and

(5) Engagement with representatives of various agencies, anglers and nonprofit organizations to enhance and restore the State's native fisheries habitat and populations.

C. The commissioner may accept money, goods or services donated to the department for the program. Money accepted by the commissioner under this subsection must be deposited into the fisheries and hatcheries division dedicated account.

D. The commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, shall report no later than February 1st annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters regarding program activities, emphasizing the work being done to conserve, research, manage and enhance the State's native inland fish populations and including a summary of expenditures and their allocation.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §10252, as affected by PL 2003, c. 614, §9 and amended by c. 655, Pt. B, §51 and affected by §422, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§10252. Fish hatchery maintenance fund

1. Fund established. The fish hatchery maintenance fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established in the department as a nonlapsing fund to be used by the commissioner to fund or assist in funding engineering designs, statewide facilities assessments and maintenance, repair and capital improvements at fish hatcheries and feeding stations owned by the State. The fund may be used for overtime personnel services costs when overtime for fish stocking and other hatchery-related work is operationally required. Additionally, the fund may support the design, construction and operation of additional state fish hatcheries that support the mission of the department, as approved by the Legislature. The fund may not be used to fund the general operating costs of an existing fish hatchery.

2. Funding. Notwithstanding section 10801, subsection 4, \$2 from each fishing license sold must be deposited into the fund. Additionally, money deposited pursuant to Title 29-A, section 456-C, subsection 3, paragraph A, subparagraph (1) must also be credited to the fund. The commissioner may accept and deposit into the fund any monetary gifts, donations or other contributions from public or private sources and must use that money for the purposes specified in subsection 1.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §11109, sub-§3, ¶D, as repealed and replaced by PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §2, is amended to read:

D. A resident combination hunting and fishing license is ~~\$43~~ \$48 and permits hunting of all legal species, subject to the permit requirements in subchapter 3.

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §11109, sub-§3, ¶E, as repealed and replaced by PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §2, is amended to read:

E. A resident combination archery hunting and fishing license is ~~\$43~~ \$48 and permits hunting of all legal species, subject to the permit requirements in subchapter 3.

Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §11109, sub-§3, ¶J, as repealed and replaced by PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §2, is amended to read:

J. A nonresident combination hunting and fishing license is ~~\$150~~ \$169.

Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §11109, sub-§7, ¶B, as amended by PL 2015, c. 245, §3, is further amended to read:

B. A resident combination archery hunting and fishing license is ~~\$43~~ \$48;

Sec. 7. 12 MRSA §11109-A, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2023, c. 49, §2 and affected by §3, is further amended to read:

5. Fee. The fee for a super pack license is ~~\$207~~ \$212 for residents and ~~\$182~~ \$187 for a person holding 2 or more lifetime licenses.

Sec. 8. 12 MRSA §12501, sub-§6, as amended by PL 2023, c. 228, §§11 and 12, is further amended to read:

6. Schedule of fees. The fees for fishing licenses are as follows.

A. A resident fishing license is ~~\$25~~ \$30.

B. A resident combination hunting and fishing license is ~~\$43~~ \$48.

C. A resident combination archery hunting and fishing license is ~~\$43~~ \$48.

E. A 3-day fishing license for a resident or nonresident, valid for the 72-hour period specified on the license, is ~~\$23~~ \$30.

F. A nonresident 7-day fishing license, valid for 7 days from date indicated on license, is ~~\$43~~ \$62.

G. A nonresident 15-day fishing license, valid for 15 days from date indicated on license, is ~~\$47~~ \$66.

H. A nonresident season fishing license for persons 16 years of age or older is ~~\$64~~ \$83.

J. A one-day fishing license for a resident or nonresident, valid for the 24-hour period indicated on license, is ~~\$11~~ \$18.

Sec. 9. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE, DEPARTMENT OF
Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations 0535**

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1 Initiative: Provides funding for expenditures authorized in the Maine Revised Statutes,
2 Title 12, section 10252, subsection 1.

3	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
4	All Other	\$500,000	\$500,000
5			
6	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500,000	\$500,000

7 **Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Program N531**

8 Initiative: Provides baseline allocation to establish an account within the existing Fisheries
9 and Hatcheries Operations program, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

10	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
11	All Other	\$500	\$500
12			
13	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500

14
15 **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE,**
16 **DEPARTMENT OF**
17 **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

18		2025-26	2026-27
19	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$500,500	\$500,500
20			
21	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$500,500	\$500,500

22 **Sec. 10. Effective date.** Those sections of this Act that amend the Maine Revised
23 Statutes, Title 12, section 11109, subsection 3, paragraphs D, E and J and section 11109,
24 subsection 7, paragraph B and section 11109-A, subsection 5 and section 12501, subsection
25 6 take effect December 1, 2025.¹

26 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
27 number to read consecutively.

28 **SUMMARY**

29 This amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

30 1. It changes the title.

31 2. It adds language to allow the fish hatchery maintenance fund to be used for overtime
32 personnel services costs when overtime for fish stocking and other hatchery-related work
33 is operationally required and also makes clear that the fund may support the design,
34 construction and operation of additional state fish hatcheries.

35 3. It establishes the Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Program, which
36 replaces the Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Fund established in the bill,
37 and establishes program requirements and duties.

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1 4. It makes changes to the fees for inland fishing licenses and adds an effective date
2 of December 1, 2025 for these changes.

3 5. It adds an appropriations and allocations section.

4 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

5 **(See attached)**

**132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE****LD 77****LR 251(02)****An Act to Stabilize and Sustainably Fund the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Fisheries and Hatcheries Division by Increasing the Inland Fishing License Fees and Establishing the Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Fund****Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment A****(H-323)****Committee: Inland Fisheries and Wildlife****Fiscal Note Required: Yes****Fiscal Note**

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	(\$1,474,000)	(\$1,474,000)	(\$1,474,000)	(\$1,474,000)
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$500,500	\$500,500	\$500,500	\$500,500
Revenue				
General Fund	\$1,474,000	\$1,474,000	\$1,474,000	\$1,474,000
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill establishes the Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Program within the existing Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations (FHO) program in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. It expands the authorized uses of the existing Fish Hatchery Maintenance Fund (FHMF) to include overtime personnel costs and specific design, construction, and operational expenses. Beginning December 1, 2025, the bill increases fees for certain inland fishing licenses by the amounts specified below and directs \$2 from each license sold to be deposited into the FHMF. These fee increases are projected to generate additional revenue of approximately \$1,474,000 annually for the General Fund and \$500,000 annually in Other Special Revenue Funds revenue beginning in fiscal year 2025-26. The bill includes corresponding Other Special Revenue Funds allocations of \$500,000 beginning in fiscal year 2025-26 to authorize expenditure of the additional revenue and initial baseline allocations of \$500 to create the Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement program subaccount within the existing FHO program.

License Type	Current	Increase	New Fee
Non Resident Season Fishing	\$ 64	19	\$ 83
1-Day Fishing	\$ 11	7	\$ 18
3-Day Fishing	\$ 23	7	\$ 30
Non Resident 7-Day Fishing	\$ 43	19	\$ 62
Non Resident 15-Day Fishing	\$ 47	19	\$ 66
Non Resident Comb Hunt & Fish	\$ 150	19	\$ 169
Resident Season Fishing	\$ 23	5	\$ 28