

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

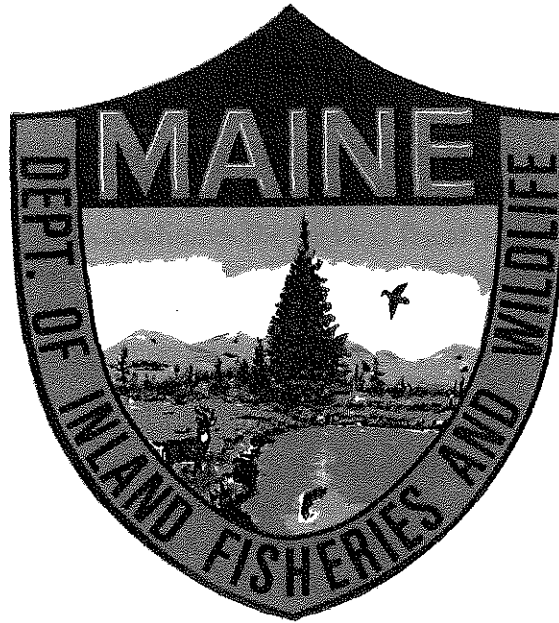
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**Maine Department of  
Inland Fisheries & Wildlife**



**Report on  
Whitewater Rafting Safety**

126<sup>th</sup> Legislature – First Session

KF  
2558  
.W4  
M34  
2013



PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE  
284 STATE STREET  
41 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0041  
TEL: 207-287-8000

CHANDLER E.  
WOODCOCK  
COMMISSIONER

To: Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
From: Rick Clowry, Game Warden Specialist, Whitewater Boating Program  
Date: January 12, 2013  
Subject: Title 12, Section 10259-3 Financial Report

As defined in Title 12, section 10259-3, this financial report shall be presented annually to the Joint Standing Committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over Inland Fisheries and Wildlife matters on its planned expenditures for the next fiscal year, its actual and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year and its final expenditures for the last fiscal year.

The whitewater industry in Maine catered to approximately 68,131 commercial rafting passengers during the 2012 rafting season (January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012).

The commercial whitewater rafting industry is a tremendous economic asset to the State of Maine. The industry is complex and requires an extensive investment of time by the department to fulfill the responsibilities required by the State. In 1999, the department hired a full time game warden to work as a whitewater boating officer to enforce whitewater rafting rules and regulations and complete administrative duties associated with whitewater rafting. Since 1999, the creation of this full time position dedicated to whitewater activities has led to a significant increase in funds both budgeted and expended within the warden service whitewater account.

Title 12, section 10259-B; states that all monies from the fund shall be expended solely for purposes related to river recreation, with primary emphasis on those activities which relate to whitewater trips, including, but not limited to, administration, regulation, safety education, enforcement, mitigation of environmental and safety problems and mitigation of any adverse effect on competing use of the river. The fund shall not be used to pay the cost of administering the whitewater outfitters' license program or the guide license program.

During the whitewater rafting season the department whitewater boating officer spends the majority of time at the Dead, Kennebec, and West Branch of the Penobscot Rivers enforcing whitewater boating rules and regulations, and working with outfitters, guides, private boaters, and Florida Power and Light employees. Recently the Rapid and Magalloway rivers in Western Maine have seen an increase in rafting traffic and will also require an adequate enforcement effort along with the increase in administrative duties. In addition to river enforcement duties, the boating officer must spend time weekly, dealing with administrative tasks out of the boating office located in Augusta. During the rafting off-season, the boating officer contributes approximately 40 hours a week completing administrative responsibilities. These administrative



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duties include whitewater guides board, and other tasks associated with the whitewater rafting program.

## FY 2010 - 2012

# Whitewater Rafting Fund Report for the Legislature

### Fund Established Title 12 Section 10259-1

1. There is established a Whitewater Rafting Fund to be used by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands and the affected counties and municipalities to fund activities related to river recreation with primary emphasis on those activities which relate to whitewater trips.

### Justification Statement

The Whitewater Rafting Fund is intended to mitigate environmental problems and any adverse effect on competing uses of rivers and to promote safety, education, and enforcement on the rivers. This program dedicates sixty-five percent of the revenue to remain with the department for administration and enforcement of the whitewater rafting laws and rules, twenty-five percent is dedicated to the Department of Conservation and ten percent to the affected counties.

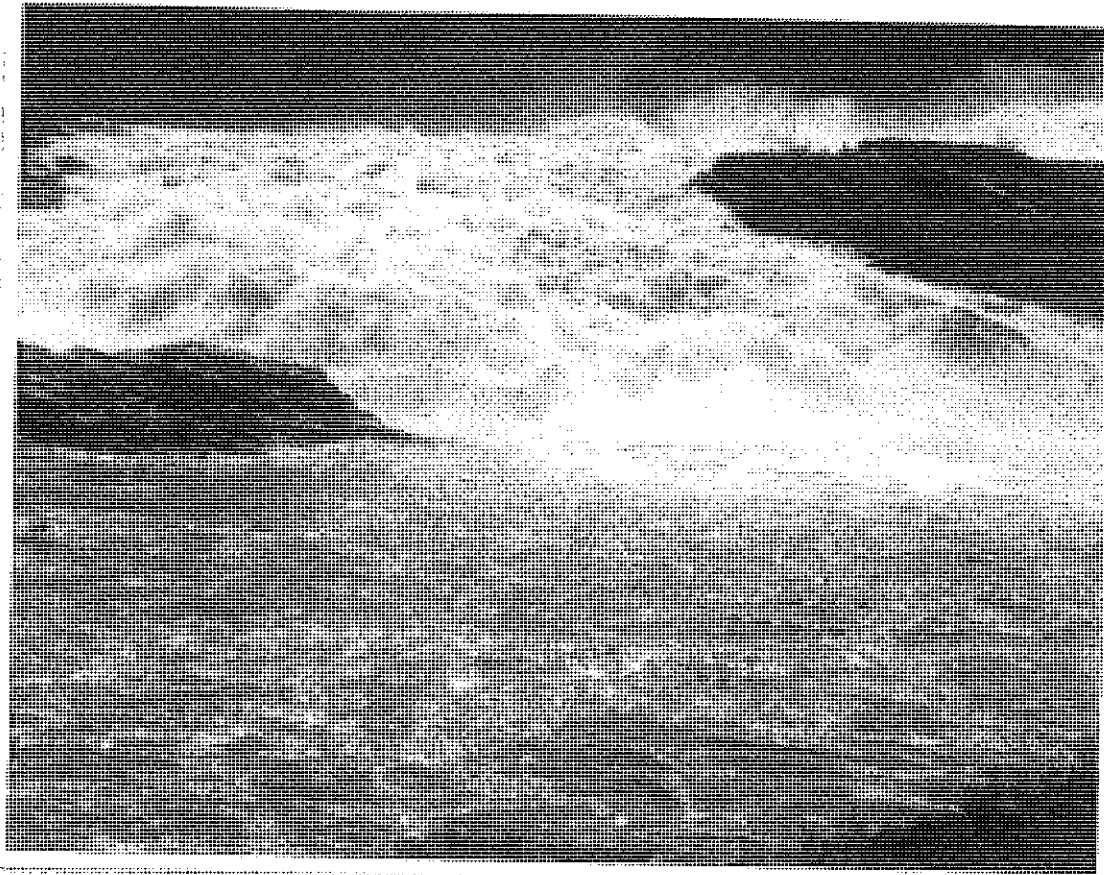
### Income Report

Fiscal Year	Revenue	Counties 10%	Conservation 25%	IF&W Dept. 65%
2010	\$ 143,365	\$14,336	\$35,841	\$ 93,187
2011	\$ 141,210	\$14,121	\$35,302	\$ 91,786
2012	\$155,299	\$15,529	\$38,824	\$100,944

Prepared by:  
Rick Clowry; Corporal Maine Warden Service  
Whitewater Boating Specialist  
[rick.clowry@maine.gov](mailto:rick.clowry@maine.gov)

## 2012 White Water Outfitter Passenger and Accident Numbers

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### Total Passenger numbers for all Rivers

2012	resulted in an increase in river use	68,131
2011	total number of rafters	62,586
2010	total number of rafters	63,321

### Total revenue for IF@W

2012	\$155,299.00
2011	\$141,210.50
2010	\$143,365.25

# 2012 White Water Outfitter Passenger and Accident Numbers

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## 2012 Accident Totals

### 2012 total reportable accidents #16

There were no fatal incidents for 2012. Maine's rafting companies continue to offer one of the safest trips in the rafting industry around the world. This is attributed to individual company's dedication to effectively train their staff and setting a goal of reaching 100% compliance. Most accidents fall within the following categories.

- Falls overboard
- Collision with passengers
- Struck w/paddle
- Hazardous water
- Swimming
- Flipped raft
- Medical Condition
- Guide miscommunication

Report prepared by:

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**Whitewater Boating Specialist**  
[rick.clowry@maine.gov](mailto:rick.clowry@maine.gov)