

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES

March 15, 2006

The Honorable Beth Edmonds
President of the Senate
The Honorable John Richardson
Speaker of the House of Representatives
122nd Legislature
State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Madam President and Mr. Speaker,

Pursuant to Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35, we are pleased to submit the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources from the review and evaluation of the Department of Marine Resources and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission under the State Government Evaluation Act. In its review, the Committee found that both entities are operating within their statutory authority.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Dennis S. Damon in cursive.

Senator Dennis Damon
Chair

Handwritten signature of Leila Jane Percy in cursive.

Representative Leila Percy
Chair

cc: Robert Lenna, Chair, Maine Governmental Facilities Authority
Patrick Norton, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

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STATE OF MAINE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES

Date: March 15, 2006

To: The Honorable John Richardson, Chair
The Honorable Beth Edmonds, Vice-Chair
Legislative Council, 122nd Maine Legislature

From: Senator Dennis Damon, Senate Chair
Representative Leila Percy, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

Subject: Government Evaluation Act Review of the Department of Marine Resources
and the Atlantic States Fisheries Commission

This memorandum is to inform you that the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources has submitted its findings and recommendations from the review and evaluation of the Department of Marine Resources and the Atlantic States Fisheries Commission under the State Government Evaluation Act to the Legislature pursuant to Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35.

cc: Members, Legislative Council
David Boulter, Executive Director, Legislative Council

<p style="text-align:center">JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES</p>
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**Review of the Department of Marine Resources under the Government
Evaluation Act
March 2006**

The Government Evaluation Act

The Government Evaluation Act provides for a system of periodic review of the efficacy and performance of state government agencies (3 MRSA §951 et seq). The keystone of the Act is the agency program evaluation report that consists of a number of components required by the statute. Essentially, the report is an agency self-assessment, which the committee of jurisdiction uses as a starting point for its evaluation of the agency's effectiveness, efficiency and performance.

Review Process

On April 29, 2005, the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources (Committee) notified the Department of Marine Resources of its intent to review the agencies pursuant to the schedule established in 3 MRSA, §959. The department submitted its program evaluation report as requested.

On January 30, 2006, the Commissioner of the Department of Marine Resources presented its Program Evaluation Report to the Committee. The Committee held a meeting to discuss the report on February 27, 2006.

Findings and Recommendation

The Joint Standing Committee on Marine has reviewed the Department of Marine Resources and finds that it is operating within its statutory authority. The Department of Marine Resources is established to conserve and develop marine estuarine resources; to conduct and sponsor scientific research; to promote and develop Maine's coastal fishing industries; and to implement, administer and enforce the laws and regulations necessary for these enumerated purposes. Detailed information about the department can be found in its Program Evaluation Report, which meets the criteria set in statute (3 MRSA §956).

However, based on our review of the report it is clear that the Legislature is not providing the department with the financial resources needed to meet some of the department's current performance standards. In particular, recent budget reductions are making it extremely difficult for the Bureau of Marine Patrol to meet its performance standards. We recommend that the Legislature provide adequate funding to the department to ensure it can meet its performance standards or considering adjusting those standards accordingly.