

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF  
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 2016-005  
DATE August 31, 2016

**AN ORDER TO ENHANCE COLLABORATION AND EFFICIENCIES BETWEEN  
NATURAL RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

**WHEREAS**, Maine's environment and natural resources are a fundamental part of our lives as Mainers and our State's economy; and

**WHEREAS**, proper enforcement of our natural resources laws ensures that these assets are managed for the benefit of all Mainers; and

**WHEREAS**, the protection of Maine's natural resources is the charge of multiple Cabinet-level Departments; and

**WHEREAS**, while they perform unique missions, Maine's natural resources enforcement agencies have similarities in areas such as training, professional association memberships and equipment. Moreover, these agencies regularly collaborate to undertake joint enforcement, investigations and other work; and

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Branch takes seriously its charge to be a wise steward of the taxpayers' money by identifying opportunities for collaboration and achieving efficiencies within the management of the Executive Branch;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Paul R. LePage, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby direct the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Enforcement Operations; Department of Marine Resources, Bureau of Marine Patrol; and Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forest Protection to continue present efforts to maximize collaboration and efficiencies to the extent practical through the following strategies:

1. Leverage memberships in professional associations while minimizing costs by sharing relevant association information among agencies;
2. Collaborate on cross-agency grant opportunities;
3. Undertake joint public education campaigns when such efforts touch upon subject matter that overlaps the jurisdiction of multiple agencies (e.g., boating safety campaign);
4. Engage in joint planning activities for those activities that call for the creation of an advance plan (e.g., State Search and Rescue Plan);

5. Engage in joint training opportunities and, when one agency has expertise, qualifications or certifications relevant to other agencies, provide training to other agencies;
6. Maximize the sharing of equipment and facilities between agencies, including the joint use of equipment as well as providing maintenance and repair services across agencies;
7. Look to other natural resources enforcement agencies first when selling or disposing of equipment that might complement the mission of another agency;
8. Maximize opportunities for joint transportation to remote areas of the State (e.g., North Maine Woods and outer islands);
9. Undertake joint searches when appropriate;
10. Undertake joint enforcement activities and joint investigations of violations of Maine's natural resources laws when appropriate; and
11. Additional strategies developed by the agencies to enhance collaboration and to achieve inter-agency efficiencies.

When working collaboratively, agencies must consider the seasonal and geographic needs of other agencies, as staffing can vary greatly from geography to geography and from season to season. Many natural resources industries are seasonal and enforcement staff work within this seasonality. When making a request for support or an offer of assistance, an agency should understand the constraints of other agencies.

Further, I do hereby direct the Chief of Maine Warden Service, the Chief of the Maine Marine Patrol and the Chief of the Maine Forest Rangers to meet two times each year to discuss strategies to further collaborate and achieve efficiencies. The results of each of these meetings are to be reported to the Commissioners of the respective Departments and to the Governor.

Further, I do hereby direct the Chief of Maine Warden Service, the Chief of the Maine Marine Patrol and the Chief of the Maine Forest Rangers to explore the possibility of creating a separate class of natural resources enforcement officer that is cross-trained in the mission served by all three Departments that can be dispatched to any of these agencies according to need. Any statutory, regulatory, contractual or other impediments to the creation of this class of officer should be identified. The results of this examination shall be reported to the Governor by February 1, 2017.

The effective date of this Executive Order is August 31, 2016.

  
Paul R. LePage, Governor