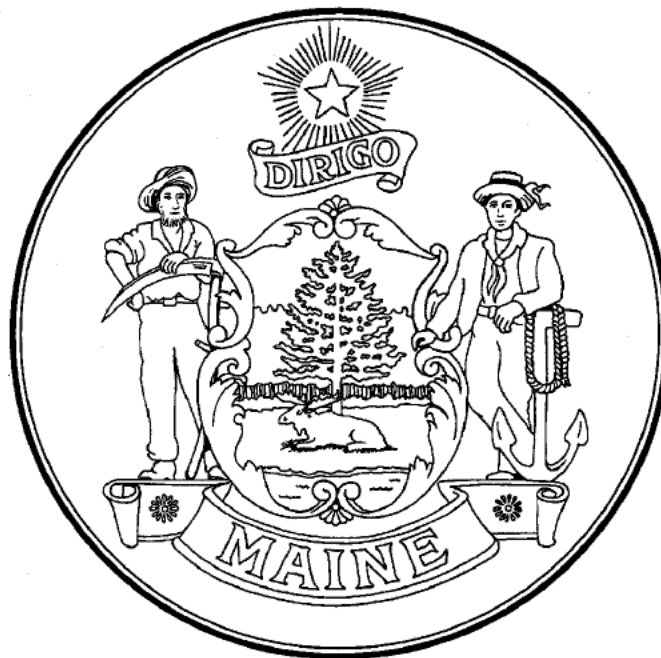


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Whitewater Boating Program



2021 Annual
Report

Warden Corporal Steve Allarie
Whitewater Boating Specialist

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMERCIAL RAFTING INDUSTRY

- In Maine, there are approximately 20 licensed Commercial Whitewater Outfitters providing whitewater boating trips among our 6 Rapidly Flowing Rivers. The rivers include stretches of the upper Kennebec River, West Branch of the Penobscot River, South Branch of the Penobscot River, Dead River, Rapid River and the Magalloway River.
- In Maine, the commercial whitewater industry provided professional services to approximately **45,956** commercial rafting passengers during the 2021 rafting season (January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021).
- The commercial whitewater rafting industry continues to be a tremendous economic asset to the State of Maine. The industry is complex and requires a significant 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 Specialist to enforce whitewater rafting rules and regulations and manage the administrative duties associated with the whitewater rafting industry.
- Title 12, section 10259-B; states that all money from the Whitewater Rafting Fund shall be expended solely for purposes related to river recreation, with primary emphasis on those activities that 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 may 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's Whitewater Boating Specialist spends most of their time at the Dead, Kennebec, and West Branch of the Penobscot Rivers enforcing whitewater rafting rules and regulations, working with whitewater outfitters, guides, private boaters, and Brookfield Renewable Partners. Recently, the Rapid, Magalloway and South Branch of the Penobscot Rivers have seen an increase in rafting traffic, which requires additional enforcement efforts and administrative duties. In addition to river enforcement, the specialist must spend a portion of time dealing with administrative responsibilities out of the Whitewater Boating Office, located in Augusta. During the off-season, the specialist contributes approximately 40 hours a week on administrative duties. These include communicating with whitewater outfitters, working directly with Advisory Board for the Licensing of Whitewater Guides, completing financial and safety reports, and other tasks associated with Whitewater Boating Program.

WHITEWATER FUND AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Fund Established Title 12 Sections 10259-1

The Whitewater Rafting Fund, referred to in this section as the “fund” is established to be used by the Department, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, 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 affection on competing uses of rivers promoting 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 Calendar Year

Year	Revenue	Counties 10%	Dept. of Conservation 25%	Dept. of IF&W 65%
2016	\$138,646.0	\$13,864.60	\$34,661.50	\$90,119.90
2017	\$147,842.0	\$14,784.22	\$36,960.50	\$96,097.31
2018	\$124,699.9	\$12,469.99	\$31,174.98	\$81,054.94
2019	\$120,202.2	\$9,054.20	\$30,050.57	\$78,131.48
2020	\$34,212.50	\$3,421.25	\$8,553.13	\$22,238.13
2021	\$113,518.06	\$11,351.81	\$28,379.52	\$73,786.73

2021 TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL RAFT PASSENGERS AND REPORTABLE ACCIDENTS PER RIVER

- **Dead River**
Total Passengers: **2,230**
Total Reported Accidents: **0**
- **Kennebec River**
Total Passengers: **33,806**
Total Reported Accidents: **2**
- **Magalloway River**
Total Passengers: **0**
Total Reported Accidents: **0**
- **Rapid River**
Total Passengers: **0**
Total Reported Accidents: **0**
- **South Branch of the Penobscot River**
Total Passengers: **33**
Total Reported Accidents: **0**
- **West Branch of the Penobscot River**
Total Passengers: **9,887**
Total Reportable Accidents: **3**

2021 COMMERCIAL PASSENGERS CARRIED BY LICENSED OUTFITTERS

- **Adventure River Expeditions-Total Passengers: 137**
Dead River: 56
Kennebec River: 81
Magalloway River: 0
Rapid River: 0
South Branch Penobscot River: 0
West Branch Penobscot River: 0
- **Crab Apple Whitewater-Total Passengers: 3,145**
Dead River: 175
Kennebec River: 2,970
Magalloway River: 0
Rapid River: 0
South Branch Penobscot River: 0
West Branch Penobscot River: 0
- **Downeast Rafting, DBA Adventure Bound-Total Passengers: 3,074**
Dead River: 80
Kennebec River: 2,994
Magalloway River: 0
Rapid River: 0
South Branch Penobscot: 0
West Branch Penobscot: 0
- **Lifelines Outdoors-Total Passengers: 63**
Dead River: 0
Kennebec River: 63
Magalloway: 0
Rapid River: 0
South Branch Penobscot River: 0
West Branch Penobscot River: 0
- **Magic Falls Rafting-Total Passengers: 4,537**
Dead River: 330
Kennebec River: 4,207
Magalloway River: 0
Rapid River: 0
South Branch Penobscot River: 0
West Branch Penobscot River: 0

2021 COMMERCIAL PASSENGERS CARRIED BY EACH LICENSED OUTFITTER CONTINUED

- **Magic Rivers Rafting-Total Passengers: 146**
Dead River: 52
Kennebec River: 94
Magalloway River: 0
Rapid River:
South Branch Penobscot: 0
West Branch Penobscot: 0
- **Maine Rafting Expeditions-Total Passengers: 587**
Dead River: 0
Kennebec River: 0
Magalloway River: 0
Rapid River: 0
South Branch Penobscot River: 0
West Branch Penobscot River: 587
- **Maine Whitewater-Total Passengers: 460**
Dead River: 0
Kennebec River: 460
Magalloway River: 0
Rapid River: 0
South Branch Penobscot River: 0
West Branch Penobscot River: 0
- **Moxie Outdoor Adventures-Total Passengers: 2,604**
Dead River: 109
Kennebec River: 2,495
Magalloway River: 0
Rapid River: 0
South Branch Penobscot River: 0
West Branch Penobscot River: 0
- **New England Whitewater Center-Total Passengers: 1,304**
Dead River: 0
Kennebec River: 0
Magalloway River: 0
Rapid River: 0
South Branch Penobscot River: 0
West Branch Penobscot River: 1,304

2021 COMMERCIAL PASSENGERS CARRIED BY EACH LICENSED OUTFITTER CONTINUED

- **North American Whitewater-Total Passengers: 10**
Dead River: 0
Kennebec River: 10
Magalloway Rivers: 0
Rapid River: 0
South Branch Penobscot River: 0
West Branch Penobscot River: 0
- **North Country Rivers-Total Passengers: 9,093**
Dead River: 408
Kennebec River: 6,670
Magalloway Rivers: 0
Rapid River: 0
South Branch Penobscot River: 0
West Branch Penobscot River: 2,015
- **Northeast Whitewater-Total Passengers: 2,570**
Dead River: 0
Kennebec River: 2,115
Magalloway River: 0
Rapid River: 0
South Branch Penobscot River: 33
West Branch Penobscot River: 422
- **Northern Outdoors-Total Passengers: 9,056**
Dead River: 513
Kennebec River: 6,581
Magalloway River: 0
Rapid River: 0
South Branch Penobscot River: 0
West Branch Penobscot River: 1,962
- **Penobscot Adventures II-Total Passengers: 1,899**
Dead River: 0
Kennebec River: 0
Magalloway River: 0
Rapid River: 0
South Branch Penobscot River: 0
West Branch Penobscot River: 1,899

2021 COMMERCIAL PASSENGERS CARRIED BY EACH LICENSED OUTFITTER CONTINUED

- **Three Rivers Whitewater-Total Passengers: 5,655**
Dead River: 352
Kennebec River: 3,605
Magalloway River: 0
Rapid River: 0
South Branch Penobscot River: 0
West Branch Penobscot River: 1,698
- **US Rafting-Total Passengers: 1,561**
Dead River: 111
Kennebec River: 1,450
Magalloway River: 0
Rapid River: 0
South Branch Penobscot River: 0
West Branch Penobscot River: 0
- **Unicorn Wilderness Expeditions-Total Passengers: 55**
Dead River: 44
Kennebec River: 11
Magalloway River: 0
Rapid River: 0
South Branch Penobscot River: 0
West Branch Penobscot River: 0

2021 REPORTABLE ACCIDENTS BY OUTFITTER AND FLOW RATES IN CUBIC FEET PER SECOND

A Safety Incident (reportable accident) is defined in Chapter 14.06 (F) as any accident occurring in connection with a commercial whitewater trip or whitewater guide training that results in the death of a person, a person losing consciousness or receiving professional medical treatment, a person becoming disabled for more than 24 hours, a person disappearance from a watercraft under circumstances indicating death or injury or damage to the watercraft or other property of more than \$1,000.00.

- **Crab Apple Whitewater: 1**
Date: 7-27-2021
Location: Swimmers Rapid, Kennebec River
Primary Cause of Incident: Jumped out of Raft
Secondary Cause of Incident: Collision with Fixed Object
Reported injury: Injured Toe
CFS Water Flow: 5,100
- **Maine Rafting Expeditions: 1**
Date: 8-18-2021
Location: Bottom of Cribwork's, West Branch of the Penobscot River
Primary Cause of Incident: Collision with Passenger
Secondary Cause of Incident: Hazardous Waters
Reported Injury: Nose Fracture
CFS Water Flow: 3,098
- **Northeast Whitewater: 1**
Date: 8-19-2021
Location: Nesowadnehunk Falls, West Branch of the Penobscot River
Primary Cause of Incident: Fall in Raft
Secondary Cause of Incident: Collision with Fixed Object
Reported Injury: Laceration to Mouth
CFS Water Flow: 2,000
- **North Country Rivers: 1**
Date: 8-24-2021
Location: Dead Stream Rapid, Kennebec River
Primary Cause of Incident: Collision with Paddle
Secondary Cause of Incident: Unknown
Reported Injury: Laceration to Mouth
CFS Water Flow: 5,000

2021 REPORTABLE ACCIDENTS BY OUTFITTER AND FLOW RATES IN CUBIC FEET PER SECOND

- **Northern Outdoors: 1**

Date: 9-20-2021

Location: Nesowadnehunk Falls, West Branch of the Penobscot River

Primary Cause of the Incident: Collision with Passenger

Secondary Cause of Incident: Unknown

Reported Injury: Dislocation / Laceration to Finger

2021 WHITEWATER BOATING CHECKS AND NUMBER PRIVATE BOATERS ON UPPER KENNEBEC RIVER

- Number of safety checks by Wardens on Commercial Whitewater Outfitters: **2,000 +**
- Number of safety checks by Wardens on private whitewater boaters: **2,000 +**
- Number of private rafters that registered at Harris Station upper Kennebec River: **7,190 +**

Note: This is not a complete list due to staffing shortages at the entry gate.

- Number of kayakers that registered at Harris Station upper Kennebec River: **1,183 +**
- 2021 the Department tested over **83** Whitewater Guide Applicants.