

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTH LEGISLATURE

REPORT
of the

INLAND FISHERIES AND GAME COMMITTEE

TO THE 105TH LEGISLATURE
APRIL 26, 1971


April 26, 1971

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 105TH LEGISLATURE:

The Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game was established by Joint Order No. 537 of the 104th Legislature. It was directed by the Legislature to make a detailed analysis of the functions, data and general operations of the State Department of Inland Fisheries and Game; to determine where possible, current levels of efficiency and the extent to which its funds are being properly utilized. The Committee has inquired at great length into those matters referred to it and has the honor to submit herewith its report to the 105th Legislature as charged.

The Committee wishes to acknowledge its appreciation of the cooperation and service rendered by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game in connection with the study. The Committee sincerely hopes that the findings and recommendations herein contained will be of benefit to Members of the Legislature and the public at large.

Respectfully submitted,



Senator Albert W. Hoffses, Chairman
Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game

JOINT ORDER, SENATE PAPER 537, DATED JUNE 25, 1969 AS AMENDED BY HOUSE PAPER 1461
DATED FEBRUARY 3, 1970, ORDERED THE HOUSE CONCURRING, THAT THERE IS CREATED A JOINT
INTERIM COMMITTEE TO CONSIST OF THREE SENATORS TO BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE AND THREE REPRESENTATIVES TO BE APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, TO
MAKE A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE FUNCTIONS, DATA AND GENERAL OPERATIONS OF THE STATE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND GAME; TO DETERMINE WHERE POSSIBLE, CURRENT LEVELS
OF EFFICIENCY AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH ITS FUNDS ARE BEING PROPERLY UTILIZED AND BE
IT FURTHER ORDERED THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION
BUT SHALL BE REIMBURSED FOR THEIR ACTUAL EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR
DUTIES WITHIN THE LIMITS OF FUNDS PROVIDED AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED THAT THERE IS
APPROPRIATED TO THE COMMITTEE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION, THE SUM OF \$1200.00
TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS ORDER. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED THAT THE COMMITTEE
SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT OF ITS ANALYSIS INCLUDING ANY NECESSARY LEGISLATION AT THE NEXT
REGULAR OR SPECIAL SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

THE COMMITTEE HAD SEVERAL MEETINGS IN AUGUSTA WITH THE ADVISORY COUNCIL, WITH THE
THEN COMMISSIONER RONALD SPEERS, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF THE INLAND FISHERIES AND
GAME AND OTHER DIVISION HEADS. THE SUBJECTS WHICH WERE REVIEWED WERE LACK OF COMMUNI-
CATION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT, CURRENT LEVELS OF EFFICIENCY AND STATE OF MORALE IN THE
DEPARTMENT, UTILIZATION OF DEPARTMENT FUNDS AND ITS EQUIPMENT AND THE RELATIONSHIP OF

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND GAME. THE FINDINGS OF THIS COMMITTEE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THOSE PERSONNEL ATTENDING CONFERENCES, OF INTEREST TO THE DEPARTMENT, WERE NOT DISSEMINATED TO OTHERS CONCERNED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.

EVIDENCE DISCLOSED, THAT VEHICLES ASSIGNED TO THE DEPARTMENT WERE BEING USED IN-DISCRIMINATELY. THIS WAS ALSO FOUND TRUE OF SOME DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT PURCHASED FOR THE USE BY THE WARDEN SERVICE.

DUE TO THE AVAILABILITY OF SNOWMOBILES IN THE WARDEN SERVICE, IT WAS BELIEVED THAT SOME WARDEN CAMPS COULD BE ELIMINATED RESULTING IN A SAVINGS OF MAINTENANCE COST TO THE DEPARTMENT.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO FOUND THAT, THROUGH A LACK OF LINE BUDGETING, THERE WERE INSTANCES WHERE FUNDS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR ONE OPERATION WERE DIVERTED TO ANOTHER OPERATION.

CAREFUL STUDY WAS MADE OF THE WARDEN SERVICE WHICH DISCLOSED A NECESSITY FOR ADDITIONAL WARDENS IF THEY ARE TO PERFORM THE DUTIES ORIGINALLY ASSIGNED, THE ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF BOAT AND SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATION AND SEARCH FOR LOST PERSONS.

THE COMMITTEE FURTHER NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A LACK OF COORDINATION WITH, AND

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN, THE DEPARTMENT AND THE INLAND FISHERIES AND GAME ADVISORY COUNCIL.

THE REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE HAS BEEN DELAYED TO AFFORD THE INLAND FISHERIES AND GAME DEPARTMENT AN OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT ITS DEFICIENCIES AS WILL BE NOTICED IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTED TO DATE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

STAFF MEETINGS BEING HELD REGULARLY AND REPORTS BY DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES FOLLOWING OUT-OF-STATE CONFERENCES ARE BEING HELD REGULARLY AND SHARED WITH THE OTHER PERSONNEL WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH OUR STUDY AND THAT OF THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMITTEE, A REDUCTION OF OFFICE VEHICLES HAS BEEN MADE FROM 18 TO 5 VEHICLES.

THE FINDINGS INDICATE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A DISTINCT IMPROVEMENT OF THE MORALE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT. TELEPHONE AND TRAVEL EXPENSES ARE BEING SUPERVISED AND BEING HELD TO A MINIMUM.

IN THE PAST, THE DEPARTMENT MAINTAINED 72 WARDEN CABINS. THIS HAS NOW BEEN REDUCED TO 40 CABINS WHICH WILL BE OF CONSIDERABLE SAVINGS IN MAINTENANCE COST TO THE DEPARTMENT. A FURTHER STUDY IS BEING MADE TO POSSIBLY ELIMINATE ADDITIONAL CABINS.

THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES THAT CLOSER ADHERANCE TO LINE BUDGETING IS BEING FOLLOWED.

THE COMMITTEE MAKES THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. WE RECOMMEND THE CONTINUANCE OF STAFF MEETINGS TO KEEP INTERESTED PERSONNEL INFORMED OF ALL ACTIVITIES.
2. CONTINUED CHECK BE MADE TO INSURE THAT PROPER UTILIZATION OF ALL VEHICLES IS MAINTAINED.
3. THE DEPARTMENT BUDGET BE SUBMITTED TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL IN SUFFICIENT TIME TO PERMIT ITS REVIEW PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO THE FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE FOR ITS CONSIDERATION AND THE REPORTING OF THE SAME TO THE LEGISLATURE FOR FINAL APPROVAL.
4. THE COMMITTEE FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT CLOSE SCRUTINY OF EXCESSIVE TELEPHONE AND TRAVEL COSTS BE CAREFULLY CONTROLLED.
5. THE COMMITTEE FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER PURCHASING TWO
(2) HELICOPTERS TO BE USED FOR ENFORCEMENT AND USE IN SEARCH FOR LOST PERSONS.