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# DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

O.F.P.R.

2009 SEP -1 PM 4: 31



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**TO:** SENATOR WILLIAM DIAMOND, REPRESENTATIVE EMILY ANN CAIN, MEMBERS OF THE JOINT  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

**FROM:** COMMISSIONER GEORGE D. LAPOINTE

**SUBJECT:** THE INITIATIVE TO STREAMLINE STATE GOVERNMENT – PRIORITY PROGRAMS

**DATE:** 9/1/2009

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In response to your letter to All Departments and Agencies dated August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 I respectfully submit the following relative to the Department of Marine Resources (DMR).

## 12 MRSA §6021. Purpose

**“The Department of Marine Resources is established to conserve and develop marine and estuarine resources; to conduct and sponsor scientific research; to promote and develop the Maine coastal fishing industries; to advise and cooperate with local, state and federal officials concerning activities in coastal waters; and to implement, administer and enforce the laws and regulations necessary for these enumerated purposes, as well as the exercise of all authority conferred by this Part.”**

As a State agency we have reviewed every aspect of the work we do, relative to our statutory mission above, thoroughly and repeatedly during my eleven years as Commissioner. These reviews have increased in intensity over the past eight years as the State has had to grapple with annual General Fund Budget shortfalls. Several years ago we reached the point where any program that was less than critical to our mission, or less than a high priority for this Department and the people of Maine, had been eliminated. In addition, over the years DMR has made a deliberate move away from a reliance on the State’s General Fund and toward other forms of revenue: primarily Other Special Revenue such as license surcharges and lobster trap tags and Federal: such as Joint Enforcement Agreement, Wallop-Breaux and the time-consuming pursuit of individual grants. In essence, as **Attachment A** shows, we have shifted from a 84.5% reliance on GF in 1988 to a 42.6% reliance in FY10. **Attachment B** will show you the exact percentage of various funding sources in each of our Bureaus today. The Department has willingly and knowingly made these funding shifts over the years as a means to ensure that we continue to meet our statutory purpose and serve our constituency and the general public. Please note however, that we have no ability to move to a further reliance on other forms of revenue. In fact, to the contrary, several of the sources we have shifted to will no longer be able to sustain the positions that are on them in just a few years. This is an issue we have raised in the past and that we will have to revisit in the near future; I raise it today as a means to amplify our inability to continue to shift any further off of the GF.

As requested in your recent letter I directed staff to carefully scrutinize each aspect of our agency with an eye toward the request in your second paragraph. In response, I respectfully submit that we feel strongly that all of our programs are both high priority and mission critical, all are vital to and within our core mission, none overlap with others unnecessarily, none are less effective than was hoped for (given existing resources) and all would be needed now if they did not already exist. This is because Department of Marine Resources programs cover three fundamental mission areas: public health protection, marine resources law enforcement, and sustainable resource management

The Department of Marine Resources currently enables approximately one billion dollars worth of economic activity annually in Maine thanks to the hard work of the commercial and recreational salt-water fishermen of this State. We do this with approximately ten million dollars of support annually from the State's General Fund – two million of which our license holders contribute through their fees. We fully recognize the difficult position we once again find ourselves in as a State and pledge to continue to work in good faith with your Committee and the full Legislature to achieve our mutual goals of a balanced and stable Budget.

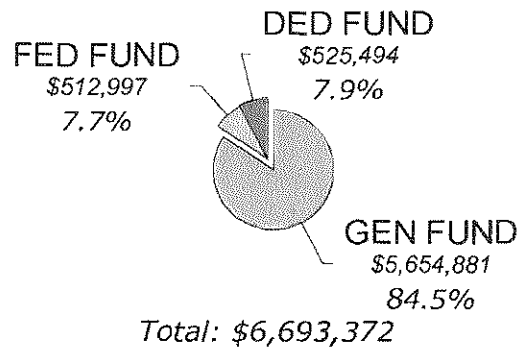
Thank you for the difficult work you do on all of our behalves. Please let me know if you need any additional information from the Department of Marine Resources.

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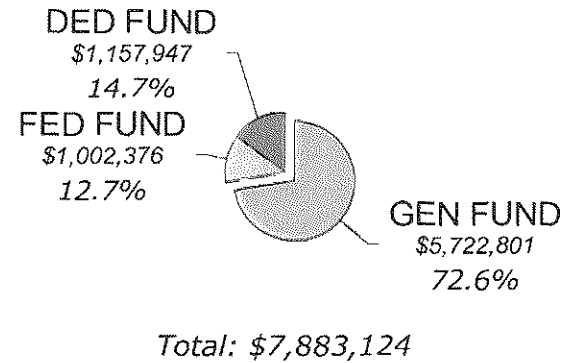
Attachment A

**DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**  
**Actual Expenditures & Budget Distribution**  
**1988 - 2010**

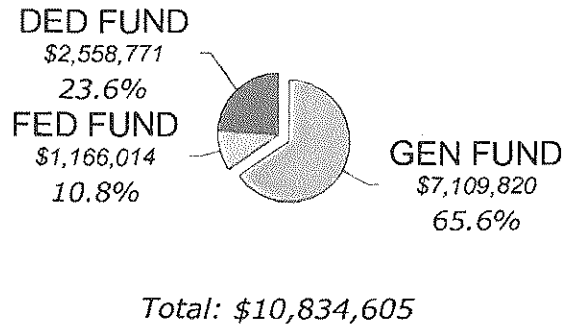
**FY88 Actual**



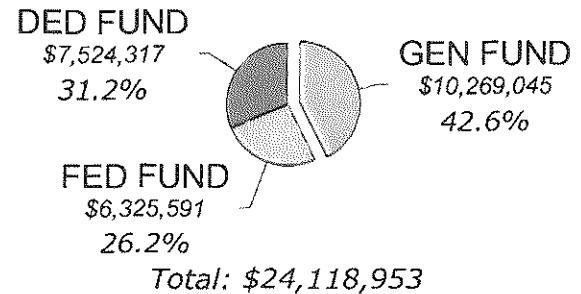
**FY93 Actual**



**FY98 Actual**



**FY10 Budgeted**



ATTACHMENT B

**Department of Marine Resources**

% by Fund in each Program

Program	Fund			Budget
	General	Federal	OSR	
Bureau of Resource Management	\$ 3,453,726 36%	\$ 3,010,772 31%	\$ 3,203,925 33%	\$ 9,668,423
<u>Bureau of Marine Patrol</u>	\$ 4,205,616 60%	\$ 1,304,634 19%	\$ 1,538,481 22%	\$ 7,048,731
<u>Div Community Resource Development</u>	\$ 167,185 31%	\$ - 0%	\$ 367,358 69%	\$ 534,543
<u>Office of Commissioner</u>	\$ 1,851,395 51%	\$ 81,343 2%	\$ 1,706,479 47%	\$ 3,639,217
<u>Detail of Office of Commissioner</u>				
Per Services:	646,883	76,377	764,260	
All Other:	1,204,512	4,966	942,219	
<u>Detail of All Other</u>				
NRSC:	431,499	-	49,609	
ATT GEN'L OFF:	40,000	-	-	
PUBLIC SAFETY:	18,250	-	-	
OIT:	610,721	-	177,446	
LOBSTER TRAP TAG & SHRIMP ACTIVITY:	-	-	632,829	
GEN'L OPERATING COSTS:	104,042	4,966	82,335	
(postage, rulemaking, printing, StaCap, etc)	1,204,512	4,966	942,219	
<u>Bureau of Sea Run Fisheries &amp; Habitat</u>	\$ 591,123 18%	\$ 1,928,842 60%	\$ 708,074 22%	\$ 3,228,039
<b>Total Department Budget</b>	<b>10,269,045</b> 42.6%	<b>6,325,591</b> 26.2%	<b>7,524,317</b> 31.2%	<b>\$ 24,118,953</b>