

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

H.P. 1143 - L.D. 1708

**An Act to Create the Commercial Fishing Safety Fund to Further Develop  
Training and Provide Equipment to Recover Ships and Other Watercraft  
and Persons in Distress or Lost at Sea**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

**Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6035-A** is enacted to read:

**§6035-A. Commercial Fishing Safety Fund**

The Commercial Fishing Safety Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within the department.

**1. Sources.** The commissioner may receive donations and funding from any source on behalf of the fund. All money received into the fund must be used for the purposes of the fund.

**2. Use of fund.** The commissioner shall use the fund to support activities related to improving safety in the commercial fishing industry and improving the department's ability to conduct search and rescue and recovery operations, including the acquisition of necessary equipment. The commissioner shall consult with the Commercial Fishing Safety Council established in section 6034 in making expenditures from the fund.

**3. Interest and balances credited to fund.** Any interest earned on the money in the fund must be credited to the fund. Unexpended balances in the fund at the end of the fiscal year do not lapse but must be carried forward to the next fiscal year and credited to the fund to be used for the purposes of this section.

**Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Commercial Fishing Safety Fund N534**

Initiative: Provides baseline allocation to establish the account.

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|
| All Other                   | \$500   | \$500   |

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$500

\$500