



State of New Hampshire

GENERAL COURT

CONCORD

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 1, 2024

TO: Honorable Christopher Sununu, Governor
Honorable Jeb Bradley, President of the Senate
Honorable Sherman Packard, Speaker of the House
Honorable Tammy Wright, Senate Clerk
Honorable Paul Smith, House Clerk
Michael York, State Librarian

FROM: Senator David H. Watters, Chair *DAW*

SUBJECT: Final Report of the Committee to Study Fish and Game Department
Funding and Partnerships
(SB 542, Chapter 302:1, Laws of 2024)

Pursuant to SB 542, Chapter 302:1, Laws of 2024, attached please find the report of the Committee to Study Fish and Game Department Funding and Partnerships.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I would like to thank the members of the committee and the Fish and Game Department for their time and input to this study. I would also like to acknowledge those who testified before the committee and assisted the committee in the study.

Enclosures

cc: Members of the Committee

FINAL REPORT

Committee to Study Fish and Game Department Funding and Partnerships SB 542, Chapter 302:1, Laws of 2024

November 1, 2024

MEMBERS:

Senator David H. Watters, Chair
Representative James A. Spillane, Vice Chair
Representative Will Darby
Representative Daniel Popovici-Muller

CHARGE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The committee shall:

- I. Consult with the Fish and Game Commission and the Executive Director of the Fish and Game Department on current funding sources and budgets, including Capital Budget needs, and their sustainability.
- II. Consider proposals for General Fund needs for department operations, particularly to sustain personnel costs at current and increased staffing levels needed to fulfill the mission of the department.
- III. Consider proposals for General Fund needs to sustain other programs and operations of the department not provided by federal funding.
- IV. Consider land use and conservation, agricultural, timber, and recreational use managed by other state departments and private entities that connect with the mission of the Fish and Game Department, and whether potential reorganization of responsibilities and new partnerships would be advantageous to the department.
- V. Consider revisions to RSA 206:33-c to enhance funding partnerships, particularly in the area of outdoor recreation, land conservation and easements, and environmental adaptation.

The committee heard from both the department and the commission as to its challenges to current funding, other areas it could address if it had sufficient funding, and opportunities for expanded partnerships to include potential funding sources. Various stakeholders described their partnership with Fish and Game, their needs and challenges, and how those needs and challenges relate to funding for Fish and Game. These stakeholders included the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation, New Hampshire Audubon Society, New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association, New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation, Granite Outdoor Alliance, New Hampshire Wildlife Coalition, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, New Hampshire Division of Ports and Harbors, and The Nature Conservancy.

FINDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE:

- No specific dollar amounts needed from the General Fund can be recommended by this report at this time.
- The Fish and Game Department is facing a multitude of funding challenges across its divisions. It has many responsibilities and expenses that don't directly affect sportsmen and wildlife.
- Individuals who purchase hunting and fishing licenses are carrying a substantial portion of the state funding for Fish and Game programs.
- The Fish and Game Department and Fish and Game Commission Chair Ray Green testified that a lack of funding has been a longstanding problem for the department. Trying to balance services with license fees has proven to be a long-lasting difficulty. Sustainable funding sources for the agency need to be developed.
- Testimony from the department and other presenters, as well as data from the Legislative Budget Assistant's Office identified areas for consideration to address budget shortfalls: the current biennium's employee pay raise, retirement costs and Department of Information Technology expenses. The cost of the employee pay raise was approximately \$2 million. Retirement costs are projected at \$956,900 in FY 2026 and \$1,124,600 in FY 2027. Information Technology expenses have been escalating over the years with the current cost being over \$1 million. The Information Technology expenses and the retirement expenses are both required to be paid from Fish and Game's unrestricted fund.
- The Fish and Game Department budget has increased from \$29.7 million in 2017 to a proposed \$45.1 million in 2026. Support from the General Fund has risen from \$600,000 to \$1.5 million over the same time period. Its FY 2026/2027 proposed budget will eliminate the balance in the Fish and Game Fund except for any returned surpluses by the end of the next biennium.
- Testimony given throughout our study committee meetings indicated the Fish and Game Department is headed to a financial shortfall. It needs either to increase General Fund funding, increase fees, find areas to cut spending, or look hard at reducing some of the services it offers.
- Pittman-Robertson federal funds require a 25 percent state match. The department struggles with putting together resources for these matches. Up to this point, Fish and Game has been able to spend the entire allotment of Pittman-Robertson funds it receives. State statute does restrict use of these monies to game species only, unless the statute is modified to allow expenditures on nongame species. Many Fish and Game fees have not been increased since their inception. In addition, the Legislature has enacted free and reduced fees for different groups.
- In 2022, New Hampshire citizens and noncitizens spent \$5.2 billion on wildlife-associated recreation in this state. Tourism drives the New Hampshire economy. Fish and Game plays an integral role in providing the opportunities that many people come here to enjoy. However, there is no mechanism to collect funds from these user groups.
- The department could investigate ways to create incentives at the local level to assist with OHRV and snowmobile enforcement.
- Fish and Game does not collect a fee for alteration of terrain permit services it performs for the Department of Environmental Services. However, the Executive Director does have the authority to be reimbursed for such services, and the authority to bill when feasible and

appropriate to recover expended costs of the department. Fish and Game could explore the option to create its own alteration of terrain permit.

- The department provides search and rescue services not only for lost hikers, but also for Alzheimer's patients, individuals with suicidal tendencies, and lost children. Fish and Game also provides all search and rescue efforts in the White Mountain National Forest but receives no federal funding for such activity.
- Annual proceeds from the Hike Safe Card Program average \$100,000-\$300,000. Funds derived from these cards are deposited into a dedicated account for Search and Rescue. Presently, Hike Safe Card revenues are sufficient to cover the direct costs incurred by the department. Given the lack of data on indirect costs, however, the department may be able to pursue additional funding to cover expenses incurred to search and rescue individuals that are not licensed hunters, anglers or trappers, or covered under the Hike Safe Card Program. Doing so could require indirect costs to be reported and audited.
- Fish and Game is continually tasked with many additional and time-consuming activities beyond just game management, e.g., assisting suburban homeowners with wildlife issues, and coordination with the Department of Environmental Services and the Department of Energy on offshore wind planning and leasing processes.
- The department does benefit from partnerships with organizations that result in donations to the department. These donations, however, do not result in long term, sustainable funding for Fish and Game.
- A sustainable funding plan could help determine the scale of the funding needed with full, in-depth forensic auditing of the department's previous budgets and its new proposed budget.
- The department may face additional financial challenges due to environmental change in coming decades, as will be noted in the new Wildlife Action Plan in 2025.
- Fish and Game should work with private sector businesses and organizations to find ways to further promote the services it provides to all areas of outdoor recreation. For example, the department can enhance existing partnerships and create new ones to promote its land conservation activities and to increase purchases of the Hike Safe Card.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE:

1. This committee is unable to recommend specific funding changes due to the limited amount of time, resources and information it had available. The department should continue working on determining whether additional General Fund appropriations to assist with the employee pay raise, retirement costs and Information Technology expenses can be justified, with such determinations to be made through the biennial budget process. The department should review its financial reporting to support its assertions of financial challenges with specific, audited data on those impacts, including indirect costs when reporting overall Search and Rescue expenditures.
2. State agencies should be billed when appropriate to recover expended costs of Fish and Game. The Executive Director should examine specific areas, such as alteration of terrain permits, where it may be appropriate to charge other departments or applicants for services provided by Fish and Game. If there are areas the Director does not have the authority to do so, legislative action should be requested.

3. Fish and Game should review the Hike Safe Card Program and determine if the fee for the card needs an adjustment, i.e., non-resident versus resident fees. It should investigate whether developing a pre-sales component to boost revenue would make sense and evaluate a limited duration, e.g., 7-day option. Fish and Game should utilize as appropriate the provisions of RSA 206:33-c to partner with for-profit and nonprofit organizations and funds.
4. Fish and Game should pursue partnerships to encourage donations to the Public Boat Access Fund from non-motorized boat operators, and build a brand for the Public Boat Access Fund, RSA 233-A:13, to promote with commercial and nonprofit organizations representing non-motorized recreational activities on New Hampshire bodies of water.
5. If an examination of Fish and Game's nonlapsing funds determines that any changes in statute are required to accommodate other practices or sources of revenue, the department should develop a new, nonlapsing fund with the specific purpose to fund state matches required for federal funds. It could include excess funds from the Hike Safe Card Program to enable better budgeting. Cash donations to the department could also be directed to this nonlapsing fund.
6. The department should request a modification to the language of RSA 212-A:15 re: the use of Pittman-Robertson funds for nongame activities and any other acceptable uses, such as a state-run shooting range to be used by licensed hunters. Currently, state statute prohibits Fish and Game from using Pittman-Robertson funds for anything nongame. Amending this statute would open up avenues to enable the department to spend that money.
7. New Hampshire Port Authority's Division of Ports and Harbors should be directed to examine the possible expansion of moorings, to include a pilot program allowing Fish and Game to lease by auction or lottery a total of ten moorings. Possible locations could include the Piscataqua River, Great Bay and the Oyster River. The revenue from such an expansion would go to support Fish and Game.
8. The department should consult with New Hampshire's Congressional delegation on an avenue to seek reimbursement from the federal government for search and rescues within the White Mountain National Forest.
9. Modify the language of RSA 214:9-c(2), Lifetime Licenses, to remove the \$300 fee for a combination hunting and freshwater fishing lifetime license for a resident who has not yet reached his or her first birthday. The Executive Director shall set the license fee utilizing actuarial chart data and economic trends.

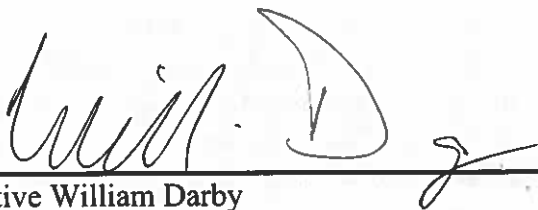
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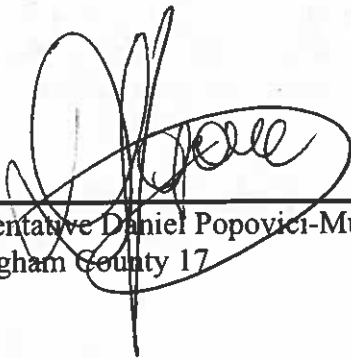
Senator David H. Watters
Chair, Senate District 4



Representative James A. Spillane
Vice-Chair, Rockingham County 2



Representative William Darby
Hillsborough County 11



Representative Daniel Popovici-Muller
Rockingham County 17

APPENDICES LISTING

Appendix A

Committee Meeting Minutes

Appendix B

Fish and Game Department Materials:
Budget and Funding Presentation
Fish and Game Fund Ending Balance 2008-2024
FY 2024 Annual Report - Wildlife Habitat Fund
Additional Funding Information

Appendix C

Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee -
Fish and Game Department
Search and Rescue Quarterly Report
April 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024

Committee to Study Fish and Game
Department Funding and Partnerships
SB 542, Chapter 302:1, Laws of 2024
Final Report

APPENDIX A

Committee Meeting Minutes

APPROVED
Creating a Committee to Study Fish and Game Department
Funding and Partnerships
SB 542, Chapter Law 302:1, Laws of 2024

Organizational Meeting Minutes

TO: Members of the Committee

FROM: Deb Martone
Senate Legislative Aide

MEETING DATE: August 15, 2024, 10:00 am, SH 103

Members of the Committee Present: Senator David Watters
Representative Will Darby

Members of the Committee Absent: Representative James Spillane
Representative Daniel Popovici-Muller

Meeting Discussion:

Senator Watters opened the organizational meeting. As a quorum of the committee was not present, a Chair was not elected. As the first named Senate member to the committee, Senator Watters agreed to act as Chair until such time as one is elected.

Senator Watters reviewed the responsibilities of the committee as outlined in SB 542. The Fish and Game Department is facing a multitude of funding challenges across its divisions. One of the aims of the committee is to explore any partnering opportunities which could include potential funding sources.

Executive Director Scott Mason, Colonel Kevin Jordan, Chief of the Law Enforcement Division, and Business Administrator Kathy Ann LaBonte provided an extensive overview of the department’s budget and funding sources. Accompanying their presentation was a packet of background information. Main discussion points included the following:

- Individuals who purchase fishing and hunting licenses are carrying the burden of much of the funding for Fish and Game programs. However, licensing revenues continue to decline.
- Fish and Game will become unable to self-fund itself.
- The recent state employee pay raise cost the department approximately \$2 million and is currently unaffordable. This action has brought the lack of funding to the forefront in the department.

- A suggestion was made to modify legislation concerning the use of Pittman-Robertson Act funding for the processing of applications for alteration of terrain permits. Director Mason believes he does have the authority to set fees for these reviews that protect the state's threatened and endangered species, but stated such fees are currently not well supported. This process is estimated to cost the department approximately \$750,000 per biennium. The other alternative would be utilizing General Funds for the program. Pittman-Robertson Act funds are 75% federally funded with a required 25% state match.
- Fish and Game has not kept up with the maintenance of fish hatcheries for the last 20 years. The projected cost is \$500,000.
- Activities in the Marine Division continue to grow. It now includes the Great Bay National Estuarine Research and Reserve, and the Great Bay National Refuge. The program is not anywhere close to paying for itself. It's a great program which needs to be supported.
- One of the largest economic drivers in the world of wildlife in New Hampshire is wildlife watching. From an economic standpoint many of these programs have a huge economic benefit to the state's tourism industry. However, there is no current mechanism to collect funds from these user groups.
- There is no mechanism to collect money from anglers, kayakers and canoes.
- Fish and Game has a wildlife habitat fund. What about creating a similarly structured marine environment fund?
- Many Fish and Game fees have not been increased since their inception and need to be. In addition, over the years the Legislature has enacted reduced license fees or no license fees for certain classes of individuals. These lost revenues should be reviewed and perhaps replaced by General Funds.
- Some landowners have begun to close off access to waterways.
- The department provides search and rescue services not only for lost hikers, but Alzheimer's patients, individuals with suicidal tendencies, and lost children as well.
- On behalf of DHHS, Fish and Game collects samples of suspected rabid animals that have had human contact. This is done to protect public health, rather than benefit wildlife. In the southern part of the state the department spends countless hours helping citizens deal with nuisance wildlife. These are not sportsmen's issues.
- Annual proceeds from the Hike Safe Card average \$100,000 - \$300,000. Could we develop a "Boat Safe Card"? We need to develop a mechanism to charge for access to waterways. The one challenge to these types of funding, however, is the ability to budget two years in advance. Reliable funding sources for the agency need to be developed.
- Funds derived from the Hike Safe Cards are deposited into a dedicated account for Search and Rescue.
- For Fiscal Year 2024 the department had budgeted revenue of \$39 million; total expenditures amounted to \$41 million.
- A large chunk of Fish and Game funds cover retiree health benefits in the Business Division.
- A large portion of OHRV registration receipts are transferred to the Trails Bureau of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Representative Darby noted the department has a number of expenses that don't benefit sportsmen and wildlife. Some have small offsetting funding sources. He inquired if Director Mason could provide corresponding data to committee members. Director Mason agreed to provide information if committee members could be more explicit in their request.

Colonel Jordan commented on staffing levels and indicated Fish and Game has been able to retain staff. They do share other departments' challenges such as recruitment of staff. They currently do not have enough staff. These days, the Law Enforcement Division is more of a reactive division rather than a preventative division.

Director Mason reviewed federal funding sources for his department. These include Pittman-Robertson Act funding for wildlife and Dingell-Johnson Act funding for inland fisheries.

The Director confirmed work was being done to update the Wildlife Action Plan. He agreed to capture increased funding need areas and will share these areas with committee members. Senator Watters suggested highlighting the habitat areas.

Senator Watters inquired if the value of a conservation easement can be used as a match. Director Mason was unsure whether the department had ever attempted such a transaction. He noted it would have to be a conservation easement that was given to Fish and Game, as opposed to ones they purchase. He was unsure if the US Fish and Wildlife Service would accept same.

Director Mason approximates 70%-90% of all guns and ammunition are no longer used in hunting today.

Senator Watters reiterated the purpose of the study committee is to focus on funding sustainability; finding partnerships that could contribute to the funding.

In terms of proceeding, it was suggested the committee invite key stakeholders on a subject matter basis. For example, for the next meeting committee members would hear from the Chief of the Fish and Game Commission, the Wildlife Federation, the Audubon Society and the Appalachian Mountain Club. The Nature Conservancy, the NH Timberland Owners and the NH Farm Bureau would be asked to participate in future meetings. The new Director of Fish and Game will also be invited to join committee members at a future meeting, once that individual is confirmed by Governor and Council.

NEXT MEETING: August 29, 2024 10:00 am SH 103

REPORT DUE: November 1, 2024

APPROVED
Creating a Committee to Study Fish and Game Department
Funding and Partnerships
SB 542, Chapter Law 302:1, Laws of 2024

Regular Meeting Minutes

TO: Members of the Committee

FROM: Deb Martone
Senate Legislative Aide

MEETING DATE: August 29, 2024, 10:00 am, SH 103

Members of the Committee Present: Senator David Watters
Representative Will Darby
Representative James Spillane
Representative Daniel Popovici-Muller

Meeting Discussion:

Senator Watters called the meeting to order and committee members made their introductions. Representative Spillane nominated Senator Watters as Chair of the committee; Representative Darby seconded the motion. Senator Watters was elected and nominated Representative Spillane as Vice Chair. Representative Popovici-Muller seconded the nomination. Representative Spillane was elected Vice Chair.

Minutes from the August 15, 2024 organizational meeting were revised due to an inaccurate meeting date. The corrected minutes were approved.

The committee is tasked with looking at sustainable funding for the Fish and Game Department in light of the challenges it is presently facing.

Ray Green, Chair of the Fish and Game Commission

- Department revenues have not kept up with department expenses including the recent employee pay raises, even though hunting/fishing license revenues are currently competitive with surrounding New England states. There is, however, a decline in license revenues across the country.
- Raising licensing fees would erase our competitive edge.
- Over the years Fish and Game has been tasked with many additional but non-compensated tasks, i.e., search and rescue calls.
- Free and reduced license fees for different groups have been enacted as well.
- Revenues are being reduced with no replacement revenue.

- The Department should be run as a business.
- Going into the next biennium Fish and Game will run an approximate \$2 million deficit.
- Maintenance costs for the department have doubled.
- One of the biggest challenges Fish and Game faces is their hatchery system. The hatcheries are in terrible shape, and there is no money to fix them.
- The department has suffered from numerous budget cuts throughout the years, with no increases in revenue.
- Commissioner Green indicated Fish and Game is continually attempting to improve communications with members of the public.
- The department does benefit from partnerships with organizations that result in donations to the department. These donations, however, do not result in long term, sustainable funding for Fish and Game. Even federal funding the department receives is not guaranteed.
- The only sustainable funding source for Fish and Game would be General Funds. Chairman Green approximated 15-20% of their total funding should come from that source. The department desperately needs a viable source of funding.
- Representative Spillane inquired if Fish and Game had a breakdown/spreadsheet of the new initiatives they've been asked to take on over the last 5-10 years and the cost of same. He believes this information would be helpful to committee members. These new initiatives would not be part of the original charter of the department. Senator Watters suggested himself, Representative Spillane and Executive Director Mason speak with each other in the near future concerning these unfunded tasks. Representative Popovici-Muller cautioned committee members when it comes to changing the department's funding structure.
- The department lacks a sufficient number of conservation officers to properly serve the entire state, due to the additional tasks they now perform. Currently they are covering the entire state with the same number of officers employed by the Concord Police Department.
- Fish and Game is being asked to do more and more with less and less funding.
- Senator Watters suggested strengthening Capital Budget resources for Fish and Game.
- Senator Watters wondered if fees for the Hike Safe Card could be increased, as well as instituting a Boat Safe Card. Chairman Green described a number of past funding initiatives the Commission had attempted but all were unsuccessful.
- Colonel Kevin Jordan detailed for committee members the different tasks his conservation officers are asked to perform. They have the only state dive team, which is utilized by both the State Police and Marine Patrol on a regular basis. The canine teams are also in great demand.
- Approximately \$300,000 - \$400,000 is spent each year on search and rescue.
- Colonel Jordan suggests the department receive sustainable funding and then work on reducing its costs.
- Colonel Jordan's conservation officers are spending 30% of their time on financially unsupported activities.

- The public is under the mistaken impression that Fish and Game is taxpayer funded.
- Representative Spillane inquired about the open headcount for Colonel Jordan's officers. There are 50 funded officer positions currently. The Law Enforcement Division has 5 open positions they are attempting to fill. Department-wide there are 12 open positions, both funded and unfunded.

James Morse, President, and Kyle Baker, Advocacy, New Hampshire Wildlife Federation

- President Morse explained the federation's primary goal is to protect fishing, hunting, trapping, conservation issues and access to land.
- Mr. Baker detailed some of the programs sponsored by the federation.
- It is important Fish and Game receive General Funds. Outdoor recreation has a huge impact on New Hampshire's economy. It supports approximately 31,000 jobs in this state. The impact of hunting and fishing is roughly \$270 million. These figures come from a recent UNH study and US Fish and Wildlife. Mr. Baker agreed to supply committee members with copies of this economic impact data.
- Other states' Fish and Game Departments have been forced to split their responsibilities among differing state agencies due to lack of funding.
- It is important to keep the processing of applications for alteration of terrain permits regarding wildlife impact studies within Fish and Game. The expertise of the staff on the impact to endangered species is immeasurable.
- One of the funding liabilities to the department is the year-over-year loss in licensing fees.
- Representative Spillane suggested taking the actual fee (\$300) of the newborn gift license out of state statute and leave it up to the discretion of the Executive Director.
- President Morse suggested search and rescue missions bill for their services to include transportation fees if required.
- Representative Spillane inquired if the Wildlife Federation provides direct funding to Fish and Game, indirect funding, or a combination of both. Where is their contribution to the department focused? President Morse indicated they provide promotion of Fish and Game programs, which would be indirect funding as opposed to actual dollars. They do provide direct donations and scholarships to the department as well. Representative Spillane asked about receiving the direct dollar figure from the group that is recognized by Fish and Game. Mr. Baker agreed to some research on direct funding by the federation and report back to the committee.
- Representative Popovici-Muller wondered if changes to licensing requirements could be made in an effort to avoid discouragement from future license holders. He indicated some portions of the process may be able to be tweaked. It was decided to make this a discussion item with the department outside of the scope of the study committee.
- Senator Watters inquired if the federation could help with more promotion on the Hike Safe Cards. Mr. Baker agreed partnership opportunities do exist to highlight these types of programs.

Carol Foss, Senior Advisor for Science and Policy, New Hampshire Audubon

- Audubon's mission is to protect New Hampshire's environment for wildlife and people.
- They collaborate strongly with Fish and Game and the Fish and Wildlife Service on many field projects.
- The department's Wildlife Action Plan provides guidance for New Hampshire Audubon regarding these field projects.
- Ms. Foss gave a historical perspective between her organization and Fish and Game, including federal funding which requires matching funds. Audubon had an agreement with the department by which Audubon provided the match for federal Section 6, Endangered Species Act funding. That enabled the department to qualify and receive federal funds. In 1988 the Nongame Species Account was set up in Fish and Game, which led to the dissolution of the agreement with Audubon.
- New Hampshire Audubon has a long history of procuring private foundation grants for the study of nongame species.
- In any given year they have some field project contracts with Fish and Game. These are mainly on birds that are contained in the Wildlife Action Plan, primarily on the endangered species list. These projects are funded by state wildlife grants from the Fish and Wildlife Service. These grants require a 25% match, which is provided by New Hampshire Audubon. These matches provide direct dollars to Fish and Game.
- The department receives money from the Fish and Wildlife Service for approved projects. Some of the projects are contracted with Audubon. That money flows to Audubon through Fish and Game. Those funds require a match, which Audubon might fund via donations.
- New Hampshire Audubon supports the receipt of General Funds to Fish and Game.
- The constituencies of Fish and Game have changed greatly from years past.
- Wildlife watching activities have dramatically increased in this state and have added to its economy. Ms. Foss suggested the department issue permits for wildlife watching. That is a strong argument for General Fund support.
- How can we tap into tourist attraction dollars to support Fish and Game?
- Senator Watters inquired if there was an opportunity for Audubon to increase participation in the Hike Safe Cards or the Nongame Endangered Species Fund? Ms. Foss believes many Audubon members contribute to the fund. They also distribute public service announcements on an annual basis. A promotion of the Hike Safe Card is something New Hampshire Audubon could do.
- Because the department's Law Enforcement Division is involved in many ATV incidents, Ms. Foss was wondering if a "Ride Safe Card" could be implemented with an additional fee for individuals who rent ATVs. Representative Spillane cautioned the state would need to stay clear of a potential mandate of such an initiative. Executive Director Mason pointed out the department does charge a search and rescue fee on every ATV registration and on motorized boats. Much like the Hike Safe Card they do have the option for nonmotorized boats as well. However, they have not received any funds at this point from the one-year old program.

- Representative Popovici-Muller suggested perhaps the committee should be looking at how the Rooms and Meals dollars are distributed, due to wildlife viewing. Perhaps a percentage of those dollars could be allotted to Fish and Game.
- Ms. Foss mentioned the possible repeal of RSA 212-A:15. This legislation states with the exception of expenditures that are authorized from the Fish and Game Fund, no funds used to carry out the provisions of the Endangered Species Conservation Act shall be derived from license fees of hunters, fishermen, trappers or from taxes on the sale of equipment to hunters, fishermen or trappers unless the species for which the funds are expended have been legally hunted, fished or trapped within the previous 5-year period. Ms. Foss is suggesting there could be the potential to enable New Hampshire to use their full allocation re the funding match. New Hampshire Audubon and other partnership organizations would still continue to provide the match on federally funded projects.
- The Wildlife Action Plan is currently in the process of its 10-year update. It would be premature to envision what new funding challenges may come out of the update plan. Implementing that plan is a collaborative effort of many organizations with Fish and Game. Funding of same is a dynamic and complicated situation. Match resources for the department itself includes the Nongame Species Account and funds raised by partners that match federal funds for specific projects.
- If the Recovering America's Wildlife Act or some version of same is eventually enacted, it will completely revolutionize the ability of Fish and Game to fund Wildlife Action Plan projects.

Jasen Stock, Executive Director, New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association

- These owners own and manage approximately one million acres of timberland across the state. They manage for recreation and wildlife.
- Our state is the second-most forested state in the nation with 83% of the state's land mass covered by forestland.
- The percentage of privately owned forests in the state is 72%.
- Residents and visitors alike here in New Hampshire enjoy the freedom to merely walk into the woods without fear of any type of reprisal. Open access is very unique. This concept has fostered a relationship between Fish and Game, wildlife and private landowners.
- People come to New Hampshire to be outdoors. They are free to hike on private trails across private property uninhibited, unless the property is posted.
- Half of private property landowners don't post their property. This would be a huge indirect economic contribution to the state.
- Private landowners directly consult with Fish and Game.
- Wildlife density has an impact on regeneration.
- The association works closely with Colonel Jordan to ensure adequate enforcement of OHRVs.
- A direct financial contribution of the association are the timber sales conducted by Fish and Game, and usually performed by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Association members purchase that wood which provides

direct revenue to the department. The Division of Forest and Lands assists with sales and administration.

- If you manage for timber and forestry, you have to manage for wildlife.
- There is no silver bullet for funding for this agency. The General Fund is one opportunity to attempt to fill some of the gaps.
- Are there ways to try and create some incentives at the local level to help out with OHRV enforcement? Representative Popovici-Muller wondered if there might be some type of prohibition to utilizing local police departments in this area. Director Stock believes it's a function of priorities and cost benefit.
- Senator Watters asked how OHRV fines are set. Colonel Jordan stated fees are set via legislation. Senator Watters wondered if such fees need to be increased. Colonel Jordan pointed out the towns would need ATVs to access the enforcement area. He did agree the fine levels could be increased.
- Representative Spillane asked how much of New Hampshire's privately owned forests are represented by the Timberland Owners Association. What percentage is under Fish and Game control enabling timberland sales? Director Stock indicated the state is just over 5 million acres; the White Mountain National Forest is 800,000 acres. Public lands are just over one million acres. In response to the Representative's question, the association owners are approaching a bit over 500,000 acres. Director Stock deferred to Fish and Game regarding Representative Spillane's second question. Several association owners have land with Fish and Game easements on it.
- Director Stock pointed out Bear Brook State Park is managed by the Division of Forest and Lands. But should there be a potential project or timber sale Fish and Game is consulted and is part of that process.
- Representative Spillane shared with committee members the fact that Fish and Game doesn't have the White Mountain National Forest, which is federal land.

NEXT MEETING:	September 19, 2024	10:00 am	SH 103
REPORT DUE:	November 1, 2024		

APPROVED
Creating a Committee to Study Fish and Game Department
Funding and Partnerships
SB 542, Chapter Law 302:1, Laws of 2024

Regular Meeting Minutes

TO: Members of the Committee

FROM: Deb Martone
Senate Legislative Aide

MEETING DATE: September 19, 2024, 10:00 am, SH 103

Members of the Committee Present: Senator David Watters
Representative Will Darby
Representative James Spillane

Members of the Committee Absent: Representative Daniel Popovici-Muller

Meeting Discussion:

Senator Watters called the meeting to order and committee members made their introductions.

Minutes from the August 29, 2024 meeting were approved with one clarification.

Robert Johnson, Policy Director, New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation:

- Mitigating wildlife crop damage is a big concern of the Federation's membership. Landowner relations is another concern.
- The Federation partners with the Fish and Game Department on a regular basis.
- Hunting is an important management tool for the organization's membership.
- Wildlife crop damage is predominately caused by bear, deer and turkey. It is becoming more of a tougher challenge for farmers each year. The size of the herds/flocks and larger take limits both need to be look at. The loss of crops is continually increasing.
- Resources for cooperative fencing, which was a part of Fish and Game's wildlife damage control program, were provided in the past and should once again be provided. The advisory board that reviewed the requests for assistance with cooperative fencing was repealed in 2010.
- Fish and Game is reluctant to issue a depredation permit during an open season or close to an open season. This would allow a farmer to shoot certain birds and animals on their own property to enable protection of their crops. Executive

Director Scott Mason noted the balance his department attempts to keep regarding sportsmen's desires while ensuring the department does issue depredation permits. The department wants to encourage landowners to encourage hunting on their property.

- Representative Spillane suggested the department and the Federation have an internal discussion regarding doe-only depredation permits.
- A conservation officer needs to respond to a situation in a timely basis. Unfortunately, current staff is stretched beyond what it should be. For example, they are increasingly assisting suburban homeowners with wildlife issues, which was not one of the original responsibilities of a conservation officer.
- The Fish and Game Commission itself has been responsive to the Federation.
- Director Johnson noted the hay cropping and mowing practices included in the Wildlife Action Plan may need to be reviewed regarding the July 15th date.
- The Federation recognizes the existing funding system for Fish and Game is inadequate. It is urgent they receive stable funding.
- Representative Darby inquired about examples of partnerships between Fish and Game and the Federation. Director Johnson explained the department is responsive to Federation member issues. Fish and Game frequently speak at county Board of Director Federation meetings. The department is always very accommodating.
- Representative Spillane sought confirmation that the Federation is a "customer" of Fish and Game to a large extent. Besides providing habitat and open lands, he wondered if the Federation provides any resources, either direct or indirect, whether it be assistance, resources or funding to the department. Director Johnson stated it does not. They are on the receiving end of services, and not the contributing end.
- Representative Darby asked if the Federation was experiencing an increase in challenges from improper OHRV use or improper trespassing. Director Johnson explained that access is always an issue. Although they promote open land and many members take pride in same, there are many, many more people these days enjoying the outdoors. It seems as well that more and more land is being posted, adding more pressure to those keeping their land open. There is much pressure from all recreational users, but mostly from the motorized area.
- Senator Watters inquired about partnerships regarding land conservation and easements when working with Fish and Game. Director Johnson stated many members have land in easements now and have worked with Fish and Game on same. Senator Watters wondered if those easements contain conditions for hunting and fishing. Director Johnson believes there is a condition under the easements which would require the land be open.

Tyler Ray, Founder and Director, Granite Outdoor Alliance:

- The future of outdoor recreation in New Hampshire is presently facing a number of challenges, particularly in relationship to funding.
- We're seeing more visitors each year, combined with climate-related events, placing major pressure on our economic resources, such as search and rescue.
- Contributions from hunting and fishing licenses are also on the decline.
- Nationally, outdoor recreation is massive. It is a \$1.1 trillion industry, contributing 14 times more to the US GDP than what it receives from federal spending.

- It makes up 2.2 percent of the economy, but the US budget only allocates 16/100 of a percent to support it.
- New Hampshire is 9th in the nation in regard to GDP. It is a top ten state. The industry is driving \$3.3 billion to the economy, is 3.2 percent of the overall GDP, and provides 31,000 jobs. There is significant demand and opportunity for growth.
- There is a carry-over of antiquated policy and perspective within Fish and Game. It's time to start thinking about innovation and a business-minded approach to overcome these funding challenges.
- The Alliance can offer opportunities of ideas, partnerships, and strategic growth strategies to the department by a growth collaborative effort of the private sector.
- The study committee provides an awesome opportunity. Having these meetings is a huge step forward.
- The Alliance has a commitment to the outdoors and to the State of New Hampshire. The ultimate goal is to connect business to the outdoors.
- In the spirit of full disclosure, the Alliance contracts to support the Outdoor Industry Development Office of the Department of Business and Economic Development.
- The Alliance can offer a different perspective.
- Some of the challenges are visibility, awareness, capacity and effective collaboration. They require a significant effort to overcome.
- One strategic suggestion would be cross-agency collaboration and pooling resources and expertise. The upcoming state budget next year will be difficult with limited opportunities to raise fees and new funding.
- Both outdoor industry involvement and the Division of Travel and Tourism could help due to their extensive budgets, which could be leveraged from a market perspective.
- Increased visibility for the Hike Safe Card Program is another department opportunity. Benefits such as Spot Insurance, which covers accidental injuries, could be added to the program. The card could be redesigned and the message repositioned. It should be one of less enforcement and more embracing of people who are coming to the state to visit. Revenues could be boosted through pre-sales. This would appeal to a younger audience.
- Branding the safety, sustainability and stewardship of the state is a new collaborative initiative in its development stage. Creative marketing agencies are behind it. It's a strong move whereby Fish and Game could leverage other assets.
- The Fish and Game Department's back "is against the wall." Raising awareness will truly help.
- Strategic partnerships can develop ideas and programs while engaging with the private sector. There is an interest in the private sector to drive these partnerships.
- Infrastructure support can also be helpful.
- How can we drive more dollars to public agencies that are suffering? Perhaps a feasibility study?
- Multi-sport activities can also be financial and funding opportunities.
- Representative Spillane sought confirmation that the Alliance is in the process of developing a partnership with Fish and Game. Director Ray agreed, but it is not a direct partnership.
- Representative Darby inquired if small business members of the Alliance pay taxes that eventually make it into the General Fund. Director Ray stated they do.

Representative Darby wondered if Director Ray had any idea of the magnitude of those contributions. Director Ray was unsure.

- Senator Watters agreed the opportunities for collaboration are immense. The question is how that collaboration might produce revenue.
- How do we increase usage and purchase of Hike Safe cards? Marketing and branding can work and can certainly help out Fish and Game. Senator Watters wondered if it would be useful to have a Hike Safe Card advisory council. Director Ray agreed. It could boost sales significantly. That program is Fish and Game's signature program, and it is a differentiator. It has the most potential to grow. Currently, the program is not meeting the search and rescue need. Repositioning of the card is essential.
- New Hampshire has a branding problem. Who are we? The Old Man of the Mountain is a thing of the past. It's time to move on.
- Representative Spillane thinks the Alliance could help with the Hike Safe Card by encouraging its members to promote the program, i.e., leveraging a member establishment discount upon purchase of the Hike Safe Card. It would merely take a little bit of marketing. Director Ray agreed it was a great idea. Creating such a connection would help. He agreed to place the item on the Alliance's priority list.

Weldon Bosworth and Rick Van de Poll, New Hampshire Wildlife Coalition:

- The coalition is not an anti-hunting organization. It is a conservation organization with certain ideas how wildlife should be managed.
- Mr. Van de Poll was a member of the 2018 commission that studied the efficiency and effectiveness of Fish and Game Department operations. Mr. Van de Poll represented outdoor recreational interests on that commission. The commission's final report listed 33 recommendations, which fell into various buckets:

*OHRV violations draw on Fish and Game. Could efficiencies be gained by having a hearings officer? Separate the violations response from the department. Dedicate conservation officers to deal with violations.

*Seek reimbursement from the White Mountain National Forest (USDA) for the 47 percent of search and rescues that are taking place on public lands. The commission sent a letter to the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation requesting action on same. Protecting and rescuing people on federal land based on a state agency is an unfunded mandate.

*Release unfunded revenues through the AMC; 50 percent of the Rooms and Meals taxes from the AMC should go directly into a search and rescue fund. Non-motorized boats are not paying their fair share for access to public waters in the state falling under Fish and Game's purview.

*The Hike Safe Card Program was the only recommendation of the 2018 commission that was acted upon. A Boat Safe Card was proposed in 2019.

*Have the General Fund pay for retirement benefits for Fish and Game employees.

*One-eighth percent of the Rooms and Meals Tax (gross revenues) would provide the department with \$500,000 (based on 2017 numbers).

*Suggested new revenue sources might include a wildlife conservation stamp, a saltwater habitat fee, paying to fish at fish ponds near hatcheries, and wildlife viewing platforms to enable pay to view wildlife.

*Developing efficiencies to combat double payments being paid to DOIT. Could efforts be streamlined? Could administrative staffs be streamlined? Review facility maintenance budgets and hatcheries.

*Look at the public relations aspect of Fish and Game for promoting projects they already have, including increased promotion of the Hike Safe Card Program.

*Increase hunting and angler license sales;

*There is an overwhelming need for increased General Fund support. Look at what other states are providing.

- Fish and Game provides services to the state that we are not adequately funding.
- Many of the general public who support Fish and Game do not feel adequately represented.
- Fish and Game has a messaging issue. We need to change that message.
- Representative Spillane noted this current Fish and Game funding study *committee* is statutorily different from the 2018 *commission*, and its focus is a bit narrower. It is strictly looking for sustainable funding but does overlap in some areas.
- An organization entitled "Wildlife For All" has studied all states and developed a spreadsheet of how each state funds Fish and Game.
- Lack of revenues for Fish and Game Departments across the country is due to a decrease in licensing sales. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies published a Relevancy Roadmap Study six years ago on the relevancy of state Fish and Game wildlife agencies to constituents other than licensed consumers.
- New Hampshire is suffering from a decrease in license sales. Hunting licenses have decreased 30 percent over the last 3 decades. Fishing licenses, however, have increased somewhat.
- Private sector enterprises must manage their businesses to enable their income to meet their expenses. What would happen if we increased license fees by 5-20 percent? By taking such action we may find ourselves non-competitive with

surrounding states. But Mr. Bosworth is unaware of any sensitivity studies having taken place to bear out that premise.

- Perhaps we can't offer everything to everybody.
- The governance of Fish and Game should be broadened. What if it was run by an Executive Director that reported to an advisory committee that included business executives?
- We need better branding to get the word out.
- Senator Watters noted that license holders have truly been carrying the weight for activities that are not related to hunting and fishing. It's time for other ways to step up, i.e., the Hike Safe Card Program or the General Fund.

Adam Crepeau, Assistant Commissioner and Ted Diers, Assistant Director-Water Division, New Hampshire Department of Environment Services:

- Due to a New Hampshire Supreme Court case a few years back, Fish and Game's role in DES' permitting process has greatly increased. It requires Fish and Game to review the impact to threatened and endangered species on permit applications that include the Natural Heritage Database, which verifies recording of such species at some time on property. These are basically alteration of terrain permits on large developments and for wetlands permits. Currently, Fish and Game does not collect a fee for the permit work they do with 5 positions, one of which is funded by the Fish and Game Fund and the others are funded at this time through ARPA funds. Supposedly, in the Governor's version of the next budget some General Funds will be allotted to Fish and Game for this purpose. However, that may not be a long term solution to sustaining those 5 positions.
- It is critical the permit applicant receive the recommendations from Fish and Game to allow DES to proceed with the AOT and wetlands permit process. If funding disappears from Fish and Game it will result in a delay of DES permits, in turn affecting economic development in this state.
- DES has had the benefit of having fee-based programs when processing permits. They strongly encourage the committee to look at a fee-based approach for Fish and Game moving forward.
- There has been a leasing process for offshore wind ongoing in the Gulf of Maine, and an onshore planning process for a decade before that. It has required a considerable amount of coordination between DES, the Department of Energy, and Fish and Game. In particular, understanding the impacts on fisheries and fish habitats, and the potential impact on fishermen and those resources out in the ocean. That has been a major focus for both DES and Fish and Game over the last few years, and it is completely unfunded. DES doesn't have any funding to cover those activities, which literally consume thousands of hours per year.
- Director Diers listed the shellfish and aquaculture programs as other partnerships with Fish and Game that consume much time. There is much coordination between the two agencies, whether it be spill response, shellfish enforcement or grey mammal activities.
- The conservation officers on the Seacoast are both amazing and helpful to DES.
- DES interacts with Fish and Game on anything that requires a Federal Consistency Review, due to enforceable state policies. It is part of the Federal Coastal Zone Act. One example would be dredging large projects on the Seacoast.

- Representative Spillane inquired as to what DES charges for permitting involving Fish and Game. Is there a cost difference versus a regular permit? Commissioner Crepeau explained that for the AOT permits, it is on a square footage basis. There is a secondary charge for wetlands permits, but there is no additional fee when a Fish and Game review is required.
- The Natural Heritage Database check tool requires an additional \$25 fee, which goes to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.
- Representative Spillane would like to see how much federal funding can be captured for Fish and Game for activities on all of these projects.
- DES provides both a direct and indirect benefit to Fish and Game.
- Representative Spillane had questions on moorings but that responsibility falls under the New Hampshire Port Authority's Division of Ports and Harbors. DES does have a consultation role regarding moorings due to its shellfish program. But they have very little to do with moors.
- There is a 20-year waiting list for a mooring. Representative Spillane explained it might be a good revenue source for Fish and Game to own 10 moorings. They could auction half of them on a two-year lease. They could conduct something like the moose lottery for the other half. That would be revenue that would go back to the department. There is much demand for a mooring on the Seacoast.
- Representative Spillane wondered how revenue sharing might be possible on permit processes. Perhaps any AOT permit that required use of the Natural Heritage Database would be subject to an extra fee to enable Fish and Game to capture that revenue. For a long time Fish and Game has provided the service but received no revenue. That needs to be equalized. Commissioner Crepeau shared that all of DES' permit fees go into one account. It has been a number of years since those fees have been increased. They are set and revised by the Legislature. DES is looking at requesting an increase in permit fees in the next budget. They want to ensure their operations are funded as well as Fish and Game's. Representative Spillane remarked permit fees haven't been revised in ten years. We certainly need to look at that situation. Senator Watters added the Legislature has increased some site fees in the last couple of years.
- Representative Darby inquired as to the yearly number of consultations for threatened and endangered species applications. Both Executive Director Mason and Commissioner Crepeau agreed to supply that number to committee members.
- Commissioner Crepeau explained the steps of the permitting process. An application is submitted to DES. If there is a Natural Heritage Database query required, DES then consults with Fish and Game. Those are two separate processes. The collaboration results in receiving Fish and Game's recommendations. DES then incorporates those recommendations into their permit.
- Executive Director Mason explained the Supreme Court case radically changed the role Fish and Game plays in the permitting process. Prior to the court case, Fish and Game had two individuals undertaking the reviews of threatened and endangered species. The positions were paid for by donations to the non-game program. Fish and Game then used those funds as a match to leverage additional federal dollars. Two positions can no longer handle the number of reviews currently being done. One of the non-game fund positions was eliminated, leaving

the one position and now the four ARPA positions. Fish and Game is intending to request General Funds for those four positions in the next budget.

- Executive Director Mason does agree with a fee structure for developers to pay for these types of applications. Because Fish and Game is not receiving application fees, their cost and time for managing these applications increases. He stressed it is not only the funding; it's the clout of government to get applicants to submit all the required information. Executive Director Mason added he does have the authority to set fees. Fish and Game doesn't need legislative authority to set application fees. Senator Watters wondered if Executive Director Mason has the authority to set fees for a new category, i.e., developers. Executive Director Mason agreed to check on same.
- Senator Watters explained we are seeing the impacts of warming waters in the Great Bay, in the Gulf, inland areas, as well as cyanobacteria, and issues with Great Bay. What might be the potential impacts of these emerging threats? What would be the challenge to fund them? What might we do about this on the lakes and coastal region? Director Diers indicated the effects we are seeing currently are exacerbating problems we already have. We are already concerned about these issues and will continue to be much more concerned in the future. There will be increasing demands on agencies' time and energy. It will become complicated and expensive. Senator Watters wondered what the staffing demands for both DES and Fish and Game will likely be as these issues emerge. Can either agency envision any revenue sources that might be available to support the new work? Perhaps we'll have to have some kind of a fund set up or some type of funding mechanism. Director Diers stated there have been previous discussions on the need for infrastructure dollars as well. Clearly, FEMA will not be able to supply all the required resources. That is a major coastal issue.
- There truly are instances whereby DES cannot function without its sister agencies.

The main areas of discussion committee members will concentrate on for its final report are additional funding from the General Fund, the promotion/rebranding of the Hike Safe Card Program, leveraging matching dollars for additional federal funds, and White Mountain National Forest support regarding search and rescue.

NEXT MEETINGS:	September 26, 2024	10:00 am	SH 103
	October 8, 2024	9:00 am	LOB 103
	October 24, 2024	10:00 am	SH 103
REPORT DUE:	November 1, 2024		

APPROVED

**Creating a Committee to Study Fish and Game Department
Funding and Partnerships
SB 542, Chapter Law 302:1, Laws of 2024**

Regular Meeting Minutes

TO: Members of the Committee

FROM: Deb Martone
Senate Legislative Aide

MEETING DATE: September 26, 2024, 10:00 am, SH 103

Members of the Committee Present: Senator David Watters
Representative Will Darby
Representative James Spillane
Representative Daniel Popovici-Muller

Meeting Discussion:

Senator Watters called the meeting to order, and committee members made their introductions.

Minutes from the September 19, 2024 meeting were approved.

Myles Greenway, Acting Port Director, Division of Ports and Harbors, New Hampshire
Port Authority:

- The Division of Ports and Harbors works with the Fish and Game Department participating on the Dredge Management Taskforce. The primary focus is species protection. They don't contribute financially to Fish and Game. The Division of Ports and Harbors is the local sponsor for dredging. They are responsible for cost sharing.
- Representative Spillane explained the committee is trying to find out where we could obtain some of the financing Fish and Game doesn't receive for their use of personnel to identify whether there are endangered species in areas that need to be protected, or whether a dredging operation might impact negatively a population they are trying to bring back. He wondered if Ports and Harbors has anything to do with oyster farming that is occurring in some of the harbor areas. Fish and Game is heavily into that. The committee is wondering if there is any unleveraged federal money that is not being used to be able to reimburse Fish and Game. With the department being entirely self-funded, several of the tasks they are continually being asked to do have expanded beyond just game management. Department employees merely show up and volunteer their time.

Although the committee is looking at leveraging General Funds in the future, it needs to ensure we are capturing any funds that may be going uncaptured at this point.

- Representative Spillane reviewed the revenue suggestion of attempting to capture moorings. If we can make that situation work, it would be a decent moneymaker for Fish and Game. What if Fish and Game took control of five moorings? With the 20-year waiting list, people are dying to get these moorings. These would be existing moorings that are not being used regularly. Individuals would buy chances to obtain a 2-year lease. Revenue from those chances would go to fund Fish and Game, similar to what occurs currently with the moose lottery. An additional five moorings might be auctioned off for a two-year lease as well, at a considerable cost greater than purchasing chances. This would free up, in some ways, some of the 20-year waiting list while allowing ten moorings to be in a constant rotation for two years, instead of lying with a single family for decades. Representative Spillane inquired as to how that might work between Ports and Harbors and Fish and Game. Director Greenway stated there are currently 1,521 active mooring permits. He wondered if Representative Spillane was referring to Hampton and Rye predominantly. Representative Spillane was unsure. Director Greenway believes a statutory change would need to occur to enable Representative Spillane's mooring suggestion. Such action would impact Ports and Harbors as they are self-funded as well. Much of their revenue comes from salt vessels. Five or ten moorings might not have much of an impact. Representative Spillane suggested the moorings could be new if they were able to find new locations. They wouldn't have to come from existing moorings. Director Greenway reiterated his division is always willing to work with other agencies. He did suggest that there could be a bit of pushback from the general public on the mooring proposal, especially from those who have been on the list for a very long time. Representative Spillane envisioned if an individual has been on the list for a lengthy period of time and did take the opportunity to purchase chances, that would not preclude the individual from remaining on the 20-year list. If they were lucky enough to get the mooring for two years, they would then come off the list.
- Representative Spillane asked Director Greenway for the current cost of a mooring. Director Greenway indicated that it is determined on a per foot basis. He was unsure of the exact figure but did offer that Ports and Harbors collected \$452,000 in revenue from moorings last year. With salaries and expenses excluded, the net was \$128,000. Representative Spillane assured Director Greenway the committee is not looking to impact the revenue of Ports and Harbors. Director Greenway was also unsure of the number of applicants currently on the waiting list. He agreed to supply committee members with that information.
- Representative Darby inquired if there might be locations where moorings could be added. Director Greenway believes there are, but not in the Hampton or Rye areas. He is thinking perhaps in the Great Bay area. Senator Watters asked about the process and who would be responsible for determining new mooring sites. Director Greenway stated it would be the local Harbormasters, and Ports and Harbors' Deputy and Chief Harbormaster.

- Representative Darby inquired about cost sharing with the state. Director Greenway replied there is no cost sharing with the state. He is currently working with the Army Corps of Engineers on a project in Hampton which is being funded with ARPA money. They, in turn, send the ARPA dollars onto the First District in Massachusetts for the dredging. The Director wasn't able to speak to the funding of species management projects. Representative Spillane remarked if it is federal grant money, Fish and Game should be able to share those funds. He cited the Mount Washington National Forest where Fish and Game does all the search and rescues but receives no federal revenue from same. There is quite a discrepancy between what the federal government wants Fish and Game to do, and what they actually pay them to do.
- Director Greenway informed committee members they are continuing work on the Portsmouth Fish Pier with the bracing and the decking to be completed. Hoist maintenance and hoist work will be done. They are planning for the new Portsmouth fishery building which is going out for bid in the next couple of months. Its purpose is for consumer fish and bait storage. ARPA funding is covering that project. Senator Watters asked about the long-term work that might need to be done to the pier. Director Greenway indicated a few structural pieces of the pier are rotted and estimates for fixing that work are being received. The pier is sound currently. The Rye pier project is on hold.
- Representative Popovici-Muller requested Director Greenway provide the committee with the cost per foot for moorings not only for New Hampshire, but for neighboring states as well. Are we competitive? Are we charging a reasonable amount? Director Greenway agreed to supply information for local moorings in addition to the information requested by the committee. Representative Spillane agreed that information would be helpful in determining what Fish and Game could charge when auctioning a mooring for a two-year lease.
- Director Greenway asked committee members if the purpose would be a general mooring or a commercial mooring. Representative Spillane indicated they are leaning towards general moorings. The 20-year waiting list is comprised of both general and commercial moorings. A commercial mooring can be sold. Ports and Harbors has no transient moorings. Those types are difficult to manage.

Meredith Hatfield, Associate Director—Policy/Government Relations and Jim O'Brien, Deputy State Director, The Nature Conservancy:

- The Conservancy performs much more than land conservation. They do much work with Fish and Game. In addition, they work with DES and DOT on replacing culverts to make them more resilient for individuals, fish and wildlife.
- Some of the challenges the Conservancy is facing is caused by extreme weather.
- The Conservancy does hold easements on Fish and Game properties. There are 2 easements and 53 deed restrictions. Fish and Game holds 8 easements on Conservancy preserves.
- Conservancy staff serve on working groups with Fish and Game and other agencies on the implementation of the Wildlife Action Plan.
- The Conservancy works in support of wild oyster reefs and support local oyster farmers.

- A consortium of groups including the Conservancy work together in the Great Bay Watershed area to preserve land and protect water and habitats.
- The Conservancy recently made a direct donation to Fish and Game to support a land protection position that went unfilled for a number of years.
- Representative Popovici-Muller inquired as to the purpose of deed restrictions. Director O'Brien clarified the restrictions differ in scope and scale. With a conservation easement they are purchasing development rights where the land remains in private ownership of another entity. Deed restrictions are less than an ownership but there is a restriction that carries forward to ensure access on the property for hunting and fishing and other recreation pursuits. It could also be a deed restriction on development rights.. These are essentially covenants.
- The Conservancy agrees there are housing, energy and infrastructure challenges all over the state. Where does development make sense? We need to protect those areas where development does not make sense.
- Access to outdoor recreation is important. Most of the state is privately owned. This is the type of work the Conservancy does with Fish and Game to protect hiking, wildlife recreation, and hunting and fishing, especially in southern New Hampshire. Most of the land protection is in the White Mountains in higher elevations. Permanent land protection and resource protection is less in other parts of the state.
- Changing weather patterns are also a challenge. We are experiencing climate changes in terms of species and forestry impacts. The Conservancy does infrastructure work due to these changing weather patterns. The landscape must be protected at all times. As the weather gets warmer, plants and animals need to be able to move to habitats to enable survival.
- The missions of both the Conservancy and Fish and Game are tightly aligned. They are both attempting to protect access, habitat and wildlife resources. The Conservancy relies much on Fish and Game and vice versa. The Conservancy needs to see a robust Fish and Game as a partner and both their missions are entwined.
- The Conservancy is working at the national level to restore the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA). That would be a huge resource for Fish and Game but will require a 25 percent state match to unlock those funds.
- It's too early to know what the funding challenges will be specific to the updated Wildlife Action Plan here in New Hampshire.
- The Nature Conservancy supports utilizing General Funds for the Fish and Game Department. Mechanisms like the Hike Safe Card Program will not solve the funding gap. The public knows the value of Fish and Game. The department provides critical services to this state, including what makes our state special.. Using General Funds is appropriate.
- Senator Watters inquired as to what priorities will drive the argument for funding. Director O'Brien explained Fish and Game helps developers understand the impacts to wildlife resources. No other agency in the state performs that task. New Hampshire has unique water and wildlife resources that need protection.
- Fish and Game struggles with putting together resources for the state matches required by federal funding. Senator Watters is hoping RAWA will be willing to accept in-kind donations in lieu of a cash match. We need to ensure funding is available for the match. How can we maximize federal funding through our state

match for land conservation? Director O'Brien indicated if a state agency doesn't have resources to take advantage of federal funding they should be receiving a General Fund appropriation to help with the state match. The agency shouldn't be relying on other partners such as the Conservancy for assistance with the match.

- Director O'Brien reiterated Pittman-Robertson federal funding is restricted to protecting habitat for game species.
- The committee is attempting to set up the Hike Safe Card Program to aid in the budgeting of Fish and Game funds. Senator Watters asked if there was the potential for leveraging the Conservancy's membership through a discount. If the program can be expanded, perhaps the revenue raised can be used for other things besides search and rescue. Director O'Brien indicated the Conservancy has marketed the Hike Safe Card Program in the past through their social channels. He wonders if there is a way for the state to help Fish and Game budget those dollars by placing the Hike Safe revenues into the General Fund and giving the department a clear revenue line they could then place into its budget. Senator Watters stated they need to figure out how to make that work.
- Representative Spillane asked if the Conservancy pays property taxes on land they own outright in the state. Director O'Brien stated they do pay current use property taxes on all properties. Representative Spillane was wondering if the Conservancy is currently doing any work with the pine barrens we are protecting. Director O'Brien agreed they are working on the pine barrens in Ossipee. The work entails the pine species itself and butterflies and moths.
- Representative Spillane inquired if the Conservancy supplies a resource list for the public for hunting and fishing access areas such as deer and small game. At one time he found it very difficult to find a location to hunt ducks. A resource list would make it easier for hunters and fishermen to find a spot in which to safely hunt. Director O'Brien replied they don't provide such a list. They are not a classic hunting and fishing organization. It is not their primary mission. Representative Spillane is attempting to stem the decrease in active outdoorsmen.
- Representative Spillane asked if it would be beneficial to set up a nonlapsing fund specifically for the use of matching federal funds that became available to Fish and Game. Would that be beneficial in ensuring Fish and Game would have the dollars available for the match? If so, what would the dollar amount be for such a nonlapsing fund? Director Hatfield suggested \$2.5 million; such a mechanism could be helpful.
- Representative Popovici-Muller inquired if any of the Conservancy's deed restrictions would hinder hunting, fishing or trapping. Director O'Brien indicated some properties or portions of property restrict hunting, but those areas are few. For the most part their properties are open for hunting and fishing. Landowner permission for trapping is required.
- Representative Darby asked how the Conservancy is able to promote Fish and Game through their magazines and social media beyond hunting and fishing, which is what the general public thinks of. Director O'Brien explained they do much promotion through their joint land protection work. They talk about the mission of Fish and Game and the work they've done. They highlight their partnership with the department. When talking with their donors and constituents

Fish and Game is always part of the Conservancy's narrative. They view Fish and Game as a very valuable partner. Director Hatfield stated perhaps they could do more through their traditional and social media. They could work more closely with the outdoor industry as well.

- Representative Darby wondered if the 25 percent match could be funded through donations from organizations that want these federal funds to be matched. It would not be directly through tax revenue. Director O'Brien was in favor.
- Representative Darby agreed that reliable, consistent decision-making and partnership is what we need in a department such as Fish and Game. Currently the department doesn't have reliability; it is worried about consistency. Unless there is sustainable funding for the department parts of the agency could collapse. Developers and conservationists need a strong department. It won't be all General Funding. But if we can't come up with a funding solution there will be real consequences to the agency. We need a strong plan to determine the scale of the funding that is needed and how do we greater promote the agency. Representative Popovici-Muller added solutions to funding issues must also look at expenditures. The committee is dedicated to fixing the funding problem. Senator Watters agreed we've known about these funding issues for Fish and Game for a long time. The department is facing additional financial impacts due to climate change over the next couple of decades.

Representative Spillane asked Executive Director Scott Mason for the total revenue received from moose permits. Director Mason agreed to supply committee members with that number.

Agenda items for the committee's next meeting include department discussion of the 2024 Wildlife Habitat Fund Annual Report, as well as Fish and Game's FY 2026/2027 biennium budget request recently submitted to the Governor.

Senator Watters envisions a rather simple final report for the committee, summarizing all the stakeholder testimony and minutes of the meetings. The committee doesn't need to be particularly detailed about its recommendations, which expect to be in two or three main areas. One of the main areas is a General Fund appropriation, probably directed at personnel re the staffing raises, etc. With the department's assistance the committee will attach some numbers to that recommendation.

Representative Spillane is still waiting for a list of activities the department has since undertaken that were not part of their original responsibilities. One example would be local animal control. These would be activities they are continually being asked to perform which they did not previously perform. That information would help committee members with areas that are not receiving funding. The committee is also looking for the costs associated with these activities. This is one area where the department might use General Funds. Representative Spillane suggested the committee should attempt to prevent potential indiscriminate salaries, raises and such by ensuring the department keeps some "skin in the game". It could be a 60/40 split so that the department continues to cover a portion of their own payroll themselves. This would give the department an incentive to keep costs low. The plan would be to introduce companion bills in the upcoming legislative session in both the House and the Senate.

Regarding retirement, the department self-funds those benefits. Kathy LaBonte, Fish and Game's Business Administrator reminded committee members there are six state agencies that self-fund their own retirement programs.

There is a strong desire from members of the public for the committee to find a way to fill the department's funding gap. Funding gaps are addressed by looking at both revenues and expenditures. Representative Popovici-Muller would like to see the department self-fund itself as much as possible and focus on their core mission. Added responsibilities they have taken on should be funded perhaps by the General Fund. Representative Spillane suggests for the next budget cycle or two the department be allocated a specific amount from the General Fund for these gaps with the understanding that excess funds go back to the General Fund. We don't want to discourage self-funded "creativity". The plan would be to revisit the situation after that period of time.

What are we looking at as appropriate to include in how General Funds may be allocated? What are the new tasks that have been taken on?

The other area of consideration is the Hike Safe Card Program. Senator Watters believes there may be a relatively simple budget process that would say, here is the General Fund appropriation reflecting what has actually been spent on search and rescue over a specific period of time. Compare that with the Hike Safe Card revenue. There would be a nonlapsing fund set up that would handle the excess. Could this nonlapsing fund be the location for donations and other funding set aside for required state matching? Senator Watters is also thinking about developing bills for tax credits on the BPT and BET for donations of equipment and staff time. Private organizations and companies might actually provide personnel time for some things. For example, if they donate \$50,000 to Fish and Game, it gets extracted from their BPT. The committee could also look at the issue of Rooms and Meals taxes at the AMC. If we had this nonlapsing fund there might be different pieces of it that would designate what went where.

Representative Spillane sought to determine if Fish and Game was leaving any Pittman-Robertson federal funding on the table. Director Mason assured the committee they have not, with the caveat that it is getting harder to spend what is coming in. Funding the match is the problem Fish and Game faces, which dictates how they can spend the money.

The nonlapsing fund is one of the recommendations the committee will make in its final report. Not only does it allow for budgeting of search and rescue on Hike Safe dollars on a year-to-year basis, that money can be accounted for at some level and placed into the budget at the beginning of the budget cycle. It would also be the place from which the matching funds can come.

An additional issue to address would be cyanobacteria and other emerging challenges. Should we think of potential funding for these types of areas? It might not be part of our

final report. Representative Popovici-Muller wondered if such an issue is a concern for DES or for Fish and Game.

Bullet items for "Other" recommendations in the final report could include:

- moorings as an option for additional revenues;
- change of land use sharings whereby DES could increase permit fees and share the revenue with Fish and Game upon consultations and recommendations provided by Fish and Game in the DES permit process;
- DES funding for alteration of terrain permits;
- Advocate for nonmotorized water access on New Hampshire lakes, i.e., a voluntary card purchase;

Representative Spillane informed committee members he has filed legislation on the lifetime "baby" licenses.

The minutes from all of the study committee meetings will be attached as an addendum to the final report.

NEXT MEETING: October 24, 2024 10:00 am SH 103

REPORT DUE: November 1, 2024

APPROVED
Creating a Committee to Study Fish and Game Department
Funding and Partnerships
SB 542, Chapter Law 302:1, Laws of 2024

Regular Meeting Minutes

TO: Members of the Committee

FROM: Deb Martone
Senate Legislative Aide

MEETING DATE: October 15, 2024, 3:00 pm, SH 103

Members of the Committee Present: Senator David Watters
Representative James Spillane
Representative Daniel Popovici-Muller

Members of the Committee Absent: Representative Will Darby

Meeting Discussion:

Senator Watters called the meeting to order. The minutes from the September 26, 2024 meeting were approved.

Senator Watters expressed condolences on behalf of committee members to the employees of Fish and Game regarding their recent loss of a beloved conservation officer.

Scott Mason, Executive Director, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department:

- The Fish and Game Department budget has increased from \$29.7 million in 2017 to a proposed \$45.1 million in 2026. Support from the General Fund has risen from \$600,000 to \$1.5 million over the same time period.
- As the department examines its future needs, it is important to balance its statutory mandates with the appropriations it receives.
- This is not the first time that funding for Fish and Game has been studied by the Legislature.
- Director Mason cited two historical department instances, one in 1932 and one in 1957, whereby the Executive Director warned of insufficient funding to operate effectively. In both cases the solution was to cut services and increase license fees.
- Lack of funding has been a longstanding problem within Fish and Game. Trying to balance services with license fees has proved to be a long-lasting difficulty.

- The department has experienced increased demand for services from citizens that are not license holders. There is no easy way to collect revenue from these constituents.
- The Department's newly proposed budget will eliminate the Fish and Game Fund except for any returned surpluses by the end of the next biennium.
- If the Legislature does not act to increase the amount of General Funds appropriated to the department, the following biennial budget will require dramatic cuts in personnel and services, an increase in license fees, more General Funds, or a combination of all three.
- Colonel Kevin Jordan of the Law Enforcement Division previously testified that 30 percent of the time spent by law enforcement personnel is spent on activities not associated with serving their core, "paying customer" constituency, i.e., hunters, anglers, trappers, ATV and snowmobile users.
- Director Mason gave various examples of unpaid services provided by the Marine Division that are not sportsmen-like activities.
- Historically, user fees Fish and Game charges have been insufficient to completely fund appropriations, thus the need for other funding sources or a realignment of its mission. For example, the revenue collected from marine licenses falls an estimated \$500,000 short of meeting the statutory requirements of the division. This amount does not include the time the Law Enforcement Division spends to enforce marine statutes.
- In 2022, New Hampshire citizens and noncitizens spent \$5.2 billion on wildlife-associated recreation in this state. Tourism drives the New Hampshire economy. Fish and Game plays an integral role in providing the opportunities that many people come here to enjoy.
- Senator Watters inquired about a possible change in statute regarding the use of Pittman-Robertson funds to alleviate habitat state match issues. Director Mason explained the federal money to pay for wildlife habitat comes from Pittman-Robertson funding. Thanks to ammunition and gun sales that fund is continuously increasing. Unfortunately, the department no longer has the ability to fund the state match with cash. They have, however, been able to develop a work-around to this problem.
- Up to this point, Fish and Game has been able to spend the entire allotment of Pittman-Robertson funds it receives. Eventually, the department will have to turn back some of these funds.
- Senator Watters again inquired about a statutory change to RSA 212-A:15, re the use of Pittman-Robertson funds for nongame land acquisition. Director Mason explained that currently, state statute prohibits Fish and Game from using Pittman-Robertson funds for anything nongame. Fed money can be used on birds and mammals. It can't be used to purchase land or run programs for reptiles or snakes. Changing the statute would open up an avenue to enable the department to spend that money. Senator Watters requested proposed legislative language from Director Mason to this end.
- Senator Watters asked about creating a potential BPT tax credit for donations to Fish and Game, as well as a portion of the Rooms and Meals tax revenues from AMC. Director Mason believes the Rooms and Meals tax revenue is not the appropriate place to attempt to secure additional revenue for Fish and Game.

- Representative Popovici-Muller questioned the intent of the Pittman-Robertson funds. He believes the money is for the protection of species we hunt, track or fish. Director Mason stated those funds are for birds and mammals, not for reptiles or snakes. State law prohibits Pittman-Robertson funding for any nongame programs. Senator Watters indicated the committee needs to categorize the purposes of this money to make the argument for it.
- Representative Popovici-Muller detailed for Director Mason his concerns with the department's budget.
- Director Mason again reiterated the department's issue with the recent employee pay raise and the lack of increasing license sales to correspond with that expense. It will force the department to take a hard look at staffing in the upcoming budget. This will equate to services rendered.
- Fish and Game is headed to a financial shortfall. It needs either to increase funding, increase fees, or look hard at the services it offers and perhaps reduce some of those services.
- Representative Spillane inquired if a comparison existed of surrounding state license fees versus New Hampshire's. Director Mason stated he supplied committee members with both in-state and out-of-state license fee information from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts. The figures supplied were combined hunting/fishing license fees. Individual licenses were not included. Director Mason believes the fees charged between the surrounding states differs only by a few dollars.
- The committee's final report will reflect additional methods to increase revenue through "creative means".
- Representative Popovici-Muller addressed Search and Rescue revenue and expenses for April 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024. Director Mason indicated what was covered in those figures are variable expenses with Search and Rescue such as overtime and equipment. Not included in those figures are the conservation officers' hourly wage and benefits. Representative Popovici-Muller stressed those are the true costs that are incurred. Why are they not included? The referenced report does not reflect the need for additional General Funds. Fish and Game's Business Administrator, Kathy LaBonte, explained payroll for conservation officers is paid out of a different, separate account from the Search and Rescue account. The Search and Rescue account is only charged once the conservation officer is working overtime. Representative Popovici-Muller believes those distinctions should be captured in the report. There should be an expense breakdown for each incident. Senator Watters stated it does appear Hike Safe Card revenues are sufficient to forego a request for additional General Funds. Representative Popovici-Muller indicated Fish and Game may have to adjust the way in which it is reporting these expenses. "Everything should be paid from the right pocket." Director Mason agreed the reporting on Search and Rescue expenditures may not be as accurate as it should be. Representative Popovici-Muller is not seeing the total costs of Search and Rescue on that report.
- Representative Popovici-Muller asked for clarification on the use of ARPA funds for positions that are not temporary. Director Mason indicated the department was unsure at the time how long the particular program would continue. One of the four positions in question will end up being a temporary position. Director Mason clarified that all four positions remain classified as temporary at this time.

- Senator Watters addressed the alteration of terrain work performed by the department, and whether the Executive Director has the authority to be reimbursed for such services. It appears Director Mason does. Senator Watters wondered if it would be helpful to specify this point as a finding in the final report. Director Mason agreed.
- Senator Watters reiterated a portion of the funding issue is the employee pay raise. There is a certain dollar amount attached to this issue.
- Does Director Mason have the capability to bill municipalities for services provided? The request for service would be for wild animals and not domestic animals. The department has never billed a municipality on a wildlife issue and the Director is unsure whether such action would be appropriate. Representative Popovici-Muller believes at times such billing would be appropriate, i.e. rabies specimens for DHHS. Colonel Jordan does question why there has never been a DHHS payment for Fish and Game rabies specimens.
- Director Mason assured committee members that municipal and state law enforcement agencies often provide services to Fish and Game on a regular basis. Colonel Jordan shared state agencies have agreed to pool their resources with one another. It is truly a two-way street that is used extensively. The cooperation between municipalities, New Hampshire State Police and New Hampshire Fish and Game is incredible. It is admired across New England.
- Representative Spillane believes the final report should reflect that appropriate state agencies should be billed accordingly to recover expended costs of Fish and Game. Director Mason stressed the sharing of state agency resources predominantly affects Search and Rescue and does not reflect the department's core constituency. Representative Spillane commented the services at times do overlap, which Colonel Jordan estimated to be at 13-14 percent. The Colonel agreed to supply committee members with a 10-year breakdown of same. Senator Watters suggested the final report's findings should include that the Director of Fish and Game examine specific areas where it may be appropriate to charge other departments for services provided by Fish and Game. If there are areas the Director does not have the authority to do so, appropriate legislative action can be taken.
- Director Mason agreed the reporting on Search and Rescue expenditures may not be as accurate as it should be. Representative Popovici-Muller is not seeing the total costs of Search and Rescue on the report he referenced. Representative Spillane stated another finding in the final report could suggest the department review the accounting of overall Search and Rescue expenditures to determine whether a more complete method of reporting is required.
- Senator Watters spoke again about including Fish and Game retirement costs in the General Fund request. He noted some departments must self-fund their retirement costs. Administrator LaBonte stated the department's 2026 retirement costs are projected at \$900,000 plus, with 2027 retirement costs over \$1 million. Legislation will be proposed to include dollar amounts.
- Senator Watters reiterated there is going to be a funding shortfall at Fish and Game and the focus should be on personnel costs. Director Mason agreed retirement costs and the employee pay raise are the two biggest items affecting the shortfall. The other item is the alteration of terrain permitting positions

previously discussed. Funding for same will be a matter for upcoming budget discussions. Senator Watters believes this item involves the suggested billing process, which, commented Director Mason, should either be fee-based or General Funds. It cannot involve license fee revenues. Representative Spillane agrees there ought to be compensation for alteration of terrain permitting services.

- Director Mason indicated another line item to look at would be DOIT expenses. This cost has been escalating over the years. The expense is a transfer from Fish and Game to DOIT. Currently, the cost is over \$1 million and must strictly come from the Fish and Game unrestricted fund. The same goes for retirement costs.
- Representative Spillane believes equipment to aid the department in performing its core functions should also be provided by the state. Administrator LaBonte mentioned that due to lagging revenues, Fish and Game has been using OHRV funds and Safe Hike Card funds to purchase equipment. They have also been utilizing Federal funds to purchase vehicles throughout the department.
- In summary, Senator Watters listed retirement costs, the employee pay raise and DOIT as the three items for which the department should receive an additional General Fund appropriation. This would make a specific contribution to the sustainability of the department and are reasonable expenses to look at.
- Representative Popovici-Muller sought clarification and an example of an encumbrance. Generally speaking, in the case of Fish and Game, it would be a commitment to purchase equipment.
- Regarding moorings, Senator Watters suggested the final report direct the Division of Ports and Harbors to determine a possible expansion of moorings, to include a pilot program to lease and auction off moorings.
- Representative Spillane again reiterated he would like to see the department utilize a nonlapsing fund for state matches to federal funding. This nonlapsing fund would include cash donations made to the department. Director Mason stated they have several nonlapsing funds, however, some have specific restrictions on spending. Representative Spillane seeks to guarantee a nonlapsing fund with the specific purpose to fund state matches. It would also include Hike Safe monies to enable better budgeting. Administrator LaBonte clarified the department has 16 dedicated, nonlapsing funds that are all restricted for specific uses. These are in addition to the unrestricted Fish and Game fund.
- Does there need to be any statutory changes to allow the department to accomplish specific tasks? One example would be revising the Pittman-Robertson statute. Director Mason suggested legislative protection for their Boat Access Fund.
- An additional finding--direct Fish and Game to examine its nonlapsing funds to see if any changes in statute should be made to accommodate other practices or sources of revenue. This might include the easing of a fund restriction.

NEXT MEETING: October 24, 2024 10:00 am SH 103

REPORT DUE: November 1, 2024

APPROVED
Creating a Committee to Study Fish and Game Department
Funding and Partnerships
SB 542, Chapter Law 302:1, Laws of 2024

Regular Meeting Minutes

TO: Members of the Committee

FROM: Deb Martone
Senate Legislative Aide

MEETING DATE: October 24, 2024, 10:03 am, SH 103

Members of the Committee Present: Senator David Watters
Representative James Spillane
Representative Daniel Popovici-Muller
Representative Will Darby

Meeting Discussion:

Senator Watters called the meeting to order. The minutes from the October 15, 2024 meeting were approved.

Committee members spent the remainder of the meeting discussing language to be incorporated into the committee's final report.

NEXT MEETING: October 28, 2024 10:00 am **SH 100**

REPORT DUE: November 1, 2024

**Creating a Committee to Study Fish and Game Department
Funding and Partnerships
SB 542, Chapter Law 302:1, Laws of 2024**

Regular Meeting Minutes

TO: Members of the Committee

FROM: Deb Martone
Senate Legislative Aide

MEETING DATE: October 28, 2024, 11:00 am, SH 100

Members of the Committee Present: Senator David Watters
Representative James Spillane
Representative Daniel Popovici-Muller
Representative Will Darby

Meeting Discussion:

Senator Watters called the meeting to order. The minutes from the October 24, 2024 meeting were approved.

Committee members unanimously approved the committee’s final report to be distributed on November 1, 2024.

Senator Watters thanked the members of the committee for their time and dedication. He thanked Executive Director Scott Mason for his department’s cooperation with the committee's many requests for information and data.

Committee members congratulated Executive Director Mason on his tenure at Fish and Game.

REPORT DUE: November 1, 2024

Committee to Study Fish and Game
Department Funding and Partnerships
SB 542, Chapter 302:1, Laws of 2024
Final Report

APPENDIX B

NOTE: The pages in Appendix B are numbered separately from the sequential numbering of the final report itself.

Fish and Game Department Materials:
Budget and Funding Presentation
Fish and Game Fund Ending Balance 2008-2024
FY 2024 Annual Report – Wildlife Habitat Fund
Additional Funding Information





Scott R. Mason
Executive Director

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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Committee to Study Fish and Game Department Funding and Partnerships

Scott R. Mason, Executive Director
NH Fish & Game Department

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to address this committee today.

For the record, my name is Scott Mason, Executive Director, of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

I appreciate the willingness of the legislature to once again look at alternative funding for the Department. In the past, there have been commissions and committees that have looked at this issue, however, the results have been small fixes to individual problems and not an overall look at the services our Department provides to the citizens of New Hampshire and finding equitable and stable funding sources in order for us to do such. I would encourage the committee to look beyond such solutions and try to develop a system of funding that would continue to provide the citizens of New Hampshire the wildlife resources they have come to enjoy.

Additionally, I know I do not have to tell people in this room that this will be a tough budget cycle, as our target for general fund revenue is \$1,548,809 annually. It has the same 4% decrease that the other Departments have. Our target for Fish and Game fund spending is \$17,389,825, which is a flat figure over the past budget.

With the new 12% employee pay raise, we have come to a crossroads. The last budget cycle we had \$2 million added to the Fish and Game fund to offset the pay raise, however, this year our target numbers do not include that \$2 million. We are working with the Governor's Budget Director to see if we can add that to our

target figure, as it would be better to see this as an increase to our general fund monies.

Further, we also have the issue of our AOT (Alteration of Terrain) new permit review team. In 2019, the New Hampshire Supreme Court ruled against The Department of Environmental Services and The Fish & Game Department, and ordered both agencies to amend our rules to meet the standards set up in law. Our first attempt ended with a large backlog of applications. We worked with Senator Bradley to revise the law and rewrite our rules to allow a much faster application process that still protects New Hampshire's threatened and endangered species. The Department received an ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) grant to pay the salaries of these staff members. We are currently on schedule and are processing applications in under 30 days. This program is funded through our Nongame Program and the ARPA funding will run out at the end of this fiscal year. Under RSA 212-A: 15, we are not able to use Pitman Robertson money as revenue in the Nongame Program, however, under federal rules we can use Pitman Robertson funding to pay for non-game programming for either birds or mammals. We are currently seeing a large expansion in PR funds and each year get closer to not being able to spend all the money we receive. If this law was changed, and I, as the Executive Director, use the authority granted to me to set fees for these reviews, we could offer a very affordable program to New Hampshire Developers and still protect New Hampshire's threatened and endangered species. Alternatively, we need to receive about \$750,000 in general funds for the biennium to achieve the same goal.

The other long-term issue the Department is facing is the maintenance at the Fish Hatcheries, as it was neglected over the years due to funding limitations. As most of you are aware, the Department received \$58 million in GOFERR (Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery) money to build a new Fish Hatchery in New Hampton. The Department has received \$4.6 million dollars in capital budget monies to address imminent repairs; however, we need to increase the annual amount of money that the Department spends on maintenance. Further, the wells and pumps need to have regularly scheduled maintenance, instead of waiting for them to fail. I believe this line item needs to be increased by approximately \$250,000 per year.

As the Department's footprint on the seacoast continues to grow, in our FY '25 budget, we are spending an additional \$500,000 beyond the marine license sales of F&G funds to run the Marine Division, which includes the Great Bay

National Estuarine Research and Reserve and the Great Bay National Refuge. They are all great programs that we inherited from the former Office of State Planning. "The tail is getting too big for the dog", and we need to find alternative funding sources for these programs to ensure hunter and angler monies are utilized specifically for their programs. Unfortunately, this is a bigger issue than Search & Rescue was before the Hike safe card.

Finally, over the years, the legislature has chosen to offer either reduced rates or free licenses to many different groups. Each time a bill is passed, this concentrates the cost on fewer and fewer people. The legislature should revisit this and find general fund monies to pay for these free or reduced license fees.

We provide many services to the citizens of New Hampshire that the sportsmen and women do not utilize. Most states have moved on from relying solely on license fees and have underwritten their state Fish Game Departments with general funding. Our Department provides search and rescue services, not only for the lost hikers, but Alzheimer's victims, suicidal people, and children. Back in the 1990's there was concerns with a new hot rabies virus from New Jersey that might infect New Hampshire citizens. We started to collect suspect animals that have had human contact for HHS and still collect those samples today. This is not done to benefit wildlife; rather it is done to protect public health. Both our Conservation Officers and biologists spend countless hours helping citizens deal with nuisance wildlife. Once again, this is not an issue of wildlife, however, an issue that people are afraid or just inconvenienced by wildlife. Why does New Hampshire ask its sportsmen to pay for these services to citizens?

In closing, please allow me to share and explain some of the other documents that we have brought with us today.

Thank you.

The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the car was the smell of fresh air. It was a relief after being stuck in traffic for hours. I walked towards the entrance of the park, feeling a sense of anticipation. The children were already playing on the swings, their laughter echoing through the trees. I saw a few people sitting on the grass, some reading books and others just enjoying the sun. The atmosphere was peaceful and inviting.

As I walked further into the park, I noticed a large fountain in the center. Water was spraying upwards, creating a misty spray that caught the sunlight. A group of people were gathered around it, taking pictures and talking to each other. I saw a man in a suit talking to a woman in a dress. They seemed to be having a conversation. I walked past them and continued my walk.

I saw a few more people sitting on the grass. A man was reading a book, and a woman was talking to a child. I saw a dog running around, and a few people were playing with it. The children were running and laughing, their energy contagious. I saw a few people sitting on the grass, some reading books and others just enjoying the sun. The atmosphere was peaceful and inviting.

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FISH & GAME STAKEHOLDERS

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Constituents</u>	<u>NGO's</u>
STATE		
NH Department of Agriculture	NH Wildlife Federation	Society for the Protection of NH Forests
NH Department of Natural & Cultural Res.	Wildlife Heritage Foundation of NH	✓The Nature Conservancy
NH Department of Health & Human Services	Sporting Clubs	✓Audubon Society
NH Department of Safety	National Wild Turkey Federation	✓Appalachian Mountain Club
NH Department of Environmental Services	Ruffed Grouse Society	Conservation Fund
NH National Guard	Trout Unlimited	Regional Land Trusts
University System of New Hampshire	Back Country Hunters & Anglers	Local Conservation Commissions
FEDERAL	NH Guides Association	Loon Preservation Commission
NOAA (Sea Grant)	NH Timberland Association	Coastal Conservation Association
Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve	NH Trappers Association	Great Bay Stewards
Coast Guard	NH Farm Bureau	Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership
USDA-Forest Service	NH Bear Hunters Association	Atlantic States Marine Fisheries
APHIS Animal & Plant Health Inspection Services	NH Commercial Fishermen	New England Fisheries Mgmt. Council
Army Corps of Engineers	Aquaculture Community	
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Search & Rescue Organizations	
	Voices of Wildlife	
	NH Wildlife Coalition	
	Human Society	
	Citizens Against Recreational Trapping	

TITLE XVIII FISH AND GAME

CHAPTER 212-A ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION ACT

Section 212-A:15

212-A:15 Limitation on Certain Funds. – On the effective date of this chapter with the exception of the expenditures that are then authorized from the fish and game fund, no funds used to carry out the provisions of this chapter shall be derived from license fees of hunters, fishermen, trappers or from taxes on the sale of the equipment to hunters, fishermen or trappers unless the species for which the funds are expended have been legally hunted, fished or trapped within the previous 5-year period.

Source. 1979, 356:1, eff. Aug. 22, 1979.

THE NEW YORK
LIBRARY

ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION

THE NEW YORK LIBRARY

ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION

The New York Library, Astor Lenox Tilden Foundation, is a public library of the City of New York. It was founded in 1824 and is one of the oldest libraries in the United States. The library is located in the City of New York, New York, and is open to the public. It is a non-profit organization and is supported by the City of New York and private donations. The library has a large collection of books, periodicals, and other materials. It also has a large collection of manuscripts and rare books. The library is a valuable resource for the City of New York and the surrounding area.

THE NEW YORK LIBRARY

10

COMMITTEE TO STUDY FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS
SB 0542 (Year 2024)
Chaptered Law 302:1

FISCAL YEAR 2024 APPROVED BUDGET COMPARED TO ACTUAL EXPENDITURES
(At the Activity Level)

Chapter Law 106 L'2023*		Actual Expenditures	
Budget Activity 750020 (Office of the Director)			
Total Appropriation	2,348,727	3,101,337	
Source of Funding			
Federal	145,187	580,611	
Other	148,250	323,327	
Fish and Game Funds	<u>2,055,290</u>	<u>2,197,398</u>	
	<u>2,348,727</u>	<u>3,101,336</u>	
Budget Activity 750520 (Business Division)			
Total Appropriation	3,548,306	3,632,847	
Source of Funding			
Federal	93,548	97,941	
Other	343,620	294,203	
Fish and Game Funds	<u>3,111,138</u>	<u>3,240,703</u>	
	<u>3,548,306</u>	<u>3,632,847</u>	
Budget Activity 751020 (Public Affairs Division) <i>EDUCATION</i>			
Total Appropriation	1,946,892	1,947,995	
Source of Funding			
Federal	901,426	927,918	
Other	54,829	50,891	
Fish and Game Funds	<u>990,637</u>	<u>969,186</u>	
	<u>1,946,892</u>	<u>1,947,995</u>	
Budget Activity 751520 (Wildlife Division) <i>BIOLOGISTS</i> <i>GAME & NON-GAME WILDLIFE HABITAT</i>			
Total Appropriation	6,140,133	8,584,372	
Source of Funding			
Federal	3,035,577	5,543,105	
Other	2,528,560	2,687,309	
Fish and Game Funds	<u>575,996</u>	<u>353,958</u>	
	<u>6,140,133</u>	<u>8,584,372</u>	
Budget Activity 752020 (Inland Fisheries Division) <i>HATCHERIES</i>			
Total Appropriation	5,167,429	6,097,567	
Source of Funding			
Federal	1,557,393	3,037,009	
Other	287,120	191,993	
Fish and Game Funds	<u>3,322,916</u>	<u>2,868,565</u>	
	<u>5,167,429</u>	<u>6,097,567</u>	

Chapter Law 106 L'2023*		Actual Expenditures	
Budget Activity 752520 (Law Enforcement Division)			
Total Appropriation	15,551,244	14,090,845	
Source of Funding			
Federal	439,726	427,598	
Other	9,780,701	8,412,486	
General Funds	896,665	888,137	
Fish and Game Funds	<u>4,434,152</u>	<u>4,362,624</u>	
	<u>15,551,244</u>	<u>14,090,845</u>	
Budget Activity 753020 (Marine Fisheries Division) <i>SPORT & COMMERCIAL</i> <i>SEACOAST</i>			
Total Appropriation	2,337,209	2,467,256	
Source of Funding			
Federal	1,094,610	1,313,880	
Other	269,270	248,519	
Fish and Game Funds	<u>973,329</u>	<u>904,857</u>	
	<u>2,337,209</u>	<u>2,467,256</u>	
Budget Activity 753520 (Facilities and Land Division) <i>MAINTENANCE</i>			
Total Appropriation	1,884,374	1,485,176	
Source of Funding			
Federal	572,774	564,663	
Other	549,422	277,484	
Fish and Game Funds	<u>762,178</u>	<u>643,029</u>	
	<u>1,884,374</u>	<u>1,485,176</u>	
Miscellaneous (Unemployment & Worker's Comp)			
Total Appropriation	167,913	57,926	
Source of Funding			
Fish and Game Funds	<u>167,913</u>	<u>57,926</u>	
Department Totals			
Total Appropriation	39,092,227	41,465,321	
Source of Funding			
Federal	7,840,241	12,492,726	
Other	13,961,772	12,486,212	
General Funds	896,665	888,137	
Fish and Game Funds	<u>16,393,549</u>	<u>15,598,246</u>	
	<u>39,092,227</u>	<u>41,465,321</u>	

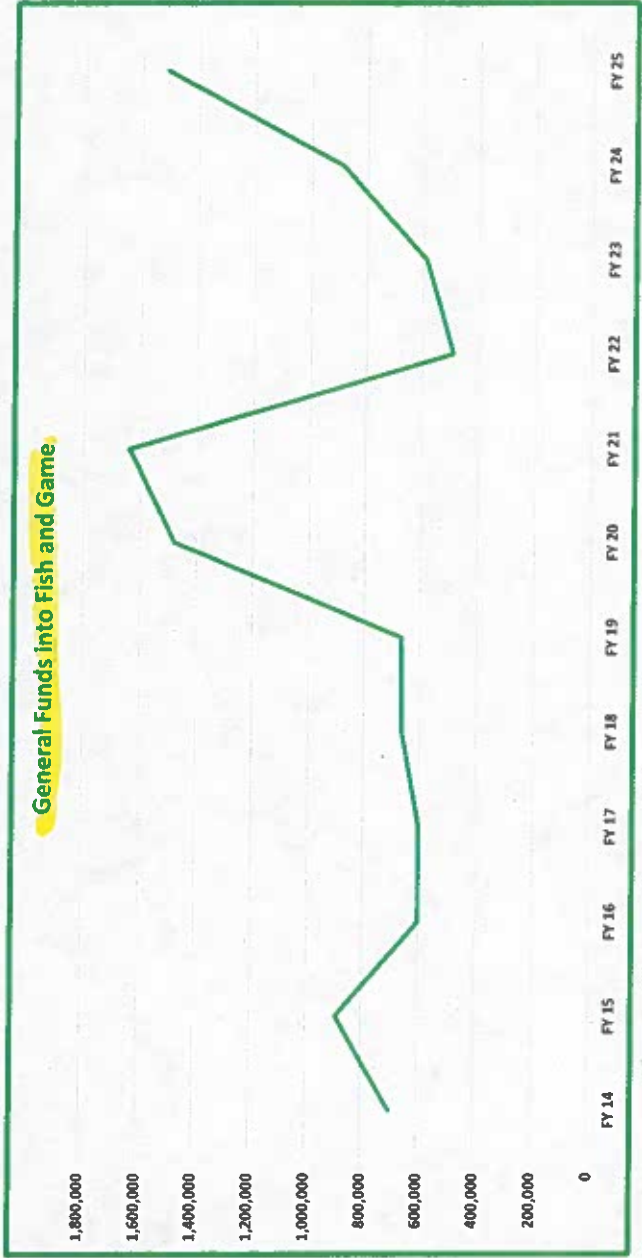
*PLEASE NOTE: The original approved budget did not include any ARPA one time funds which did have expenditure activity and it also did not include the 10% pay raise. Fiscal Committee 'Accept and Expend' items are also included in some expenditure amounts.



Date		Description		Amount	
1912	Jan 1	Balance		100.00	
1912	Jan 15	Received from John Doe		50.00	
1912	Feb 1	Received from Jane Smith		25.00	
1912	Mar 1	Received from Mr. Brown		75.00	
1912	Apr 1	Received from Mrs. Green		30.00	
1912	May 1	Received from Mr. White		40.00	
1912	Jun 1	Received from Mr. Black		60.00	
1912	Jul 1	Received from Mr. Grey		20.00	
1912	Aug 1	Received from Mr. Blue		15.00	
1912	Sep 1	Received from Mr. Yellow		35.00	
1912	Oct 1	Received from Mr. Purple		45.00	
1912	Nov 1	Received from Mr. Pink		55.00	
1912	Dec 1	Received from Mr. Brown		65.00	
1913	Jan 1	Received from Mr. Green		75.00	
1913	Feb 1	Received from Mr. White		85.00	
1913	Mar 1	Received from Mr. Black		95.00	
1913	Apr 1	Received from Mr. Grey		105.00	
1913	May 1	Received from Mr. Blue		115.00	
1913	Jun 1	Received from Mr. Yellow		125.00	
1913	Jul 1	Received from Mr. Purple		135.00	
1913	Aug 1	Received from Mr. Pink		145.00	
1913	Sep 1	Received from Mr. Brown		155.00	
1913	Oct 1	Received from Mr. Green		165.00	
1913	Nov 1	Received from Mr. White		175.00	
1913	Dec 1	Received from Mr. Black		185.00	
1914	Jan 1	Received from Mr. Grey		195.00	
1914	Feb 1	Received from Mr. Blue		205.00	
1914	Mar 1	Received from Mr. Yellow		215.00	
1914	Apr 1	Received from Mr. Purple		225.00	
1914	May 1	Received from Mr. Pink		235.00	
1914	Jun 1	Received from Mr. Brown		245.00	
1914	Jul 1	Received from Mr. Green		255.00	
1914	Aug 1	Received from Mr. White		265.00	
1914	Sep 1	Received from Mr. Black		275.00	
1914	Oct 1	Received from Mr. Grey		285.00	
1914	Nov 1	Received from Mr. Blue		295.00	
1914	Dec 1	Received from Mr. Yellow		305.00	
1915	Jan 1	Received from Mr. Purple		315.00	
1915	Feb 1	Received from Mr. Pink		325.00	
1915	Mar 1	Received from Mr. Brown		335.00	
1915	Apr 1	Received from Mr. Green		345.00	
1915	May 1	Received from Mr. White		355.00	
1915	Jun 1	Received from Mr. Black		365.00	
1915	Jul 1	Received from Mr. Grey		375.00	
1915	Aug 1	Received from Mr. Blue		385.00	
1915	Sep 1	Received from Mr. Yellow		395.00	
1915	Oct 1	Received from Mr. Purple		405.00	
1915	Nov 1	Received from Mr. Pink		415.00	
1915	Dec 1	Received from Mr. Brown		425.00	
1916	Jan 1	Received from Mr. Green		435.00	
1916	Feb 1	Received from Mr. White		445.00	
1916	Mar 1	Received from Mr. Black		455.00	
1916	Apr 1	Received from Mr. Grey		465.00	
1916	May 1	Received from Mr. Blue		475.00	
1916	Jun 1	Received from Mr. Yellow		485.00	
1916	Jul 1	Received from Mr. Purple		495.00	
1916	Aug 1	Received from Mr. Pink		505.00	
1916	Sep 1	Received from Mr. Brown		515.00	
1916	Oct 1	Received from Mr. Green		525.00	
1916	Nov 1	Received from Mr. White		535.00	
1916	Dec 1	Received from Mr. Black		545.00	
1917	Jan 1	Received from Mr. Grey		555.00	
1917	Feb 1	Received from Mr. Blue		565.00	
1917	Mar 1	Received from Mr. Yellow		575.00	
1917	Apr 1	Received from Mr. Purple		585.00	
1917	May 1	Received from Mr. Pink		595.00	
1917	Jun 1	Received from Mr. Brown		605.00	
1917	Jul 1	Received from Mr. Green		615.00	
1917	Aug 1	Received from Mr. White		625.00	
1917	Sep 1	Received from Mr. Black		635.00	
1917	Oct 1	Received from Mr. Grey		645.00	
1917	Nov 1	Received from Mr. Blue		655.00	
1917	Dec 1	Received from Mr. Yellow		665.00	
1918	Jan 1	Received from Mr. Purple		675.00	
1918	Feb 1	Received from Mr. Pink		685.00	
1918	Mar 1	Received from Mr. Brown		695.00	
1918	Apr 1	Received from Mr. Green		705.00	
1918	May 1	Received from Mr. White		715.00	
1918	Jun 1	Received from Mr. Black		725.00	
1918	Jul 1	Received from Mr. Grey		735.00	
1918	Aug 1	Received from Mr. Blue		745.00	
1918	Sep 1	Received from Mr. Yellow		755.00	
1918	Oct 1	Received from Mr. Purple		765.00	
1918	Nov 1	Received from Mr. Pink		775.00	
1918	Dec 1	Received from Mr. Brown		785.00	
1919	Jan 1	Received from Mr. Green		795.00	
1919	Feb 1	Received from Mr. White		805.00	
1919	Mar 1	Received from Mr. Black		815.00	
1919	Apr 1	Received from Mr. Grey		825.00	
1919	May 1	Received from Mr. Blue		835.00	
1919	Jun 1	Received from Mr. Yellow		845.00	
1919	Jul 1	Received from Mr. Purple		855.00	
1919	Aug 1	Received from Mr. Pink		865.00	
1919	Sep 1	Received from Mr. Brown		875.00	
1919	Oct 1	Received from Mr. Green		885.00	
1919	Nov 1	Received from Mr. White		895.00	
1919	Dec 1	Received from Mr. Black		905.00	
1920	Jan 1	Received from Mr. Grey		915.00	
1920	Feb 1	Received from Mr. Blue		925.00	
1920	Mar 1	Received from Mr. Yellow		935.00	
1920	Apr 1	Received from Mr. Purple		945.00	
1920	May 1	Received from Mr. Pink		955.00	
1920	Jun 1	Received from Mr. Brown		965.00	
1920	Jul 1	Received from Mr. Green		975.00	
1920	Aug 1	Received from Mr. White		985.00	
1920	Sep 1	Received from Mr. Black		995.00	
1920	Oct 1	Received from Mr. Grey		1000.00	

Infusion of GF into F&G*

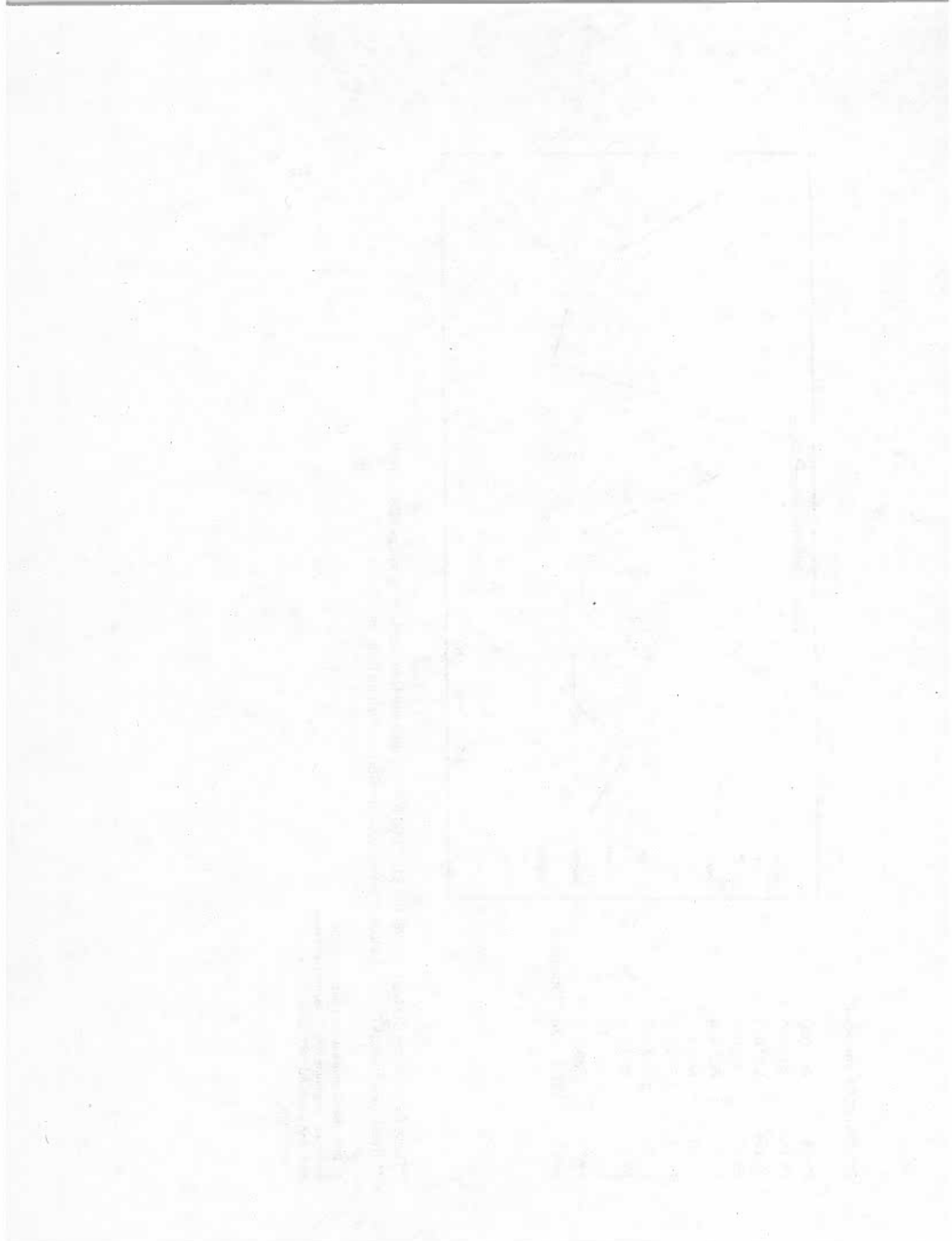
FY 14	699,000
FY 15	893,000
FY 16	600,000
FY 17	600,000
FY 18	662,944
FY 19	666,969
FY 20	1,476,019
FY 21	1,639,275
FY 22	490,227
FY 23	586,328
FY 24	888,137 **
FY 25	1,512,626 **Budgeted



*These GF infusions DO NOT include the \$100,000 transfer into the Non-Game Program per RSA 212-B:6

**These GF infusions DO Not include the \$100,000 for Derelict Fishing Gear per HB442

FY 14-17 the GF were a direct transfer into the F&G Fund. Beginning with FY 18, the funds were budgeted within AU 7887, Conservation Law Enforcement



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

FEDERAL FUNDING SUMMARY

Excluding unusual or emergency federal assistance, such as ARPA, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department receives 98% of its annual federal revenues through two federal agencies: the Department of the Interior’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Commerce’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

These federal assistance funds reimburse the federal share of Department costs for ongoing Department activities and functions that meet the eligibility requirements of various Federal programs via approved grant agreements.

The **Wildlife Restoration Program** (Pittman-Robertson Act) and **Sport Fish Restoration Program** (Dingell-Johnson Act) provide permanent, formula-based funding for eligible activities under the respective Federal laws. Annual apportionment of funds to the states and territories of the U.S. is dependent upon the applicable tax receipts into the respective programs. These two programs alone combine to provide 75% of all Department federal revenue in most years.

Under Federal law, state participation in these programs requires that license fees paid by hunters and anglers be used solely for the administration of the state fish and wildlife agency, and state’s must assent to this provision to receive the benefits of the Acts.

It is important to note that costs for law enforcement activities are **NOT** eligible for reimbursement under these two programs. Neither are the costs directly associated with the sale of hunting and fishing licenses.

All other federal assistance into the Department’s normal operating budget is dependent upon passage of annual budget appropriations by Congress. The significant sources include the **State Wildlife Grants** program to benefit Species of Greatest Conservation Need, **NOAA Fisheries** funding to support the Department’s work with management and enforcement for marine fisheries, and **NOAA National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) System** funding for operation of Great Bay NERR.

	Ave Fed Rev FY21-23	
TOTAL DOC / NOAA	\$1,370,152	15.82%
TOTAL OTHER (USDA / SEC 6 / etc.)	\$162,770	1.88%
TOTAL SWG	\$631,362	7.29%
TOTAL WR (P-R Act)	\$3,192,107	36.86%
TOTAL SFR (D-J Act)	\$3,303,275	38.15%
TOTAL FEDERAL (LESS ARPA)	\$8,659,666	100.00%
LESS FED INDIRECT	\$1,021,878	
TOTAL FED DIRECT	\$7,637,788	

On average, about 70% of all Department direct Federal revenue is associated with personnel costs. This represents federal reimbursement of over 30% of total Department personnel costs associated with direct programmatic functions. Because the great majority of the Department’s regular federal assistance requires project match, this means that it is actually closer to 40% of the Department’s total direct personnel costs that are associated with federal grants.

Additionally, personnel costs associated with agency indirect functions of the Business Division, Human Resources, and the Director’s Office are partly recovered by charging grants the negotiated and approved federal indirect cost rate to allocate those costs across all programs.

THE HISTORY OF THE

REPUBLIC OF THE UNITED STATES

OF AMERICA

FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENTS TO THE PRESENT TIME

BY

JOHN F. JOHNSON

OF THE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

WASHINGTON

1877

THE HISTORY OF THE

REPUBLIC OF THE UNITED STATES

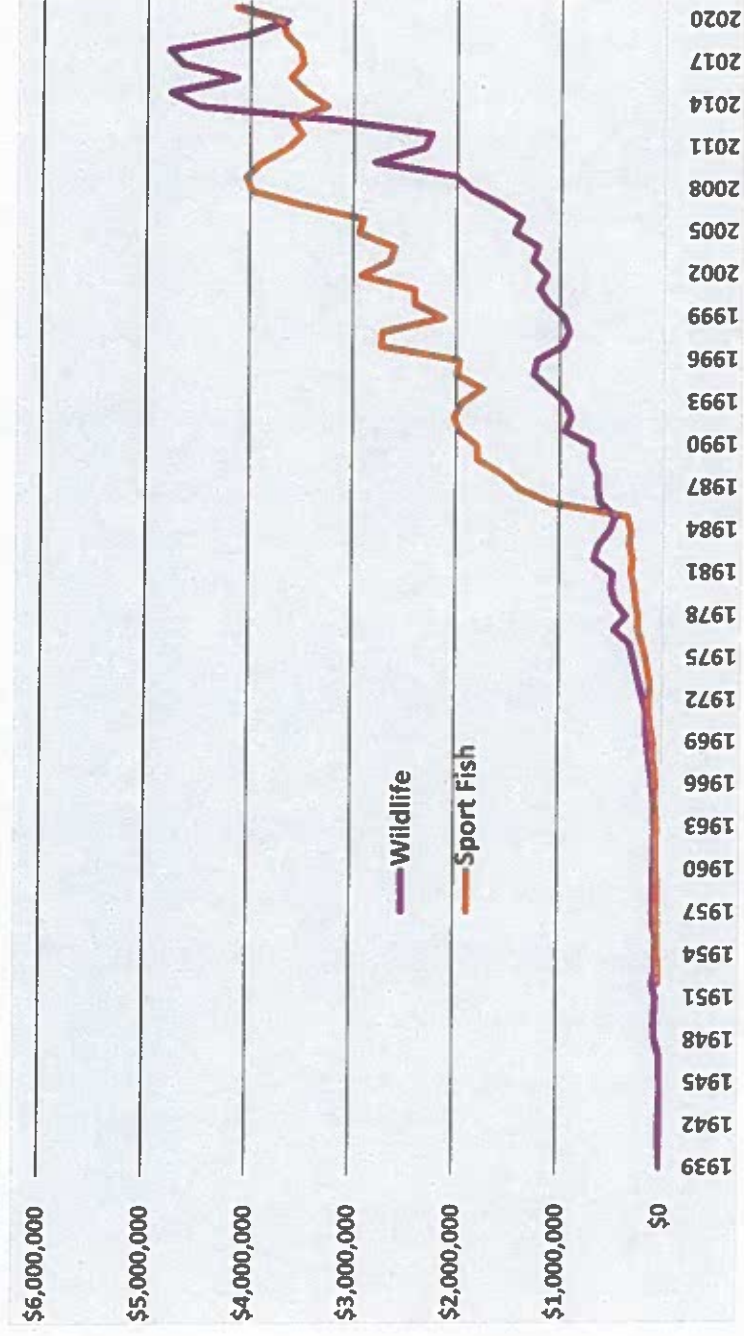
OF AMERICA

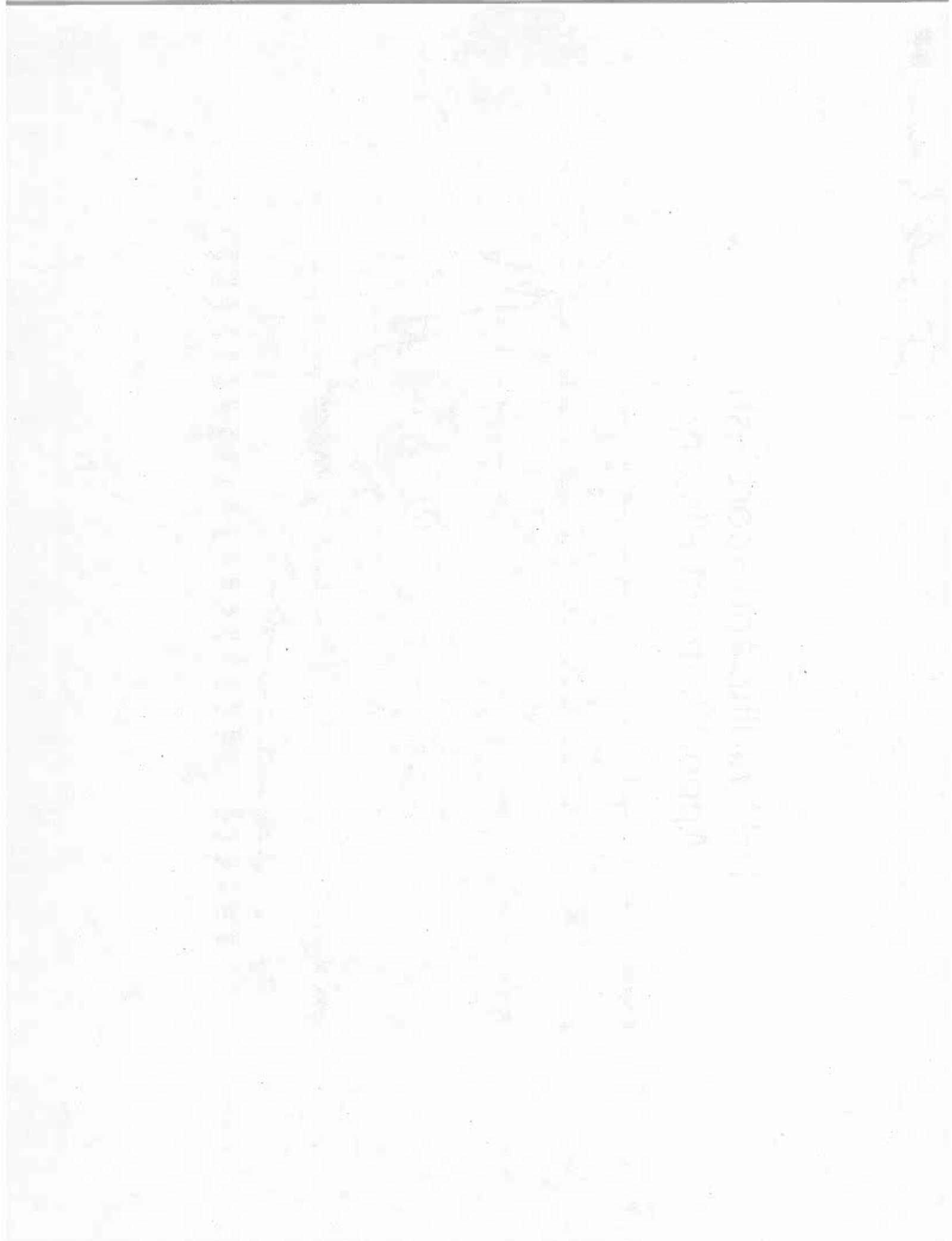
FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENTS TO THE PRESENT TIME

BY

Dingell/Johnson 28

NH Wildlife and Sport Fish Apportionment History





(NOT LICENSING)

INDIVIDUALS HOLDING PAID LICENSES TO HUNT AND FISH IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

(Includes resident and non-resident / License year = calendar year)

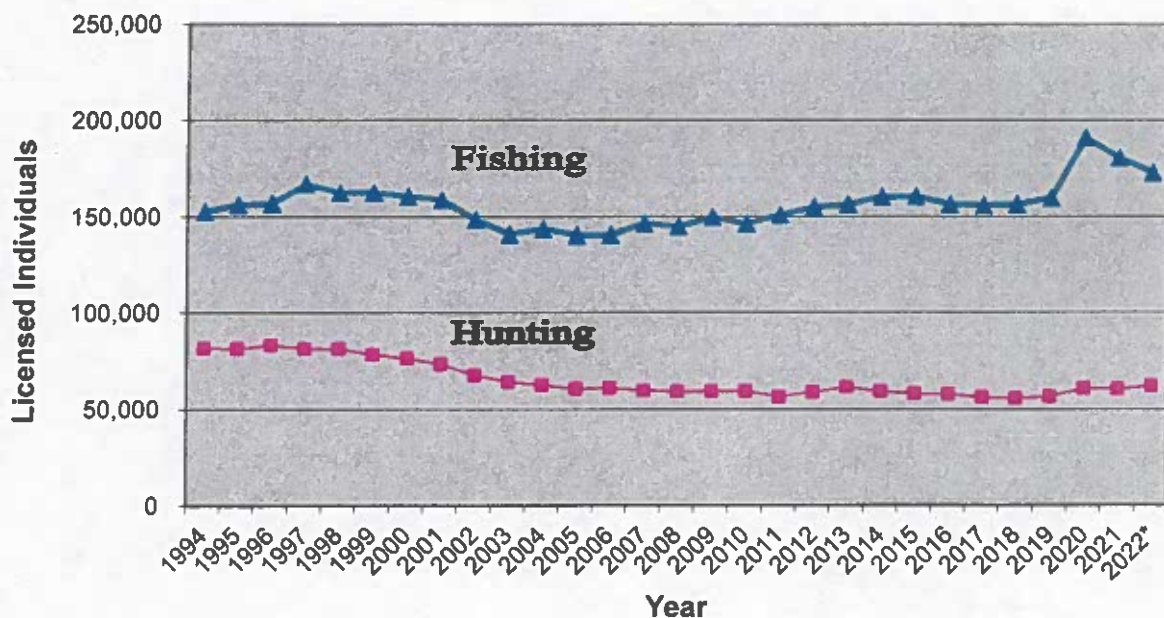
LICENSE YEAR	HUNTING	FISHING
1994	81,827	152,761
1995	81,458	156,352
1996	83,292	156,985
1997	81,477	166,985
1998	81,354	162,626
1999	78,328	162,702
2000	76,258	160,665
2001	73,281	158,920
2002	67,586	148,531
2003	63,975	141,061
2004	62,587	143,835
2005	60,737	140,595
2006	61,076	140,824
2007	59,768	146,509
2008	59,154	144,993
2009	59,420	149,970
2010	59,301	146,443
2011	56,411	151,141
2012	59,068	155,174
2013	61,556	156,678
2014	59,318	160,532
2015	58,099	160,579
2016	57,632	156,567
2017	56,001	156,000
2018	55,562	156,481
2019	56,295	159,699
2020	60,629	191,034
2021	60,323	180,404
2022*	62,128	172,751

These numbers are based upon information collected for the State's certification of licenses to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Conservation Investment, per requirements of 50 CFR Part 80 and participation in the Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Roberston Act) and Sport Fish Restoration (Dingell-Johnson Act) federal assistance programs.

This counts individuals holding paid licenses to hunt and fish rather than licenses sold. It does not count every person that may hunt or fish in the state because a paid license is not required for everyone, such as those under age 16. Additionally, one individual may hold both a hunting and fishing (or combination) license or multiple license types and permits.

*Pending final certification to USFWS late August 2024.

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WITH A PAID NH LICENSE





THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
JANUARY 1964

TO THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the appropriate authorities for their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours obedient servant,
[Signature]

Very truly yours,
[Signature]

Enclosed for the Board of Trustees are two copies of the report of the Committee on the Proposed Revision of the Constitution of the University of Chicago, dated January 10, 1964.

Very truly yours,
[Signature]

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Hunting Licenses*	155301	175753	159893	158403	144395	142176	142712	147454	152710	154555
Wildlife Habitat	55406	56605	58476	57879	53406	52895	53272	55251	56086	57031
Hunting License Revenue**	\$5,285,395.00	\$5,398,801.50	\$5,477,517.00	\$5,233,955.50	\$4,991,255.00	\$4,905,804.50	\$4,818,979.00	\$5,155,574.50	\$4,398,191.00	\$4,435,880.50
Fishing Licenses***	150248	160306	169736	181071	149518	146038	145881	146651	151324	150942
Fishing License Revenue	\$6,400,949.00	\$6,718,392.00	\$7,200,510.00	\$7,693,563.00	\$6,091,947.00	\$6,033,667.00	\$6,078,274.00	\$6,187,022.00	\$5,475,760.00	\$5,445,563.00
Marine Licenses****	36196	38824	39631	40669	34204	32864	32150	30717	30438	30781
Marine License Revenue	\$408,092.00	\$437,203.00	\$447,306.00	\$453,202.00	\$376,335.00	\$357,007.00	\$345,212.00	\$327,063.00	\$323,798.00	\$328,178.00

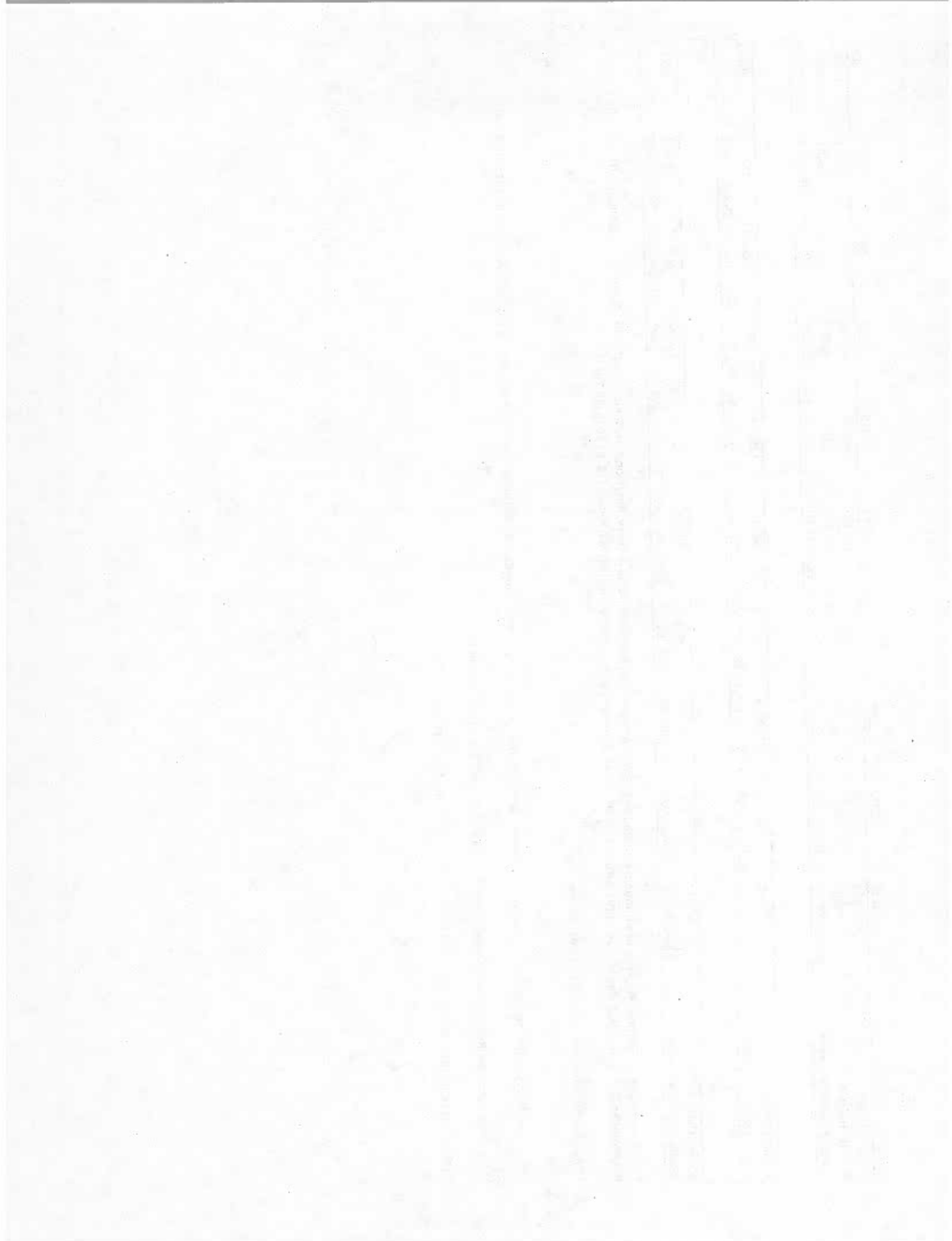
*Res/Non-Res/Senior Combo, Res/Non-Res Hunting, Res/Non-Res/Senior Archery, Res/Non-Res Special Archery, Res/Non-Res/Senior Muzzle, Res/Non-Res Pheasant, Res/Non-Res Bear, Res/Non-Res Turkey, Res/Non-Res Migratory Waterfowl, Non-Res Small Game and 3-Day Small Game (NO SENIOR RATES IN 2015 OR 2014)

**Includes Wildlife Habitat Fee of \$2.50 per license

***Includes Res/Non-Res/Senior Fishing, Res/Non-Res/Senior Combo, Res/Non-Res 1-Day Fishing, Non-Res3-Day Fishing, Non-Res 7-Day Fishing (NO SENIOR RATES IN 2015 OR 2014)

****Includes Res/Non-Res Recreational Saltwater, Res Clam Ages 6-67, Res Oyster all ages

CHANGES IN LICENSING/PERMITTING FEES DID OCCUR DURING THIS TIME PERIOD



03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
751510 FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
5068 NON GAME SUPPORT

029 Intra-Agency Transfers
TOTAL

100,000
100,000

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
NON GAME SUPPORT
GENERAL FUND
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS

100,000
100,000

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
750020 FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
7888 FISH & GAME COMMISSION

020 Current Expenses
070 In-State Travel Reimbursement
TOTAL

2,000
12,000
14,000

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
FISH & GAME COMMISSION
FISH AND GAME FUNDS
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS

14,000
14,000

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
750020 FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
1171 OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi
011 Personal Services-Unclassified
020 Current Expenses
041 Audit Fund Set Aside
060 Benefits
070 In-State Travel Reimbursement
080 Out-Of State Travel
TOTAL

490,876
120,563
5,000
148
336,126
250
3,000
955,963

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL FUNDS
FISH AND GAME FUNDS
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS

147,121
808,842
955,963

HB 0001	06/07/2023	VERSION NO: 03	FISCAL YEAR 2024	FISCAL YEAR 2025	PAGE 336
03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT					
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT					
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT					
750020 FISH AND GAME COMMISSION					
2113 GIFTS - DONATIONS ACCOUNT					
020 Current Expenses			10,000		
030 Equipment New/Replacement			5,000		
TOTAL			15,000		
ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR					
GIFTS - DONATIONS ACCOUNT					
003 Revolving Funds			15,000		
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS			15,000		
03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT					
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT					
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT					
750020 FISH AND GAME COMMISSION					
2128 LANDOWNER RELATIONS PROGRAM					
020 Current Expenses			2,500		
308 Landowner Relations Initiative			5,000		
TOTAL			7,500		
ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR					
LANDOWNER RELATIONS PROGRAM					
004 Intra-Agency Transfers			7,500		
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS			7,500		
LESS FUNDS FOR BUDGETED REVENUE TRANSFERS					
OTHER FUNDS			7,500		
NET TOTAL FUNDS			0		
03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT					
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT					
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT					
750020 FISH AND GAME COMMISSION					
2162 RESOURCE DATA - GIS MANAGEMENT					
027 Transfers To Oit			1,292,561		
TOTAL			1,292,561		
ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR					
RESOURCE DATA - GIS MANAGEMENT					
FISH AND GAME FUNDS			1,292,561		
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS			1,292,561		

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
750020 FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
2114 WILDLIFE LEGACY INITITIVE

029 Intra-Agency Transfers	10,000	10,000
TOTAL	10,000	10,000

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
WILDLIFE LEGACY INITITIVE

003 Revolving Funds	10,000	10,000
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	10,000	10,000

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
750020 FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
8049 WILDLIFE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

020 Current Expenses	75,000	75,000
023 Heat- Electricity - Water	750	750
030 Equipment New/Replacement	30,000	30,000
048 Contractual Maint.-Build-Grnds	10,000	10,000
TOTAL	115,750	115,750

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
WILDLIFE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

004 Intra-Agency Transfers	115,750	115,750
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	115,750	115,750

LESS FUNDS FOR BUDGETED REVENUE TRANSFERS
OTHER FUNDS

115,750

NET TOTAL FUNDS

0

EXPENDITURE TOTAL FOR FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

FEDERAL FUNDS	2,348,727	2,410,774
FISH AND GAME FUNDS	145,187	147,121
OTHER FUNDS	2,055,290	2,115,403
	148,250	148,250
TOTAL ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR FISH AND GAME COMMISSION	2,348,727	2,410,774

LESS FUNDS FOR BUDGETED REVENUE TRANSFERS

123,250

OTHER FUNDS

NET TOTAL FUNDS

2,287,524

HB 0001

06/07/2023 VERSION NO: 03

FISCAL YEAR 2024

FISCAL YEAR 2025 PAGE 338

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
750520 ADMINSTRATIVE SUPPORT
2108 PUBLICATION/SPECIALTY EXPENSE

020 Current Expenses	12 000	12,000
069 Promotional - Marketing Expenses	35 000	35,000
TOTAL	47 000	47,000

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
PUBLICATION/SPECIALTY EXPENSE

003 Revolving Funds	47 000	47,000
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	47 000	47,000

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
750520 ADMINSTRATIVE SUPPORT
2110 BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi	289,445	294,808
020 Current Expenses	22,000	22,000
022 Rents-Leases Other Than State	3,100	3,100
026 Organizational Dues	40,000	41,500
030 Equipment New/Replacement	4,000	1,000
039 Telecommunications	30,300	30,300
040 Indirect Costs	296,153	296,153
041 Audit Fund Set Aside	68	70
043 Debt Service	200,000	200,000
049 Transfer to Other State Agenci	8,970	9,497
060 Benefits	170,351	178,974
064 Ret-Pension Bene-Health Ins	797,600	886,300
070 In-State Travel Reimbursement	100	100
080 Out-Of State Travel	1,000	1,000
TOTAL	1,363,087	1,964,802

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

FEDERAL FUNDS	67,061	69,897
FISH AND GAME FUNDS	1,796,026	1,894,905
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	1,863,087	1,964,802

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
750520 ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
2111 OHRV REGISTRATION

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi		
020 Current Expenses	101,277	101,627
030 Equipment New/Replacement	80,000	80,000
039 Telecommunications	3,500	3,000
049 Transfer to Other State Agenci	1,400	1,400
060 Benefits	1,178	1,178
TOTAL	89,252	93,990
	276,607	281,195

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
OHRV REGISTRATION

004 Intra-Agency Transfers	276,607	281,195
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	276,607	281,195

LESS FUNDS FOR BUDGETED REVENUE TRANSFERS
OTHER FUNDS

	276,607	281,195
NET TOTAL FUNDS	0	0

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
750520 ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
2118 LICENSING

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi		
018 Overtime	203,508	204,602
020 Current Expenses	1,000	1,000
022 Rents-Leases Other Than State	23,000	23,000
030 Equipment New/Replacement	420	420
039 Telecommunications	1,500	1,000
049 Transfer to Other State Agenci	3,300	3,300
060 Benefits	1,178	1,178
103 Contracts for Op Services	117,744	123,088
TOTAL	5,000	5,000
	356,650	362,588

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
LICENSING

FISH AND GAME FUNDS	356,650	362,588
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	356,650	362,588

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
750520 ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
2119 FLEET MANAGEMENT

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi		
020 Current Expenses	99,135	101,282
030 Equipment New/Replacement	185,000	185,000
039 Telecommunications	250,000	200,000
041 Audit Fund Set Aside	300	300
060 Benefits	27	27
070 In-State Travel Reimbursement	65,621	69,146
211 Property and Casualty Insuranc	327,000	327,000
TOTAL	77,879	85,475
	1 004,962	968,230

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
FLEET MANAGEMENT

004 Intra-Agency Transfers		
FEDERAL FUNDS	20,013	20,013
FISH AND GAME FUNDS	26,487	26,487
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	958,462	921,730
	1,004,962	968,230

LESS FUNDS FOR BUDGETED REVENUE TRANSFERS
OTHER FUNDS

	20,013	20,013
NET TOTAL FUNDS	984,949	948,217

EXPENDITURE TOTAL FOR ADMINSTRATIVE SUPPORT

FEDERAL FUNDS	3,548 306	3,623,815
FISH AND GAME FUNDS	93 548	96,384
OTHER FUNDS	3,111 138	3,179,223
	343 620	348,208
TOTAL ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR ADMINSTRATIVE SUPPORT	3,548 306	3,623,815

LESS FUNDS FOR BUDGETED REVENUE TRANSFERS
OTHER FUNDS

	296,620	301,208
NET TOTAL FUNDS	3,251,686	3,322,607

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
751020 PUBLIC INFO & CONSERVATION EDU
2120 PUBLIC INFORMATION - OUTREACH

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi		
020 Current Expenses	485,459	492,498
	12,000	12,000

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
751020 PUBLIC INFO & CONSERVATION EDU
2120 PUBLIC INFORMATION - OUTREACH

(CONT.)
(CONT.)
(CONT.)
(CONT.)
(CONT.)

022 Rents-Leases Other Than State	1,200	1,200
030 Equipment New/Replacement	4,000	4,000
039 Telecommunications	3,600	3,600
041 Audit Fund Set Aside	77	79
060 Benefits	278,853	293,489
069 Promotional - Marketing Expens	170,000	140,000
070 In-State Travel Reimbursement	100	100
080 Out-Of State Travel	3,000	3,000
TOTAL	959,289	949,966

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
PUBLIC INFORMATION - OUTREACH

005 Private Local Funds	54,829	53,828
FEDERAL FUNDS	76,236	76,324
FISH AND GAME FUNDS	828,224	819,814
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	959,289	949,966

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
751020 PUBLIC INFO & CONSERVATION EDU
2122 AQUATIC RESOURCES EDUCATION

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi	151,989	156,364
020 Current Expenses	27,000	27,000
022 Rents-Leases Other Than State	750	750
030 Equipment New/Replacement	2,000	2,000
039 Telecommunications	1,500	1,500
041 Audit Fund Set Aside	260	260
050 Personal Service-Temp/Appointe	22,600	22,600
060 Benefits	99,673	105,136
070 In-State Travel Reimbursement	2,000	2,000
080 Out-Of State Travel	3,000	3,000
TOTAL	310,772	320,610

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
AQUATIC RESOURCES EDUCATION

FEDERAL FUNDS	276,734	276,722
FISH AND GAME FUNDS	34,038	43,888
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	310,772	320,610

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
751020 PUBLIC INFO & CONSERVATION EDU
2121 HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi	258,460	261,034
020 Current Expenses	87,000	87,000
022 Rents-Leases Other Than State	1,300	1,300
023 Heat- Electricity - Water	7,000	7,000
026 Organizational Dues	2,000	2,000
030 Equipment New/Replacement	4,000	4,000
039 Telecommunications	800	800
041 Audit Fund Set Aside	500	533
060 Benefits	165,094	173,221
070 In-State Travel Reimbursement	2,500	2,500
080 Out-Of State Travel	4,000	4,000
103 Contracts for Op Services	26,700	26,700
TOTAL	559,354	570,088

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM
FEDERAL FUNDS
FISH AND GAME FUNDS
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS

519 862	530,010
39 492	40,078
559 354	570,088

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
751020 PUBLIC INFO & CONSERVATION EDU
2124 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EDUCATN

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi	61,893	63,931
020 Current Expenses	3,000	3,000
041 Audit Fund Set Aside	29	30
060 Benefits	47,555	50,359
072 Grants-Federal	5,000	5,000
TOTAL	117,477	122,320

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EDUCATN
FEDERAL FUNDS
FISH AND GAME FUNDS
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS

28,594	29,577
88,983	92,743
117,477	122,320

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT (CONT.)
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT (CONT.)
751020 PUBLIC INFO & CONSERVATION EDU (CONT.)

EXPENDITURE TOTAL FOR PUBLIC INFO & CONSERVATION EDU

FEDERAL FUNDS	1,946,892	1,962,984
FISH AND GAME FUNDS	901,426	912,633
OTHER FUNDS	990,637	996,523
TOTAL ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR PUBLIC INFO & CONSERVATION EDU	54,829	53,828
	1,946,892	1,962,984

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
751520 WILDLIFE PROGRAM
2125 NON-GAME SPECIES MANAGEMENT

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi		
018 Overtime	491,564	500,201
019 Holiday Pay	10,000	10,000
020 Current Expenses	999	1,001
023 Heat- Electricity - Water	32,000	32,000
029 Intra-Agency Transfers	5,145	5,145
030 Equipment New/Replacement	80,000	80,000
039 Telecommunications	5,000	5,000
041 Audit Fund Set Aside	3,000	3,000
046 Consultants	615	615
049 Transfer to Other State Agenci	18,500	18,500
050 Personal Service-Temp/Appointe	60,000	60,000
059 Temp Full Time	124,085	124,084
060 Benefits	54,093	54,558
070 In-State Travel Reimbursement	358,238	375,206
080 Out-Of State Travel	2,000	2,000
304 Research And Management	10,000	10,000
305 Habitat Acquisition And Manage	330,000	330,000
TOTAL	10,000	10,000
	1,595,239	1,621,310

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
NON-GAME SPECIES MANAGEMENT

005 Private Local Funds		
008 Agency Income	390,037	416,195
009 Agency Income	493,086	493,040
FEDERAL FUNDS	99,545	99,547
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	612,571	612,528
	1,595,239	1,621,310

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
751520 WILDLIFE PROGRAM
2150 WILDLIFE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi		
020 Current Expenses	1,144,410	1,162,674
022 Rents-Leases Other Than State	13,000	13,000
030 Equipment New/Replacement	,524	1,524
039 Telecommunications	500	500
041 Audit Fund Set Aside	3,400	3,400
049 Transfer to Other State Agenci	,263	1,300
050 Personal Service-Temp/Appointe	176,282	180,703
060 Benefits	100	101
070 In-State Travel Reimbursement	703,766	739,356
080 Out-Of State Travel	1,000	1,000
304 Research And Management	2,000	2,000
TOTAL	145,000	145,000
	2,192,245	2,250,558

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
WILDLIFE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

004 Infra-Agency Transfers		
009 Agency Income	248,557	248,478
FEDERAL FUNDS	179,379	179,245
FISH AND GAME FUNDS	1,265,667	1,302,578
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	498,642	520,257
	2,192,245	2,250,558

LESS FUNDS FOR BUDGETED REVENUE TRANSFERS
OTHER FUNDS

	248,557	248,478
NET TOTAL FUNDS	1 943,688	2,002,080

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
751520 WILDLIFE PROGRAM
2153 PHEASANT MANAGEMENT

020 Current Expenses		
TOTAL	145 000	145,000
	145 000	145,000

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
PHEASANT MANAGEMENT

007 Agency Income		
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	145,000	145,000
	145,000	145,000

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
751520 WILDLIFE PROGRAM
2158 GAME MANAGEMENT

018 Overtime		30,000	30,000
019 Holiday Pay		5,999	5,999
020 Current Expenses		70,000	70,000
026 Organizational Dues		4,500	4,500
029 Intra-Agency Transfers		310,000	310,000
030 Equipment New/Replacement		60,000	60,000
033 Land Acquisitions and Easement		100	100
041 Audit Fund Set Aside		322	220
046 Consultants		50,000	25,000
049 Transfer to Other State Agenci		2,000	2,000
050 Personal Service-Temp/Appointe		31,001	31,001
060 Benefits		10,187	10,188
070 In-State Travel Reimbursement		1,000	1,000
080 Out-Of State Travel		12,000	12,000
304 Research And Management		400,000	315,000
TOTAL		987,109	877,008

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
GAME MANAGEMENT
008 Agency Income
009 Agency Income
FEDERAL FUNDS
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS

9,970	9,996
355,143	646,971
321,996	220,041
387,109	877,008

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
751520 WILDLIFE PROGRAM
2200 WILDLIFE DAMAGE ABATEMENT

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi		56,881	56,881
020 Current Expenses		5,000	5,000
041 Audit Fund Set Aside		31	32
060 Benefits		45,982	48,312
TOTAL		107,894	110,225

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
WILDLIFE DAMAGE ABATEMENT
FEDERAL FUNDS
FISH AND GAME FUNDS
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS

30,540	31,526
77,354	78,699
107,394	110,225

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
751520 WILDLIFE PROGRAM
2155 WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi	57,584	57,863
020 Current Expenses	1,300	1,300
022 Rents-Leases Other Than State	564	564
029 Intra-Agency Transfers	15,000	15,000
030 Equipment New/Replacement	75,000	50,000
033 Land Acquisitions and Easement	350,000	350,000
041 Audit Fund Set Aside	805	790
049 Transfer to Other State Agenci	36,750	38,590
050 Personal Service-Temp/Appointe	35,000	35,001
060 Benefits	25,643	26,434
070 In-State Travel Reimbursement	2,000	2,000
073 Grants-Non Federal	60,000	60,000
080 Out-Of State Travel	3,000	2,000
304 Research And Management	400,000	400,000
305 Habitat Acquisition And Manage	50,000	50,000
TOTAL	1,112,646	1,089,542

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION

007 Agency Income	39,946	39,987
008 Agency Income	264,782	257,693
009 Agency Income	3,115	3,051
FEDERAL FUNDS	804,803	788,811
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	1,112,646	1,089,542

EXPENDITURE TOTAL FOR WILDLIFE PROGRAM

FEDERAL FUNDS	6,140,133	6,093,643
FISH AND GAME FUNDS	3,035,577	2,955,484
OTHER FUNDS	575,996	598,956
TOTAL ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR WILDLIFE PROGRAM	2,528,560	2,539,203
	6,140,133	6,093,643

LESS FUNDS FOR BUDGETED REVENUE TRANSFERS

OTHER FUNDS	248,557	248,478
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NET TOTAL FUNDS

	5,891,576	5,845,165
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03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
752020 INLAND FISHERIES MGMT
2130 INLAND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi	620 022	630,402
020 Current Expenses	20 250	9,000
022 Rents-Leases Other Than State	528	528
030 Equipment New/Replacement	2 000	2,000
039 Telecommunications	2 500	2,500
041 Audit Fund Set Aside	322	328
050 Personal Service-Temp/Appointe	12 001	12,000
060 Benefits	366 306	384,573
070 In-State Travel Reimbursement	200	200
075 Grants Subsidies and Relief	7 500	7,500
080 Out-Of State Travel	3 000	3,000
TOTAL	1,034 629	1,052,031

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
INLAND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
FEDERAL FUNDS
FISH AND GAME FUNDS
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS

320 065	326,064
714 564	725,967
1,034 629	1,052,031

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
752020 INLAND FISHERIES MGMT
2132 HATCHERIES

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi	1,346 458	1,364,247
018 Overtime	196 475	198,382
019 Holiday Pay	12 361	12,482
020 Current Expenses	574 500	546,000
023 Heat- Electricity - Water	365,150	365,150
030 Equipment New/Replacement	27 500	27,500
041 Audit Fund Set Aside	1 110	1,119
047 Own Forces Maint.-Build.-Grnds	50 000	50,000
048 Contractual Maint.-Build-Grnds	100 000	100,000
050 Personal Service-Temp/Appointe	50 000	50,000
060 Benefits	956 355	1,003,380
070 In-State Travel Reimbursement	50	50
080 Out-Of State Travel	3 000	3,000
103 Contracts for Op Services	30 000	30,000
TOTAL	3,712 959	3,751,310

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT (CONT.)
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT (CONT.)
752020 INLAND FISHERIES MGMT (CONT.)
2132 HATCHERIES (CONT.)

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
HATCHERIES

FEDERAL FUNDS

FISH AND GAME FUNDS

TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS

1,104,607
2,608,352
3,712,959

1,113,389
2,637,921
3,751,310

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT

75 FISH AND GAME DEPT

75 FISH AND GAME DEPT

752020 INLAND FISHERIES MGMT

2127 FISHERIES HABITAT MANAGEMENT

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi

020 Current Expenses

029 Intra-Agency Transfers

030 Equipment New/Replacement

041 Audit Fund Set Aside

044 Debt Service Other Agencies

050 Personal Service-Temp/Appointe

060 Benefits

073 Grants-Non Federal

TOTAL

136,420
5,000
15,000
45,000
134
25,291
24,999
95,279
50,000
401,123

137,119
5,000
15,000
45,000
134
24,400
25,001
104,120
50,000
405,774

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR

FISHERIES HABITAT MANAGEMENT

003 Revolving Funds

FEDERAL FUNDS

TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS

268,402
132,721
401,123

270,231
135,543
405,774

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT

75 FISH AND GAME DEPT

75 FISH AND GAME DEPT

752020 INLAND FISHERIES MGMT

2166 BROOD ATLANTIC SALMN PROGRAM

050 Personal Service-Temp/Appointe

060 Benefits

TOTAL

6,000
459
6,459

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR

BROOD ATLANTIC SALMN PROGRAM

007 Agency Income

6,459

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT	(CONT.)
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT	(CONT.)
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT	(CONT.)
752020 INLAND FISHERIES MGMT	(CONT.)
2166 BROOD ATLANTIC SALMN PROGRAM	(CONT.)
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	
03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT	
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT	
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT	
752020 INLAND FISHERIES MGMT	
2131 SALE OF FISH FOOD	
020 Current Expenses	
029 Intra-Agency Transfers	
030 Equipment New/Replacement	
TOTAL	
ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR	
SALE OF FISH FOOD	
003 Revolving Funds	
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	
03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT	
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT	
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT	
752020 INLAND FISHERIES MGMT	
2136 FISH CONSERVATION	
020 Current Expenses	
050 Personal Service-Temp/Appointe	
060 Benefits	
TOTAL	
ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR	
FISH CONSERVATION	
005 Private Local Funds	
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	
EXPENDITURE TOTAL FOR INLAND FISHERIES MGMT	
FEDERAL FUNDS	
FISH AND GAME FUNDS	
OTHER FUNDS	
TOTAL ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR INLAND FISHERIES MGMT	

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
752520 LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM
1183 OHRV EDUCATION- TRNG - ENFORCE

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi		
018 Overtime	422,157	436,376
019 Holiday Pay	220,000	230,000
020 Current Expenses	105,000	115,000
022 Rents-Leases Other Than State	115,000	120,000
023 Heat- Electricity - Water	528	528
026 Organizational Dues	7,500	7,500
029 Intra-Agency Transfers	0	800
030 Equipment New/Replacement	900,000	900,000
039 Telecommunications	200,000	215,000
049 Transfer to Other State Agenci	1,000	1,000
050 Personal Service-Temp/Appointe	6,500,000	6,500,000
060 Benefits	65,875	70,000
070 In-State Travel Reimbursement	369,903	390,445
080 Out-Of State Travel	30,000	30,000
103 Contracts for Op Services	5,000	5,000
TOTAL	40 000	40,000
	8,981 963	9,061,649

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
OHRV EDUCATION- TRNG - ENFORCE

009 Agency Income	8,981,963	9,061,649
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	8,981,963	9,061,649

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
752520 LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM
1185 DEPUTY CO PROGRAM

050 Personal Service-Temp/Appointe		
060 Benefits	6,000	6,000
TOTAL	472	471
	6,472	6,471

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
DEPUTY CO PROGRAM

FISH AND GAME FUNDS		
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	6,472	6,471
	6,472	6,471

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
752520 LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM
1186 OPERATION GAME THIEF

020 Current Expenses	2,000	2,500
026 Organizational Dues	500	500
030 Equipment New/Replacement	1,500	1,500
039 Telecommunications	500	500
080 Out-Of State Travel	3,000	3,000
TOTAL	7,500	8,000

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
OPERATION GAME THIEF

003 Revolving Funds	7,500	8,000
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	7,500	8,000

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
752520 LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM
2112 SEARCH - RESCUE

018 Overtime	145,000	150,000
020 Current Expenses	90,000	95,000
030 Equipment New/Replacement	125,000	130,000
050 Personal Service-Temp/Appointe	4,500	4,500
060 Benefits	47,837	49,485
070 In-State Travel Reimbursement	3,000	3,000
080 Out-Of State Travel	3,000	3,000
TOTAL	418,337	434,985

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
SEARCH - RESCUE

006 Agency Income	179,969	179,997
008 Agency Income	15,016	15,006
009 Agency Income	223,352	239,982
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	418,337	434,985

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
752520 LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM
7887 CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi		
018 Overtime	3,362,498	3,425,980
019 Holiday Pay	178,000	187,001
020 Current Expenses	43,000	45,000
022 Rents-Leases Other Than State	123,000	125,000
023 Heat- Electricity - Water	528	528
026 Organizational Dues	7,500	7,500
030 Equipment New/Replacement	1,400	1,400
039 Telecommunications	180,000	195,000
041 Audit Fund Set Aside	3,500	3,500
049 Transfer to Other State Agenci	442	444
050 Personal Service-Temp/Appointe	6,960	6,960
060 Benefits	15,999	15,999
070 In-State Travel Reimbursement	2,212,145	2,311,468
080 Out-Of State Travel	4,000	4,000
TOTAL	4,000	4,000
	6,136,972	6,333,780

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

004 Intra-Agency Transfers		
FEDERAL FUNDS	372,901	373,023
GENERAL FUND	439,726	441,348
FISH AND GAME FUNDS	896,665	1,398,933
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	4,427,680	4,120,476
	6,136,972	6,333,780

LESS FUNDS FOR BUDGETED REVENUE TRANSFERS

OTHER FUNDS

373,023

NET TOTAL FUNDS

5,960,757

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT (CONT.)
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT (CONT.)
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT (CONT.)
752520 LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (CONT.)

EXPENDITURE TOTAL FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

FEDERAL FUNDS	15,551,244	15,844,885
GENERAL FUND	439,726	441,348
FISH AND GAME FUNDS	896,665	1,398,933
OTHER FUNDS	4,434,152	4,126,947
TOTAL ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM	9,780,701	9,877,657
	15,551,244	15,844,885

LESS FUNDS FOR BUDGETED REVENUE TRANSFERS

OTHER FUNDS	372,901	373,023
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NET TOTAL FUNDS

	15,178,343	15,471,862
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03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
753020 MARINE RESOURCES PROGRAM
2288 MARINE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi	674,825	685,240
020 Current Expenses	45,000	45,000
022 Rents-Leases Other Than State	1,500	1,500
026 Organizational Dues	31,000	31,000
030 Equipment New/Replacement	5,000	5,000
041 Audit Fund Set Aside	524	548
050 Personal Service-Temp/Appointe	96,319	96,319
060 Benefits	426,595	447,779
070 In-State Travel Reimbursement	500	500
072 Grants-Federal	30,000	30,000
080 Out-Of State Travel	1,500	1,500
103 Contracts for Op Services	8,500	8,500
TOTAL	1,321,263	1,352,886

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR MARINE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

006 Agency Income	136,223	136,237
009 Agency Income	47,698	47,755
FEDERAL FUNDS	521,078	545,075
FISH AND GAME FUNDS	616,264	623,819
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	1,321,263	1,352,886

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
753020 MARINE RESOURCES PROGRAM
2289 ESTUARINE RESERVE

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi		
020 Current Expenses	455,068	457,433
022 Rents-Leases Other Than State	35,000	35,000
023 Heat- Electricity - Water	1,000	1,000
030 Equipment New/Replacement	35,000	35,000
041 Audit Fund Set Aside	12,000	10,000
050 Personal Service-Temp/Appointe	540	540
060 Benefits	105,001	104,999
070 In-State Travel Reimbursement	274,103	286,191
080 Out-Of State Travel	200	200
103 Contracts for Op Services	15,000	12,000
TOTAL	967,912	977,363

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
ESTUARINE RESERVE
005 Private Local Funds
FEDERAL FUNDS
FISH AND GAME FUNDS
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS

70,949	73,694
539,898	539,616
357,065	364,053
967,912	977,363

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
753020 MARINE RESOURCES PROGRAM
7159 GBNERRPAC2020

020 Current Expenses	0	12,000
041 Audit Fund Set Aside	34	51
046 Consultants	40,000	43,500
047 Own Forces Maint.-Build.-Grnds	0	5,000
103 Contracts for Op Services	8,000	12,000
TOTAL	48,034	72,551

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
GBNERRPAC2020
005 Private Local Funds
FEDERAL FUNDS
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS

14,400	21,750
33,634	50,801
48,034	72,551

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT (CONT.)
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT (CONT.)
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT (CONT.)
753020 MARINE RESOURCES PROGRAM (CONT.)

EXPENDITURE TOTAL FOR MARINE RESOURCES PROGRAM

FEDERAL FUNDS	2,337,209	2,402,800
FISH AND GAME FUNDS	1,094,610	1,135,492
OTHER FUNDS	975,329	987,872
	269,270	279,436
TOTAL ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR MARINE RESOURCES PROGRAM	2,337,209	2,402,800

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
753520 FACILITIES & LAND
2117 STATEWIDE PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi		
018 Overtime	119,872	120,583
019 Holiday Pay	40,000	40,000
020 Current Expenses	1,000	999
022 Rents-Leases Other Than State	30,000	30,000
023 Heat- Electricity - Water	564	564
026 Organizational Dues	3,200	2,800
029 Intra-Agency Transfers	750	750
030 Equipment New/Replacement	52,000	52,000
039 Telecommunications	2,000	4,000
041 Audit Fund Set Aside	1,000	1,000
046 Consultants	500	500
047 Own Forces Maint.-Build.-Grnds	125,000	75,000
048 Contractual Maint.-Build-Grnds	8,000	8,000
050 Personal Service-Temp/Appointe	55,000	55,000
060 Benefits	77,000	77,001
070 In-State Travel Reimbursement	85,027	88,240
080 Out-Of State Travel	36,000	38,000
103 Contracts for Op Services	3,000	3,000
307 Statewide Public Boat Access	5,000	5,000
TOTAL	400,000	400,000
	1,048,913	1,002,437

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR STATEWIDE PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS

009 Agency Income	549,422	503,022
FEDERAL FUNDS	499,491	499,415
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	1,048,913	1,002,437

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
753520 FACILITIES & LAND
2160 FACILITY MAINTENANCE

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi	327,412	330,194
018 Overtime	3,200	3,200
020 Current Expenses	55,000	55,000
022 Rents-Leases Other Than State	3,000	3,000
023 Heat- Electricity - Water	76,300	76,300
028 Transfers to Plant & Property	69,247	72,002
030 Equipment New/Replacement	2,000	2,000
039 Telecommunications	2,200	2,200
041 Audit Fund Set Aside	74	74
047 Own Forces Maint.-Build.-Grnds	10,000	10,000
048 Contractual Maint.-Build-Grnds	60,000	60,000
060 Benefits	225,828	237,121
070 In-State Travel Reimbursement	1,200	1,200
TOTAL	835,461	852,291

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
FACILITY MAINTENANCE
FEDERAL FUNDS
FISH AND GAME FUNDS
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS

FEDERAL FUNDS	73,283	73,254
FISH AND GAME FUNDS	762,178	779,037
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	835,461	852,291

EXPENDITURE TOTAL FOR FACILITIES & LAND

EXPENDITURE TOTAL FOR FACILITIES & LAND	1,884,374	1,854,728
FEDERAL FUNDS	572,774	572,669
FISH AND GAME FUNDS	762,178	779,037
OTHER FUNDS	549,422	503,022
TOTAL ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR FACILITIES & LAND	1,884,374	1,854,728

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
754520 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
6169 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

061 Unemployment Compensation	50	50
TOTAL	50	50

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
FISH AND GAME FUNDS
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FISH AND GAME FUNDS	50	50
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	50	50

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
75 FISH AND GAME DEPT
754020 WORKERS COMPENSATION
8594 WORKERS COMPENSATION

062 Workers Compensation
TOTAL

167,863
167,863

174,926
174,926

ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
WORKERS COMPENSATION
FISH AND GAME FUNDS
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS

167,863
167,863

174,926
174,926

EXPENDITURE TOTAL FOR FISH AND GAME DEPT

39,192,227
7,840,241
996,665
16,393,549
13,967,772
39,192,227

39,696,440
7,836,127
1,498,933
16,322,825
14,038,555
39,696,440

TOTAL ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR FISH AND GAME DEPT

LESS FUNDS FOR BUDGETED REVENUE TRANSFERS
OTHER FUNDS

1,047,328

1,045,959

NET TOTAL FUNDS

38,150,899

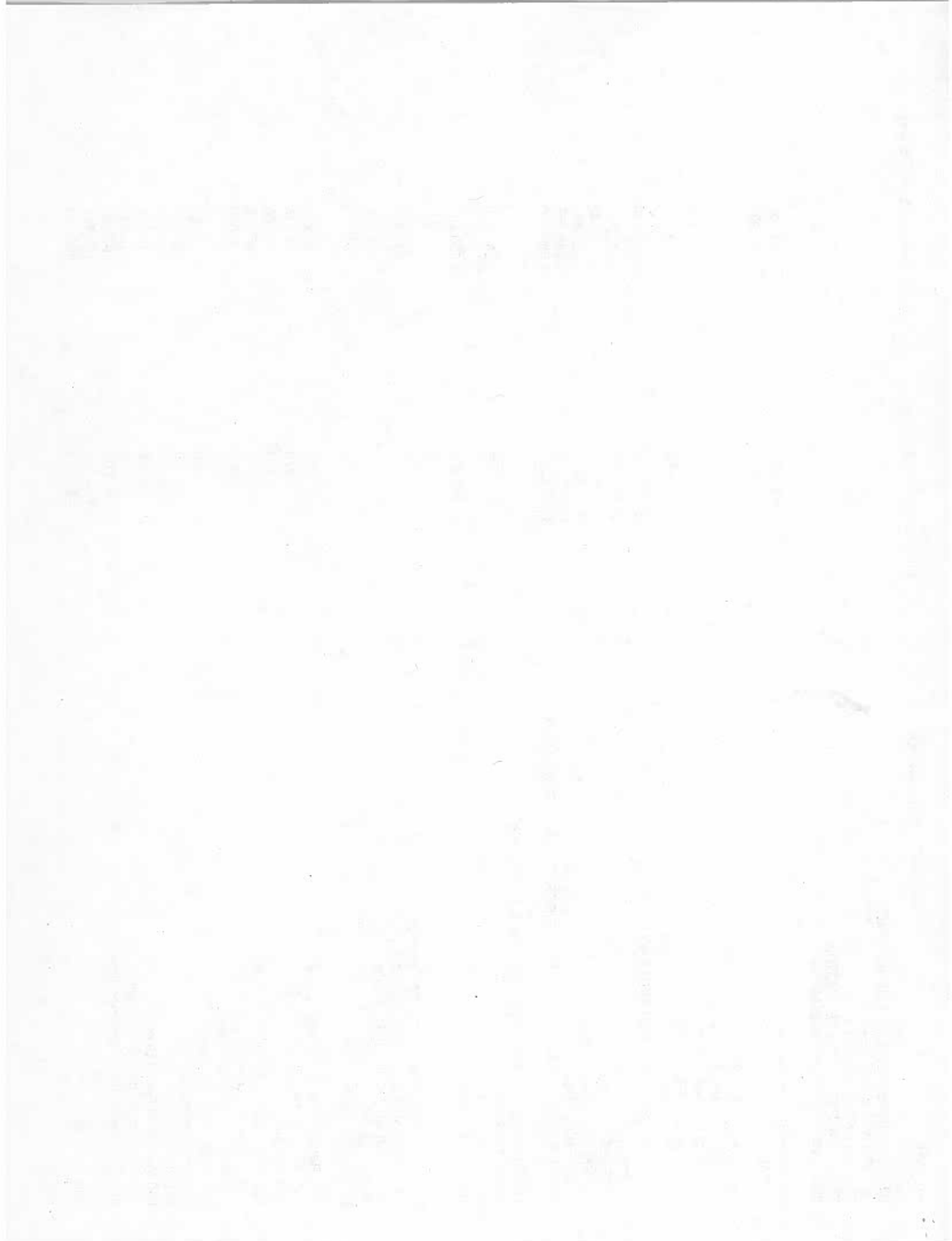
38,650,481

03 RESOURCE PROTECT & DEVELOPMT
35 NATURAL & CULTURAL RESRCS DEPT
35 NATURAL & CULTURAL RESRCS DEPT
350010 OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
3400 ADMINISTRATION

010 Personal Services-Perm. Classi
011 Personal Services-Unclassified
020 Current Expenses
022 Rents-Leases Other Than State
030 Equipment New/Replacement
037 Technology - Hardware
038 Technology - Software
039 Telecommunications
040 Indirect Costs
042 Additional Fringe Benefits
049 Transfer to Other State Agenci
050 Personal Service-Temp/Appointe
059 Temp Full Time
060 Benefits

1,137,029
118,378
20,750
346,643
5,000
4,500
7,500
23,500
982,560
16,768
14,489
55,000
112,788
820,903

1,151,714
118,378
20,150
356,892
5,000
0
1,500
23,500
982,560
17,009
15,341
57,000
117,291
858,165





FHWAR

National Survey of
Fishing,
Hunting,
& Wildlife-Associated
Recreation

2022 Final Report

New Hampshire



Report prepared for:

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

Report prepared by:

NORC at the University of Chicago

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.norc.org/research/projects/survey-of-fishing-hunting-and-wildlife-recreation.html>



Table of Contents

- 2022 FHWAR Project Overview..... 1
- 2022 FHWAR Question Updates 2
 - Wildlife Watching Question Changes..... 2
 - Question Order 2
 - Question Grouping..... 2
 - Removed Questions 2
- 2022 FHWAR Sampling and Weighting Strategy 4
 - Sampling Overview 4
 - Weighting Overview..... 4
- New Hampshire Highlights 6
 - Wildlife Related Recreation 6
 - 2022 Participation in New Hampshire by Residents and Nonresidents..... 6
 - 2022 Expenditures in New Hampshire by Residents and Nonresidents..... 7
 - Anglers..... 8
 - 2022 Participation in New Hampshire by Residents and Nonresidents..... 8
 - 2021 Participation in New Hampshire by 6- to 15-Year-Old Residents..... 12
 - 2022 Expenditures in New Hampshire by Residents and Nonresidents..... 12
 - Hunters 14
 - 2022 Participation in New Hampshire by Residents and Nonresidents..... 14
 - 2021 Participation in New Hampshire by 6- to 15-Year-Old Residents..... 17
 - 2022 Expenditures in New Hampshire by Residents and Nonresidents..... 17
 - Wildlife Watchers..... 19
 - 2022 Participation in New Hampshire by Residents and Nonresidents..... 19
 - 2022 Expenditures in New Hampshire by Residents and Nonresidents..... 22
 - Other Outdoor Recreation Activities..... 23
 - 2021 Participation in New Hampshire by Residents..... 23

2022 FHWAR

Project Overview

The National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation has been conducted since 1955 and is one of the oldest and most comprehensive continuing recreation surveys. The Survey collects information on the number of anglers, hunters, and wildlife watchers, how often they participate, and how much they spend on their activities in the United States.

In coordination with AFWA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NORC at the University of Chicago administered the 2022 National Survey. To establish a sustainable model moving forward, the survey underwent a major methodological redesign, including:

- A mixed-mode approach where interviews were conducted via web, telephone, and self-administered paper questionnaires sent through the mail instead of costly in-person interviewing.
- A blended sample design that primarily used AmeriSpeak®, NORC's probability-based panel, and an address-based sample (ABS) to provide full rural coverage, reduce avidity bias, and reduce nonresponse bias.
- The inclusion of sample from nonprobability online panels to provide a cost-effective approach for state-level data. NORC employed our TrueNorth capability to combine probability and nonprobability samples to create reliable estimates that meet the state-level precision requirements.
- A streamlined questionnaire to focus on key estimates and reduce respondent burden.

Data collection for the Survey was carried out in two phases by NORC at the University of Chicago. The first phase consisted of a screening interview, conducted January through April 2022. NORC interviewed a sample of 42,340 households nationwide. Through these interviews, one adult household member provided information for up to four adults age 16 and older and up to four children ages 6 to 15 in the household. This interview covered 2021 participation in fishing, hunting, wildlife watching and other outdoor recreation activities, as well as expectations for participation in 2022. In total, data was collected for about 97,415 household members.

The second phase of data collection covered 2022 activities in detail and consisted of three detailed interview waves. The first wave was conducted May through August 2022. The second wave was conducted September through December 2022. The final wave was conducted January through March 2023. Interviews were conducted with samples of likely anglers, hunters, and wildlife watchers who were identified in the initial screening phase. Interviews were conducted via the web, telephone, and self-administered questionnaire. Respondents in the second survey phase were limited to those who were at least 16 years old. Each respondent provided information pertaining only to his or her activities and expenditures. Sample sizes were designed to provide statistically reliable results at the national level. During the second phase, 105,698 completed any survey, including 24,720 who completed the angler survey, 11,655 who completed the hunter survey, 58,704 who completed the wildlife watching survey, and 10,619 who did not participate in any of the three activities and were not asked detailed questions about them.

2022 FHWAR

Question Updates

In consultation with AFWA, NORC redesigned the survey instruments for 2022 to address concerns about survey bias, reduce omitting events from survey reports, and reduce the length of the survey instruments with special attention to items AFWA/FWS specifically requested be addressed. This process included cognitive and debriefing interviews and a pilot test to improve data quality and reduce respondent burden.

Wildlife Watching Question Changes

As in previous rounds, the 2022 FHWAR Wildlife Watching questionnaire asked respondents about six separate activities constituting around-the-home wildlife watching: observing wildlife, photographing wildlife, feeding wildlife, maintaining natural areas, maintaining plantings, and visiting parks or natural areas. In the 2022 survey, these detailed activities were also asked about at the end of the Fishing and Hunting questionnaires to match around-the-home wildlife-watching questions on the Wildlife Watching questionnaire. In previous rounds, there was only a single yes/no question about wildlife watching on the Fishing and Hunting questionnaires. In addition, the question asking about photographing wildlife was edited to clarify that cell phone pictures of wildlife count as a form of wildlife photography. Lastly, around-the-home wildlife-watching questions were asked first then away-from-home wildlife watching and associated expenditures. Switching this order seemed to aid in better recall and resulted in less confusion.

Question Order

For the screener, NORC rearranged the order of the sections so that respondents were asked about wildlife watching first, followed by fishing, then hunting. This was done so that respondents would be first presented with questions on activities the general population is more likely to have participated in. Since fewer people have hunted, these questions were moved later in the questionnaire.

Question Grouping

The Screener questionnaire was reworked to simply ask if a household member had engaged in an activity. Respondents were asked to report on activities for their entire household, selecting one person at a time then cycling through all types of activities.

Removed Questions

AFWA/ FWS requested that certain questions be reviewed before the 2022 administration to reduce the survey length and respondent burden. Questions about 2022 hunting, fishing, and wildlife-watching activity were removed from the screener questionnaire knowing that few would have

participated in these activities already at that early point of 2022. Instead, the first four months of the year were asked about in the Wave 1 questionnaire. Fishing questions were reworked to not explicitly ask about fishing in the Great Lakes. Instead, fishing in the Great Lakes was included through freshwater fishing questions. Instead of asking for the number of days one fished for shellfish and finfish, the 2022 questionnaires asked what kind of saltwater fishing was done in each coastal state in which one reported fishing, including fishing for finfish, shellfish, or both, to shorten the survey. The Wave 3 fishing questionnaire did not ask specifically about bass boats when asking about large purchases made in 2022. Instead, they were included in the “motorboat” category. The hunting questionnaire removed species-specific questions and asked instead about four broad categories: big game, small game, migratory birds, and other animals.

2022 FHWAR

Sampling and Weighting Strategy

Sampling Overview

NORC used three sampling sources for the 2022 FHWAR project. An address-based sample (ABS) and AmeriSpeak®, NORC's probability-based panel, were used throughout the project while opt-in panels were incorporated in Wave 3.

Screeners sample included ABS and AmeriSpeak®. The ABS sample was developed from the United State Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File (DSF), which allowed for oversampling counties with high hunting participation identified by hunting license lists. The sample was stratified by state.

Individuals identified through the screener phase were contacted in the remaining three waves. Supplemental ABS and AmeriSpeak® samples were incorporated in later waves to improve the precision of the results. Nonprobability, online panels were used in Wave 3 as a cost-effective approach for state-level data collection for the 23 coastal states and states who purchased state-level data.

Weighting Overview

NORC weighted data after the screener and Wave 3. Weights accounted for probability of selection, nonresponse, and population characteristics across the various sample sources.

• ABS Weighting

- Base weights: Inverse of the probability of selection of the sampled household
- Nonresponse weights: Used county-level hunting license data and market data used to predict hunting and fishing participation
- Population weights: Based on Census Division using age, sex, education, race, ethnicity, and urbanicity

• AmeriSpeak Weighting

- Base weights: Used the AmeriSpeak® panel weight and the probability of selection of the sampled panelist
- Nonresponse weights: Used AmeriSpeak® panel profile data and market data
- Population weights: Based on Census Division using age, sex, education, race, ethnicity, and urbanicity

- **Opt-in Panel Weighting**

- **Base and Nonresponse weights:** Not calculated due to the nonprobability nature of the panels
- **Population weights:** Calculated within each opt-in state/rest of Census Division using age, sex, education, race, ethnicity, and urbanicity, and within each Census Division by sex using 2022 hunting, fishing and wildlife watching participation

The three combined data sources were raked within each opt-in state/rest of Census Division using age, sex, education, race, ethnicity, and urbanicity and within each opt-in state/rest of Census Division by age. Small area modeling was used to generate the 2022 hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching participation estimates and refine estimates of the number of anglers in coastal states and the ratio of freshwater and saltwater anglers in coastal states using 2011 FHWAR data.

New Hampshire Highlights

Wildlife Related Recreation

2022 Participation in New Hampshire by Residents and Nonresidents

In 2022, 830,000¹ New Hampshire residents age 16 and older participated in wildlife associated recreation activities in their state. Among these participants, 161,000 fished, 49,000 hunted, and 824,000 participated in wildlife watching activities, such as observing, feeding, and photographing wildlife. The sum of anglers, hunters, and wildlife watchers exceeds the total number of participants in wildlife-related recreation because many individuals engaged in more than one wildlife-related activity.

Overall, 14% of the New Hampshire population age 16 and older fished, 4% hunted, and 73% participated in wildlife watching in 2022.

830,000 New Hampshire residents age 16+ participated in wildlife associated recreation activities in 2022.

Percent New Hampshire residents age 16 and older



¹ Numbers are reported rounded to the hundreds' place (e.g., 4,190 becomes 4,200) place thousands' place (e.g., 516,136 becomes 516,000), hundred thousands' place (e.g., 1,553,013 becomes 1.6 million), ten millions' place (e.g., 99,352,033 becomes 99 million) or hundred millions' place (e.g., 12,533,867,266 becomes 12.5 billion).

When considering activities by both residents and nonresidents age 16 and older, there were 334,000 anglers, 85,000 hunters, and 2.0 million wildlife watchers.

Of the total anglers, 161,000 were New Hampshire state residents while 174,000 were nonresidents. Of the total hunters, 49,000 were New Hampshire residents while 36,000 were nonresidents.

Among the total wildlife watchers, 818,000 New Hampshire state residents observed wildlife around the home and 321,000 New Hampshire state residents observed wildlife away from home. Many individuals did both. Another 497,000 were nonresidents who were observing wildlife while on trips away from home.

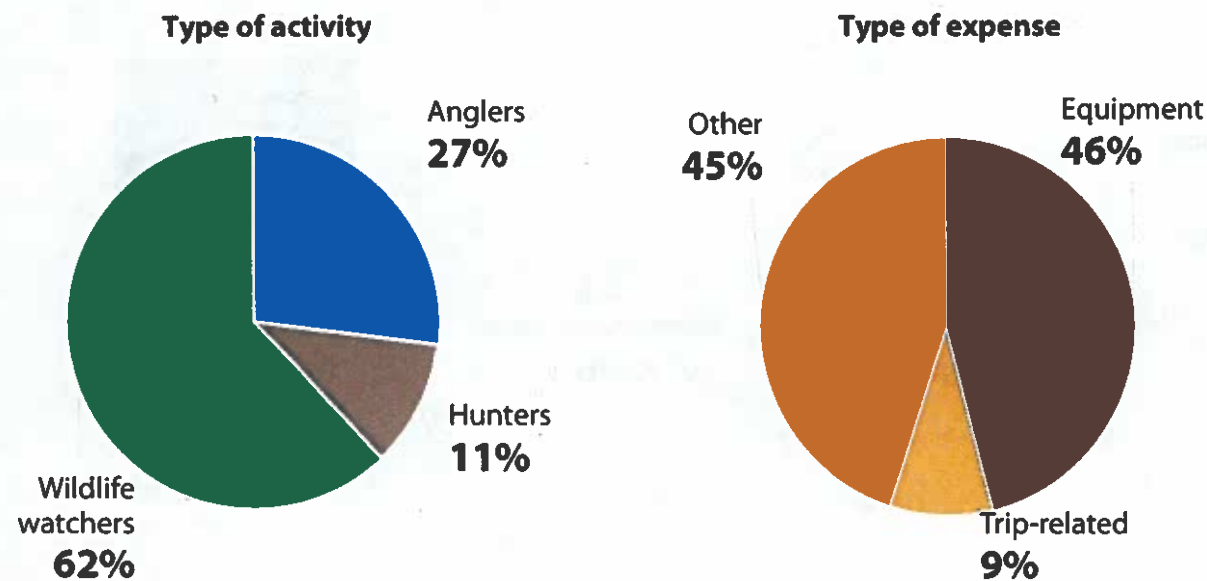
2022 Expenditures in New Hampshire by Residents and Nonresidents

In total, state residents and nonresidents spent \$5.2 billion on wildlife associated recreation in New Hampshire in 2022. Anglers spent \$1.4 billion, hunters spent \$580 million, and wildlife watchers spent \$3.3 billion.

Among these total expenditures, \$2.4 billion was spent on equipment costs; \$477 million on trip-related costs, such as food, lodging, and transportation; and \$2.4 billion on other costs, such as dues or contributions to national, state, or local conservation or wildlife-related organizations, subscriptions, licenses, permits, or costs of property ownership or leasing for wildlife-associated recreation.

Overall, state residents and nonresidents spent \$5.2 billion on wildlife associated recreation in New Hampshire in 2022.

Percent total 2022 expenditures





Anglers

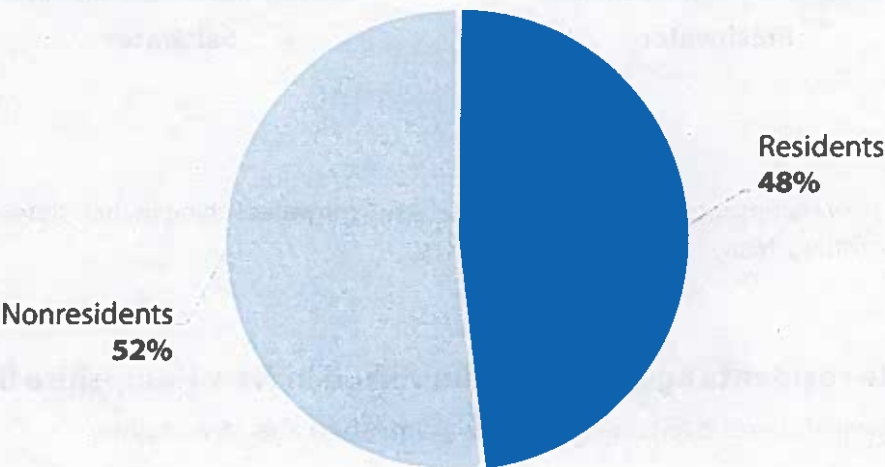
2022 Participation in New Hampshire by Residents and Nonresidents

Overall, 334,000 state residents and nonresidents age 16 and older fished in New Hampshire in 2022, accounting for 2.4 million fishing trips and 3.5 million days spent fishing.

Of these anglers, 161,000 were New Hampshire state residents while 174,000 were nonresidents.

Overall, 334,000 state residents and nonresidents age 16 and older fished in New Hampshire in 2022.

Percent anglers in New Hampshire age 16 and older



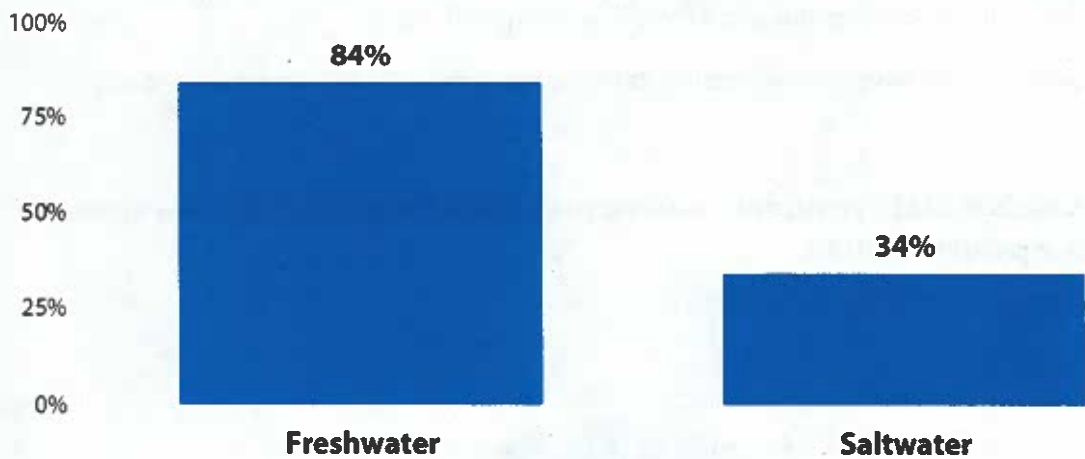
Eighty-four percent (282,000) of these participants freshwater fished, accounting for 79% of the total fishing trips and 78% of the total fishing days in New Hampshire.

Another 34% (112,000) saltwater fished, making up 21% of all fishing trips and 22% of all fishing days.

The sum of freshwater and saltwater fishing exceeds the total number of anglers because many individuals engaged in more than one type of fishing.

Overall, 334,000 state residents and nonresidents age 16 and older fished in New Hampshire in 2022.

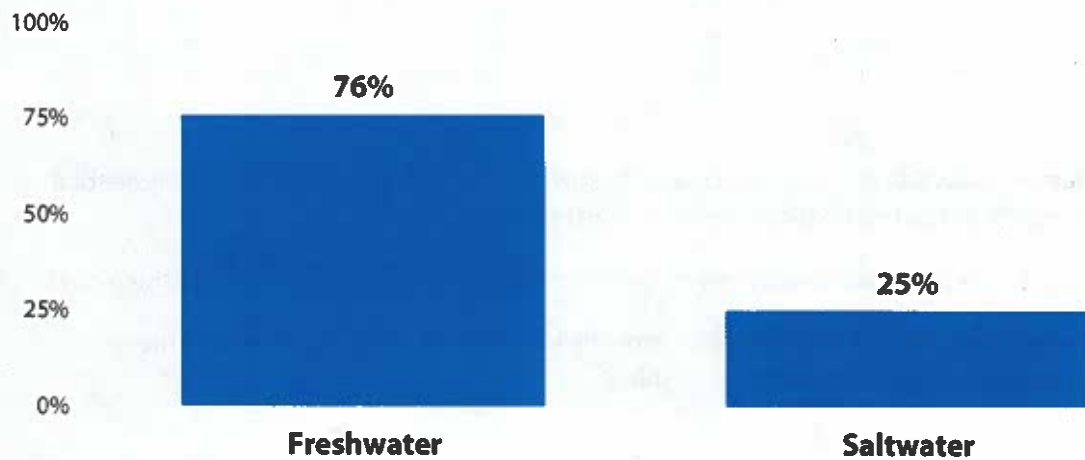
Percent anglers in New Hampshire age 16 and older



And among just New Hampshire residents, 122,000 did any freshwater fishing in their state and 40,000 did any saltwater fishing. Many residents did both types.

161,000 state residents age 16 and older fished in New Hampshire in 2022.

Percent New Hampshire resident anglers in New Hampshire age 16 and older



The following demographics refer to participation among New Hampshire residents only, and cover any type of recreational fishing.

Among New Hampshire residents, 14% of those living in an urban area and 15% of those living in a rural area fished in 2022.

In terms of the age breakdown, 19% of New Hampshire residents age 16 to 34 fished in 2022, along with 16% of those 35 to 54 and 10% of those age 55 and older.

With regard to gender, 19% of New Hampshire resident men fished in 2022, as did 9% of New Hampshire resident women.

The participation rate by race and ethnicity was 14% of white New Hampshire residents and 15% of residents of another race fished in 2022².

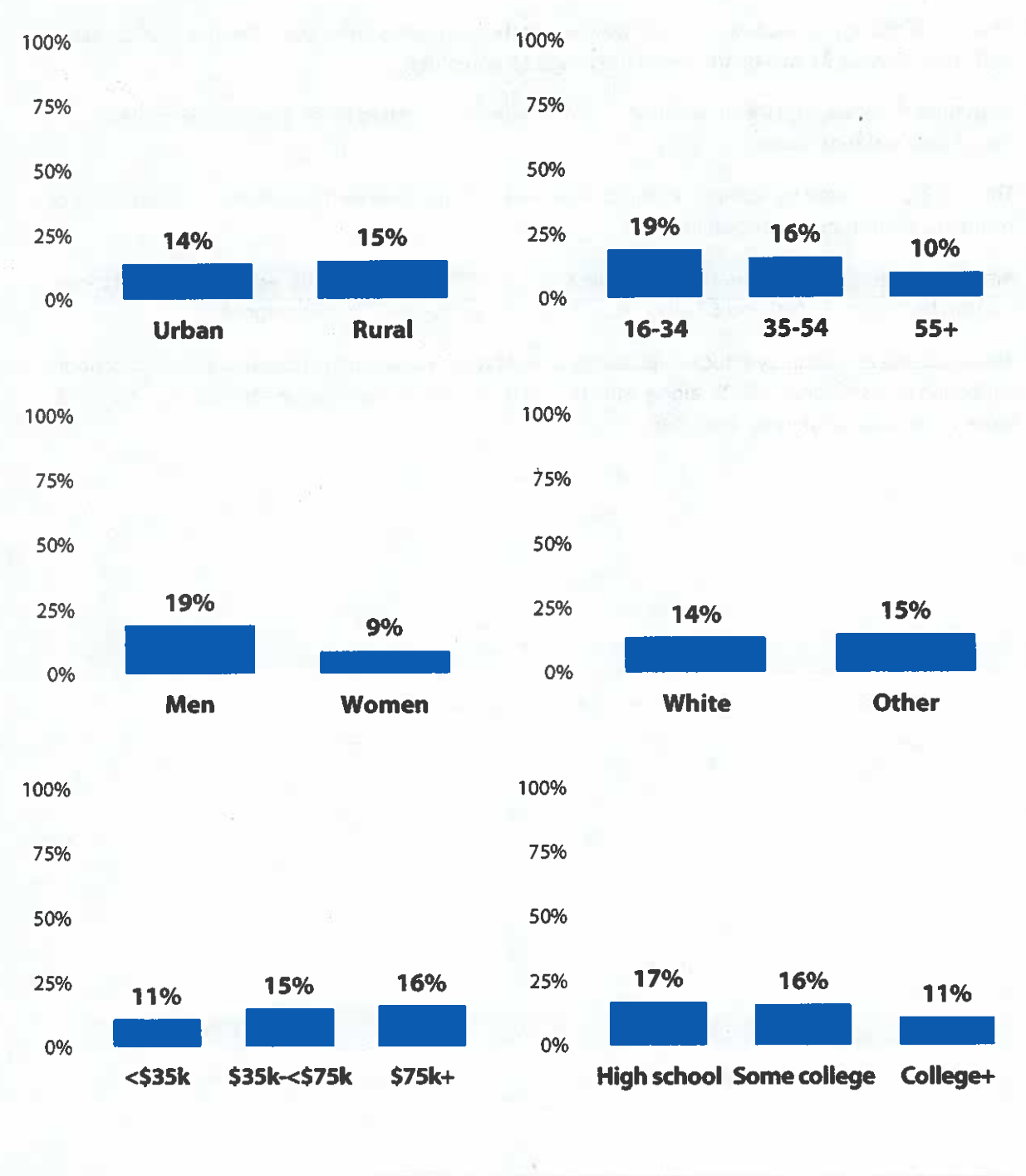
Among New Hampshire residents making less than \$35,000 a year, 11% fished, as did 15% of those making between \$35,000 and \$74,999, and 16% of those making \$75,000 or more.

When looking at fishing by educational levels, 17% of New Hampshire residents with a high school education or less fished in 2022, along with 16% of those with some college education, and 11% of those with a college degree or higher.

² Sample sizes for Black and Hispanic residents are below n=100, too small to analyze

Demographics among New Hampshire resident anglers.

Percent New Hampshire residents age 16 and older who fished

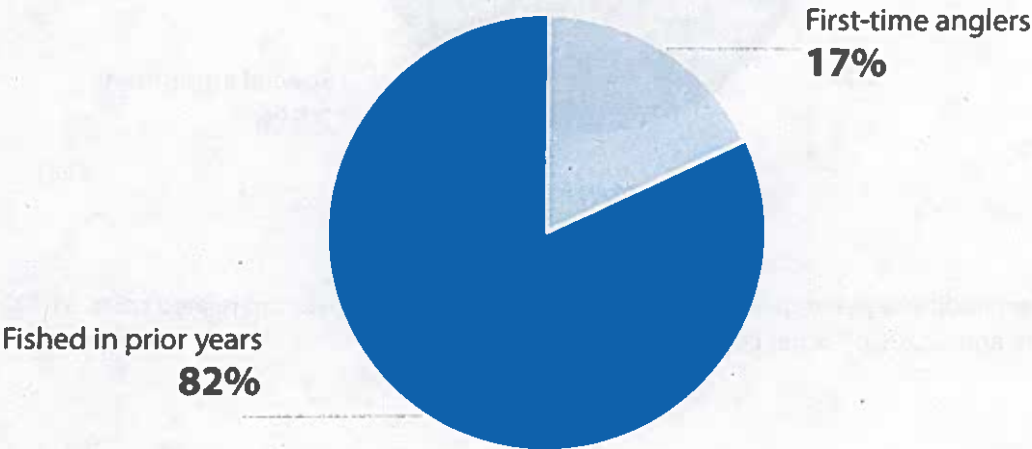


2021 Participation in New Hampshire by 6- to 15-Year-Old Residents

While the focus of the 2022 FHWAR Survey is on the wildlife associated recreation activities and participation of those age 16 and older, the Screener portion of the survey, which was conducted in early 2022, provides information about fishing by 6- to 15-year-olds in 2021. The following calculations capture the 2021 participation of New Hampshire residents, although the activities could have happened anywhere in the United States.

Overall, 36,000 New Hampshire state residents age 6 to 15 fished in 2021, including 6,400 who fished for the first time.

Percent New Hampshire resident anglers age 6 to 15

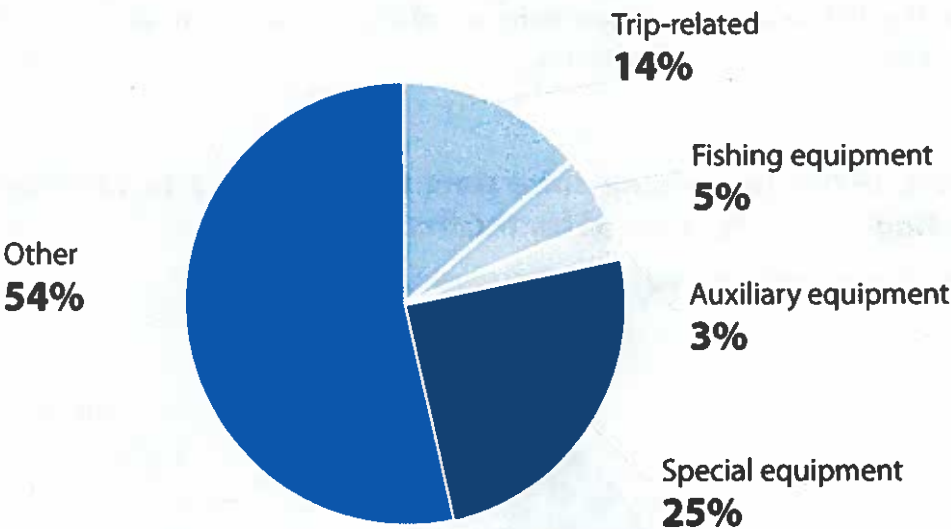


2022 Expenditures in New Hampshire by Residents and Nonresidents

Overall, anglers in New Hampshire spent \$1.4 billion in 2022. Of this total, \$191 million was spent on trip-related expenses such as food, lodging, and transportation. An additional \$456 million was spent on equipment, including \$75 million on fishing equipment, \$38 million on auxiliary equipment for fishing such as camping equipment or clothing, and \$343 million on special equipment for fishing such as boats or other vehicles. Finally, anglers spent \$747 million on other expenditures such as dues or contributions to national, state, or local conservation or wildlife-related organizations, subscriptions, licenses, permits, or costs of property ownership or leasing for fishing.

Overall, anglers in New Hampshire spent \$1.4 billion in 2022.

Percent total angler expenditures



The average expenditures per angler were \$4,200 in total, including \$600 on trip related costs, \$1,400 on equipment, and \$2,200 on other costs.



Hunters

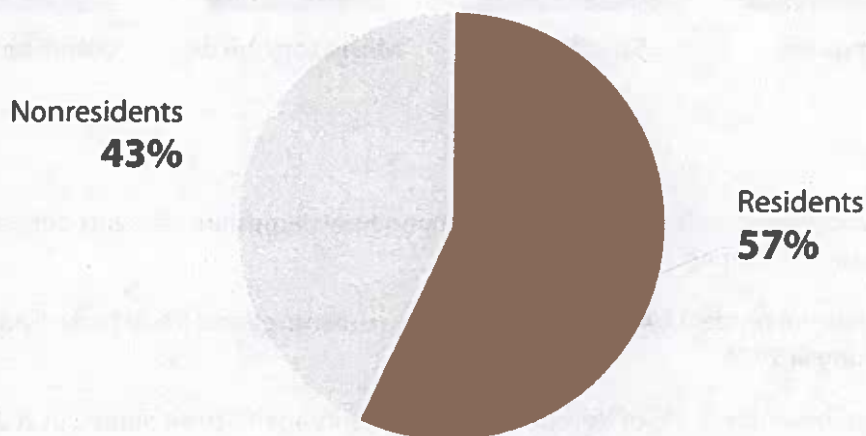
2022 Participation in New Hampshire by Residents and Nonresidents

Overall, 85,000 state residents and nonresidents age 16 and older hunted in New Hampshire in 2022, accounting for 1.1 million hunting trips and 1.3 million days spent hunting.

Of the total hunters, 49,000 were New Hampshire residents while 36,000 were nonresidents.

Overall, 85,000 state residents and nonresidents age 16 and older hunted in New Hampshire in 2022.

Percent hunters in New Hampshire age 16 and older



Seventy-nine percent (67,000) of these participants hunted big game, accounting for 42% of the total hunting trips and 58% of the total hunting days in New Hampshire.

Another 43% (36,000) hunted small game, accounting for 36% of all hunting trips and 16% of all hunting days.

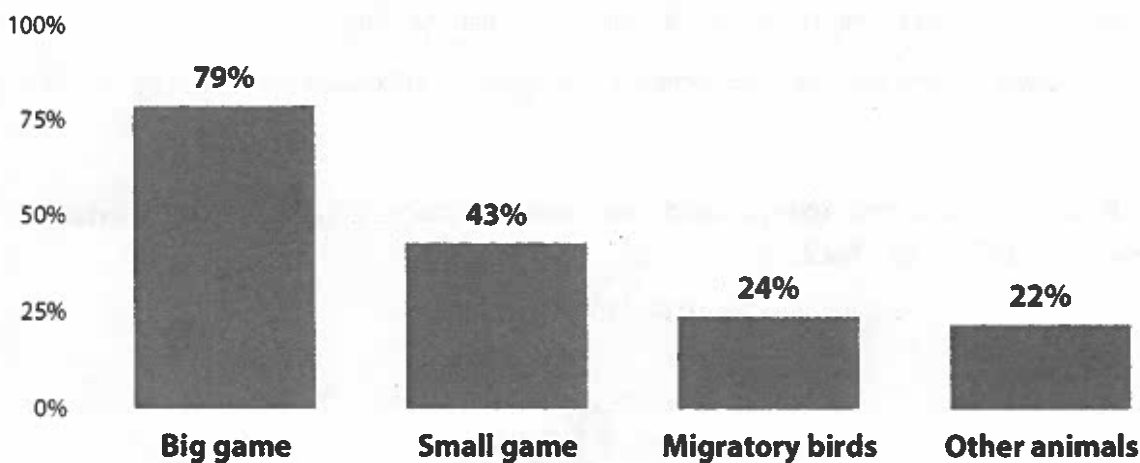
Twenty-four percent (20,000) hunted migratory birds, making up 13% of all hunting trips and 13% of all hunting days.

And 22% (19,000) hunted other animals, accounting for 9% of all hunting trips and 14% of all hunting days.

The sum of big game, small game, migratory bird, and other animal hunting exceeds the total number of hunters because many individuals engaged in more than one type of hunting.

Overall, 85,000 state residents and nonresidents age 16 and older hunted in New Hampshire in 2022.

Percent hunters in New Hampshire age 16 and older



The following demographics refer to participation among New Hampshire residents only, and cover any type of recreational hunting.

Among New Hampshire residents, 4% of those living in an urban area and 5% of those living in a rural area did any hunting in 2022.

In terms of the age breakdown, 7% of New Hampshire residents age 16 to 34 hunted in 2022, along with 4% of those 35 to 54 and 3% of those age 55 and older.

With regard to gender, 7% of New Hampshire resident men hunted in 2022, as did 2% of New Hampshire resident women.

The participation rate by race and ethnicity was 4% of white New Hampshire residents and 8% of residents of another race hunted in 2022³.

Among New Hampshire residents making less than \$35,000 a year, 4% hunted, as did 4% of those making between \$35,000 and \$74,999, and 5% of those making \$75,000 or more.

When looking at hunting by educational levels, 4% of New Hampshire residents with a high school education or less hunted in 2022, along with 4% of those with some college education, and 4% of those with a college degree or higher.

³ Sample sizes for Black and Hispanic residents are below n=100, too small to analyze

Demographics among New Hampshire resident hunters.

Percent New Hampshire residents age 16 and older who hunted

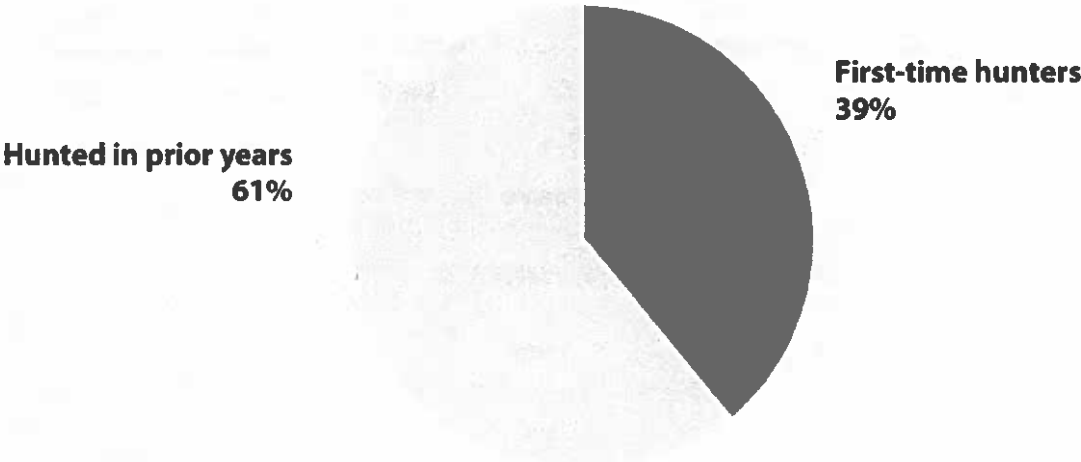


2021 Participation in New Hampshire by 6- to 15-Year-Old Residents

Based on the Screener portion of the survey, 6,100 New Hampshire residents age 6 to 15 hunted in 2021, with 2,400 doing so for the first time. These activities could have happened anywhere in the United States.

Overall, 6,100 New Hampshire residents age 6 to 15 hunted in 2021 including 2,400 who hunted for the first time.

Percent of New Hampshire resident hunters age 6-15

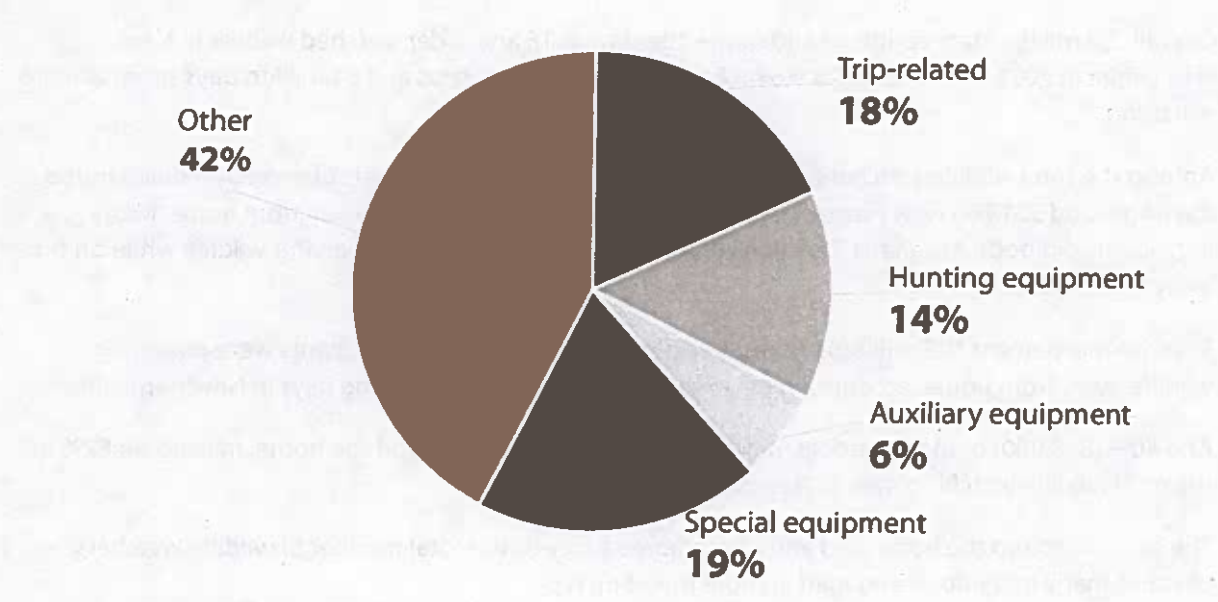


2022 Expenditures in New Hampshire by Residents and Nonresidents

Overall, hunters in New Hampshire spent \$580 million in 2022. Of this total, \$104 million was spent on trip-related expenses such as food, lodging, and transportation. An additional \$230 million was spent on equipment, including \$80 million on hunting equipment, \$37 million on auxiliary equipment for hunting such as camping equipment or clothing, and \$112 million on special equipment for hunting such as boats or other vehicles. Finally, hunters spent \$246 million on other expenditures such as dues or contributions to national, state, or local conservation or wildlife-related organizations, subscriptions, licenses, permits, or costs of property ownership or leasing for hunting.

Overall, hunters in New Hampshire spent \$580 million in 2022.

Percent total hunter expenditures



The average expenditures per hunter were \$6,800 in total, including \$1,200 on trip related costs, \$2,700 on equipment, and \$2,900 on other costs.



2022 Participation in New Hampshire by Residents and Nonresidents

Overall, 2.0 million state residents and nonresidents age 16 and older watched wildlife in New Hampshire in 2022, accounting for 9.6 million wildlife watching trips and 84 million days spent wildlife watching.

Among the total wildlife watchers, 818,000 New Hampshire state residents observed wildlife around the home and 321,000 New Hampshire state residents observed wildlife away from home. Many individuals did both. Another 1.2 million were nonresidents who were observing wildlife while on trips away from home.

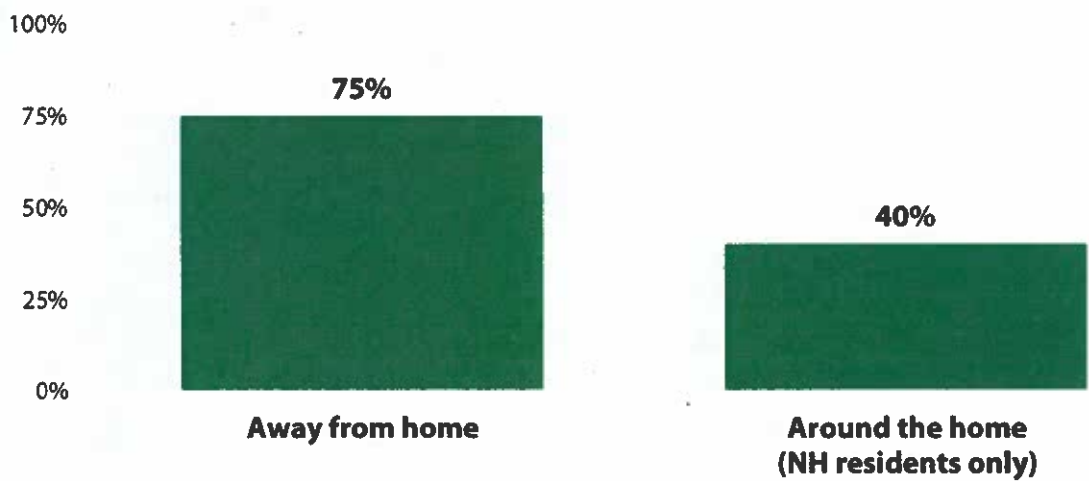
Seventy-five percent (1.5 million) of these resident and nonresident participants were observing wildlife away from home, accounting for 18% of the total wildlife watching days in New Hampshire.

And 40% (818,000) of these participants were observing wildlife around the home, making up 82% of the total wildlife watching days in New Hampshire.

The sum of around the home and away from home exceeds the total number of wildlife watchers because many individuals engaged in more than one type.

Overall, 2.0 million state residents and nonresidents age 16 and older watched wildlife in New Hampshire in 2022.

Percent wildlife watchers in New Hampshire age 16 and older



The following demographics refer to participation among New Hampshire residents only, and covers any type of wildlife watching, both around the home and away from home.

Among New Hampshire residents, 70% of those living in an urban area and 77% of those living in a rural area watched wildlife in 2022.

In terms of the age breakdown, 73% of New Hampshire residents age 16 to 34 watched wildlife in 2022, along with 68% of those 35 to 54 and 78% of those age 55 and older.

With regard to gender, 72% of New Hampshire resident men watched wildlife in 2022, as did 74% of New Hampshire resident women.

The participation rate by race and ethnicity was 73% of white New Hampshire residents, 71% of Hispanic residents, and 79% of residents of another race watched wildlife in 2022⁴.

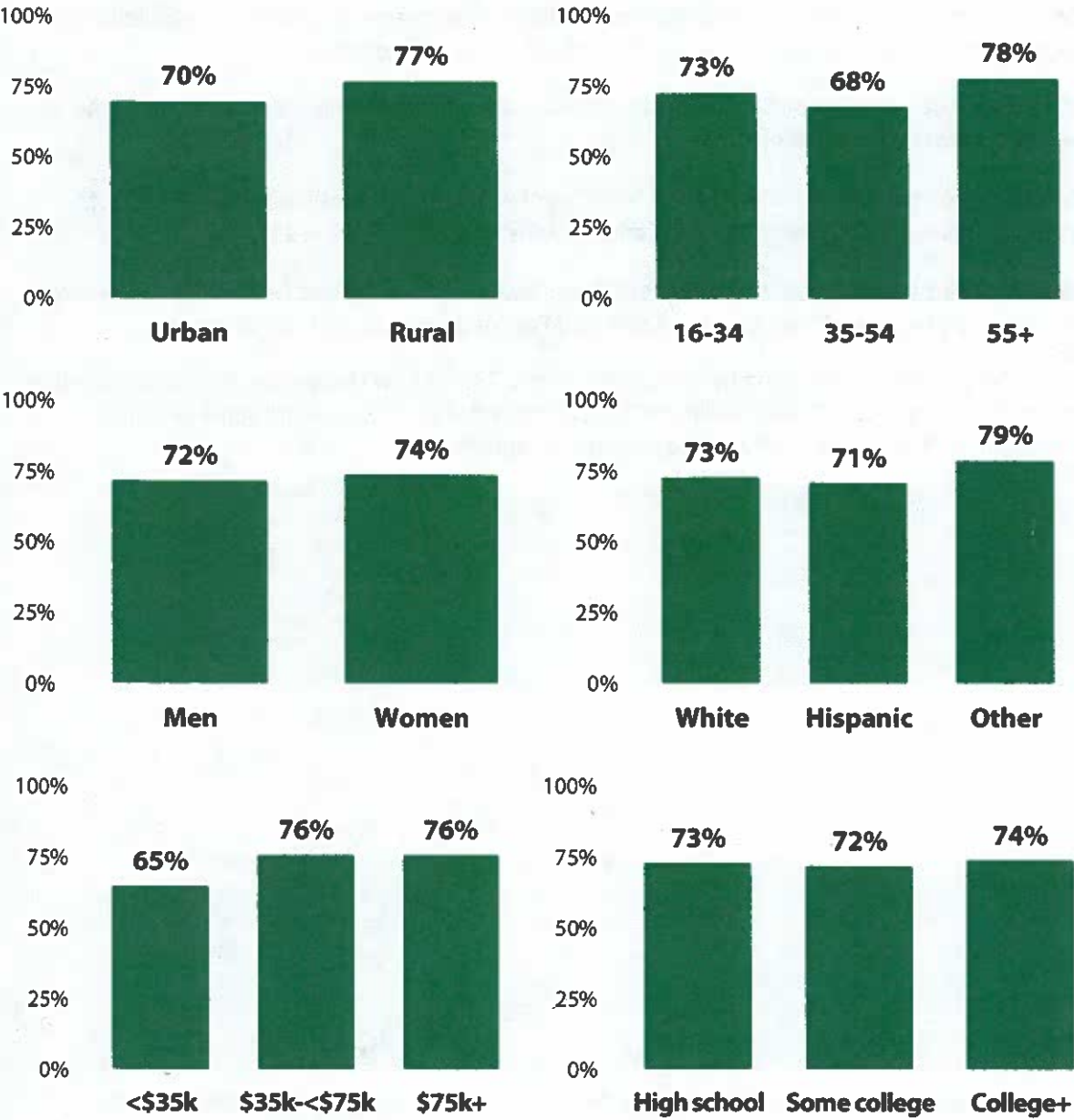
Among New Hampshire residents making less than \$35,000 a year, 65% watched wildlife, as did 76% of those making between \$35,000 and \$74,999, and 76% of those making \$75,000 or more.

When looking at wildlife-watching by educational levels, 73% of New Hampshire residents with a high school education or less watched wildlife in 2022, along with 72% of those with some college education, and 74% of those with a college degree or higher.

⁴ Sample sizes for Black residents are below n=100, too small to analyze

Demographics among New Hampshire resident wildlife watchers.

Percent New Hampshire residents age 16 and older who watched wildlife

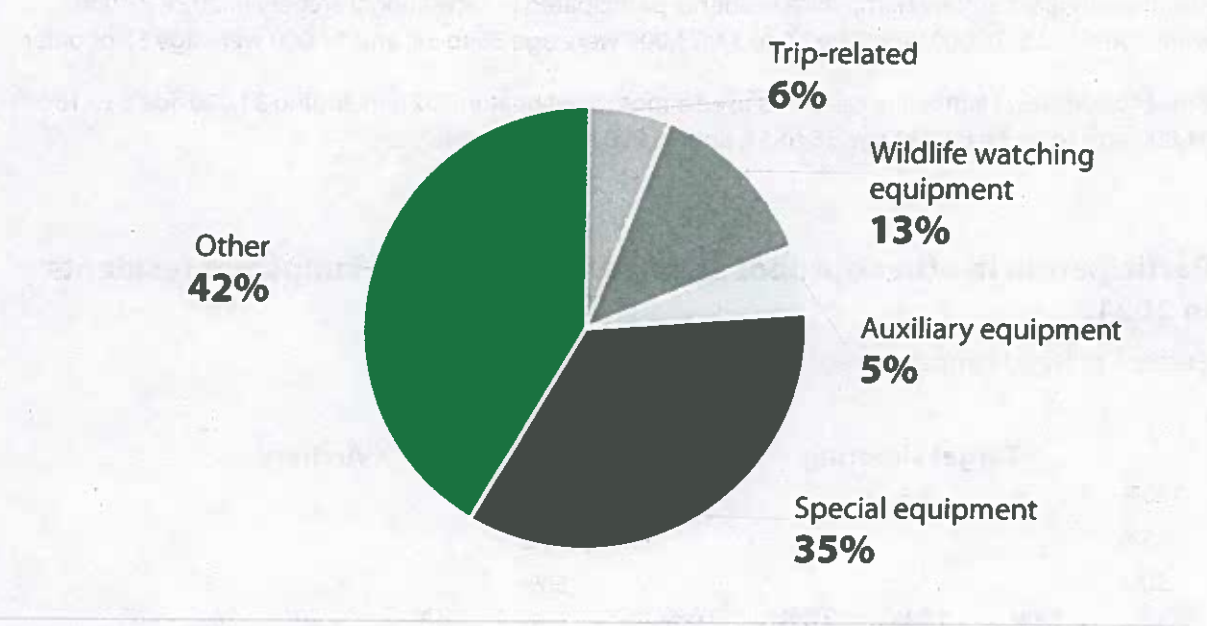


2022 Expenditures in New Hampshire by Residents and Nonresidents

Overall, wildlife watchers in New Hampshire spent \$3.3 billion in 2022. Of this total, \$183 million was spent on trip-related expenses such as food, lodging, and transportation. An additional \$1.7 billion was spent on equipment, including \$417 million on wildlife watching equipment, \$151 million on auxiliary equipment for wildlife watching such as camping equipment or clothing, and \$1.1 billion on special equipment for wildlife watching such as boats or other vehicles. Finally, wildlife watchers spent \$1.4 billion on other expenditures such as dues or contributions to national, state, or local conservation or wildlife-related organizations, subscriptions, licenses, permits, or costs of property ownership or leasing for wildlife-watching.

Overall, wildlife watchers in New Hampshire spent \$3.3 billion in 2022.

Percent total wildlife watcher expenditures



The average expenditures per wildlife watcher were \$1,600 in total, including \$100 on trip related costs, \$800 on equipment, and \$700 on other costs.

Other Outdoor Recreation Activities

2021 Participation in New Hampshire by Residents

In addition to fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching, the 2022 FHWAR Survey asked about participation in other outdoor recreation activities including recreational target shooting and archery (unrelated to hunting), and motorized boating. The following findings were part of the Screener portion of the survey, which was conducted in early 2022, and provides information about each activity by New Hampshire residents age 6 and older in 2021. These numbers capture participation anywhere in the United States for each activity.

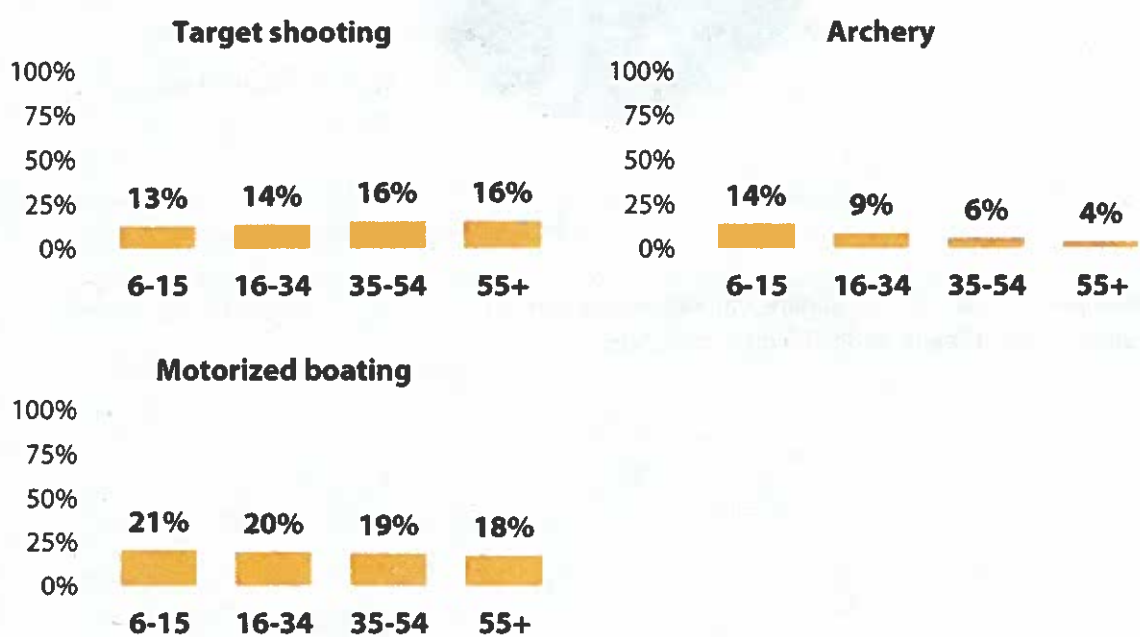
Overall, 190,000 New Hampshire residents participated in recreational target shooting in 2021. Of these participants, 20,000 were age 6 to 15; 41,000 were age 16 to 34; 53,000 were age 35 to 54; and 73,000 were age 55 or older.

Additionally, 86,000 New Hampshire residents participated in recreational archery in 2021. 21,000 were age 6 to 15; 26,000 were age 16 to 34; 21,000 were age 35 to 54; and 17,000 were age 55 or older.

And 246,000 New Hampshire residents used a motorized boat in 2021, including 31,000 age 6 to 15; 61,000 age 16 to 34; 62,000 age 35 to 54; and 85,000 age 55 or older.

Participation in other outdoor activities among New Hampshire residents in 2021.

Percent of New Hampshire residents



Executive Summary

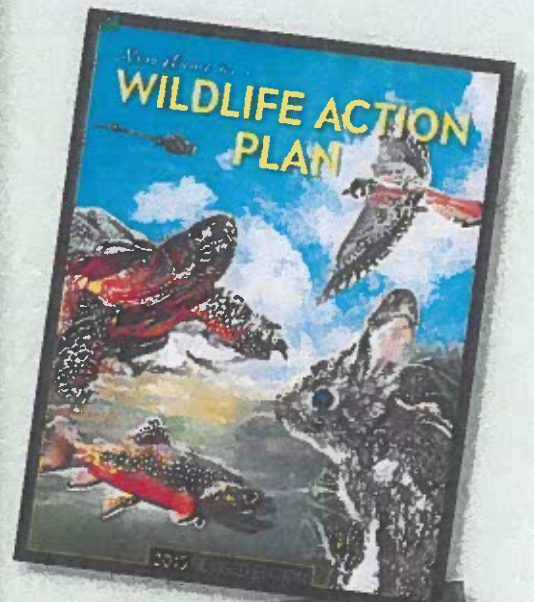
New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan

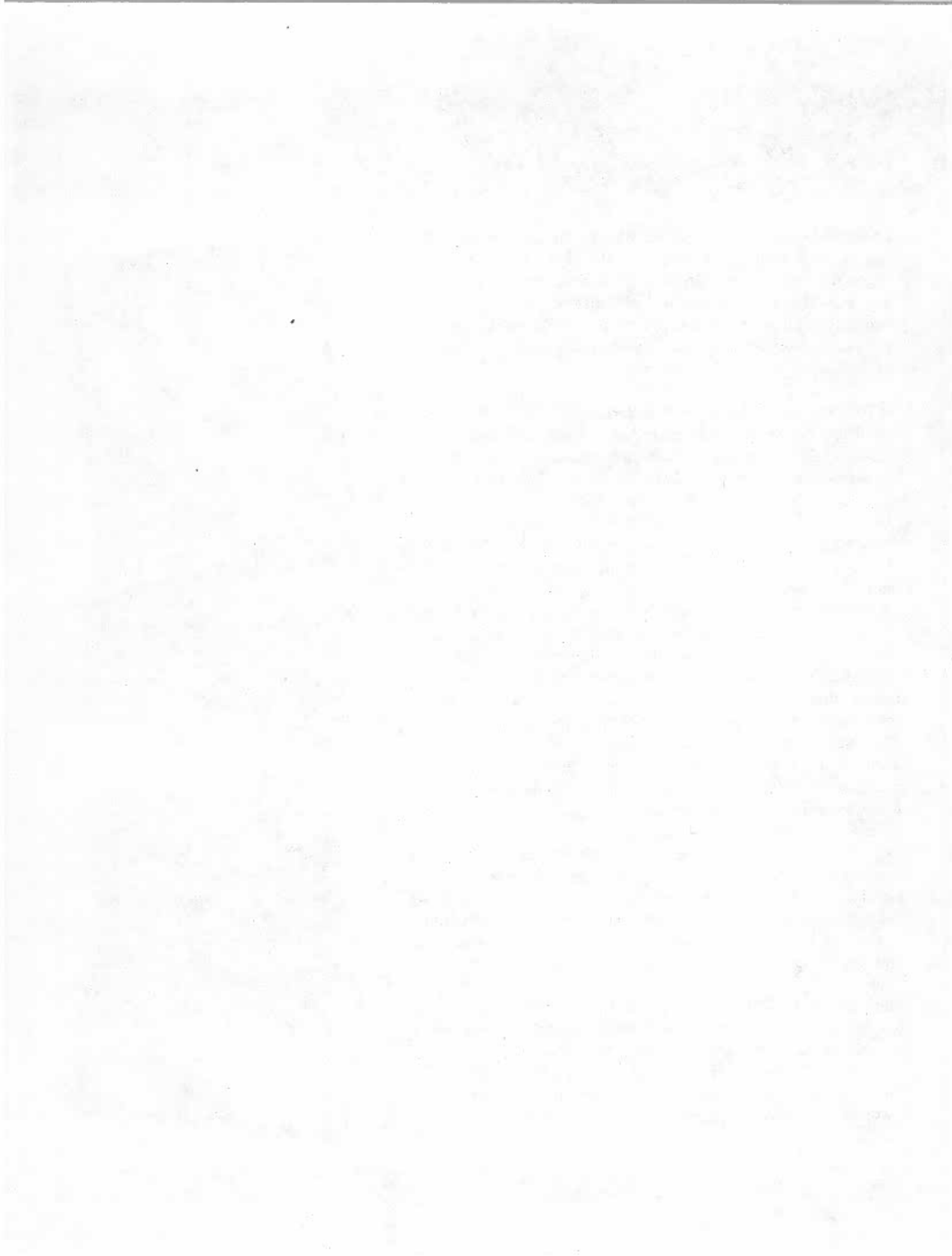
The 2015 revision of the Wildlife Action Plan incorporates new data, methodologies and extensive public input to identify species in greatest need of conservation, habitats that are at the greatest risk, as well as land uses and activities that present the greatest threats to wildlife and habitat. It outlines more than 100 actions that can be taken by diverse stakeholders to protect and manage wildlife and habitat in New Hampshire.

In 2005 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved New Hampshire's first 10-year Wildlife Action Plan, a document that was two years in the making and which laid out strategies for managing and protecting the full array of wildlife that occurs in the state and the habitats that support them.

Successful implementation of the NH Wildlife Action Plan has been documented. Since 2005, New Hampshire Fish & Game (NHFG) staff, in partnership with dozens of organizations, agencies, universities, municipalities, scientists, professionals and volunteers in every part of the state, has been guided by the Wildlife Action Plan during land use planning and decision-making, landscape conservation planning, and species and habitat management and conservation. 495 species and habitat actions were implemented from 2005-2015 (forty-five percent of all actions identified in the 2005 plan). Over 4,250 acres were targeted by NHFG for land acquisition or habitat management for specific species or habitat, and overall 235,000 acres of highest ranked habitat was conserved by partners. Technical assistance was provided to over 3,500 citizens, landowners, and land managers. Over 1,300 structures were installed (such as bat gates and nesting structures) or removed (such as dams and other fish passage barriers) to benefit wildlife populations. Additionally, the northeast states have worked together to conserve the wildlife that topped their lists of Species of Greatest Conservation Need including New England cottontails (work that prevented federal listing), Blanding's and wood turtles.

The benefits of investing in the Wildlife Action Plan's strategies go well beyond "saving" rare species. Wildlife-associated recreation is a significant economic engine for New Hampshire. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation determined expenditures for these activities to be nearly \$551 million in New Hampshire.





Executive Summary

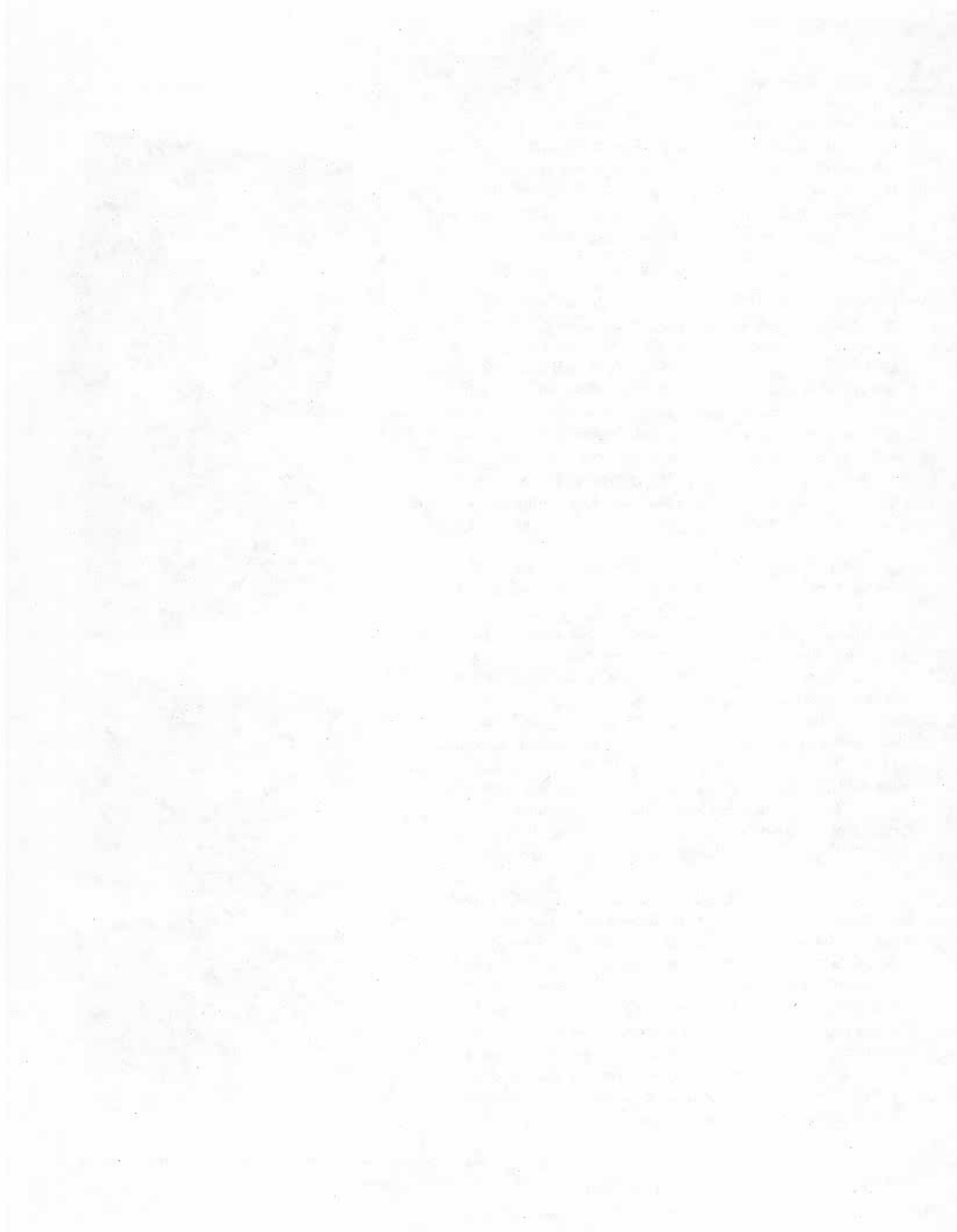
Outdoor recreation brings in \$4.2 billion annually from New Hampshire residents and tourists (Trust for Public Land 2014). Any downturn in participation in these activities would have a negative impact on the state's economy, whereas efforts to improve wildlife and habitat in New Hampshire would likely bring more revenue into the system from hunters, anglers, wildlife watchers and outdoor enthusiasts.

There are additional economic benefits to healthy wildlife populations and habitats. People live in and visit New Hampshire, and spend money here, in large part because it is a place of great natural beauty. Yet increased development, and the associated conversion of forest and other wildlife habitat into roads, houses, and businesses, degrades the land's value to New Hampshire's wildlife. New Hampshire can support a growing population and economy while maintaining the overall health of wildlife and their habitat with better planning, new understandings of wildlife populations and their needs, increased support, and strong collaboration throughout the public, private and non-profit sectors.

All wildlife species native to New Hampshire were eligible for identification as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) including game species, nongame species, fish and marine animals. Information on their populations, habitats, risks and status throughout the northeast were considered during the process. A total of 169 species are identified as SGCN, of which 27 species are listed as state endangered and 14 listed as state threatened. The 2005 Wildlife Action Plan listed 118 species as SGCN, and 13 of those species were deemed recovered enough or stable enough not to be included on the 2015 list. The 2015 Wildlife Action Plan also identifies 27 distinct habitats that support both common species and SGCN. By identifying and protecting high quality examples of all of New Hampshire's natural communities, all of the state's native wildlife species will have access to intact habitats.

The revised NH Wildlife Action Plan (2015) habitats are based on habitat types developed by the Northeast Terrestrial Habitat Classification and the Northeast Aquatic Habitat Classification. Wildlife habitat condition was assessed for 27 habitat types. NH Fish and Game developed a methodology to assess the relative ecological condition of habitats through the use of statewide GIS data that represent species diversity, landscape context, and human impacts. Habitats were then ranked to identify priority conservation targets across all habitat types. These maps and the underlying data are used for species recovery, land conservation, and habitat restoration efforts.





Executive Summary

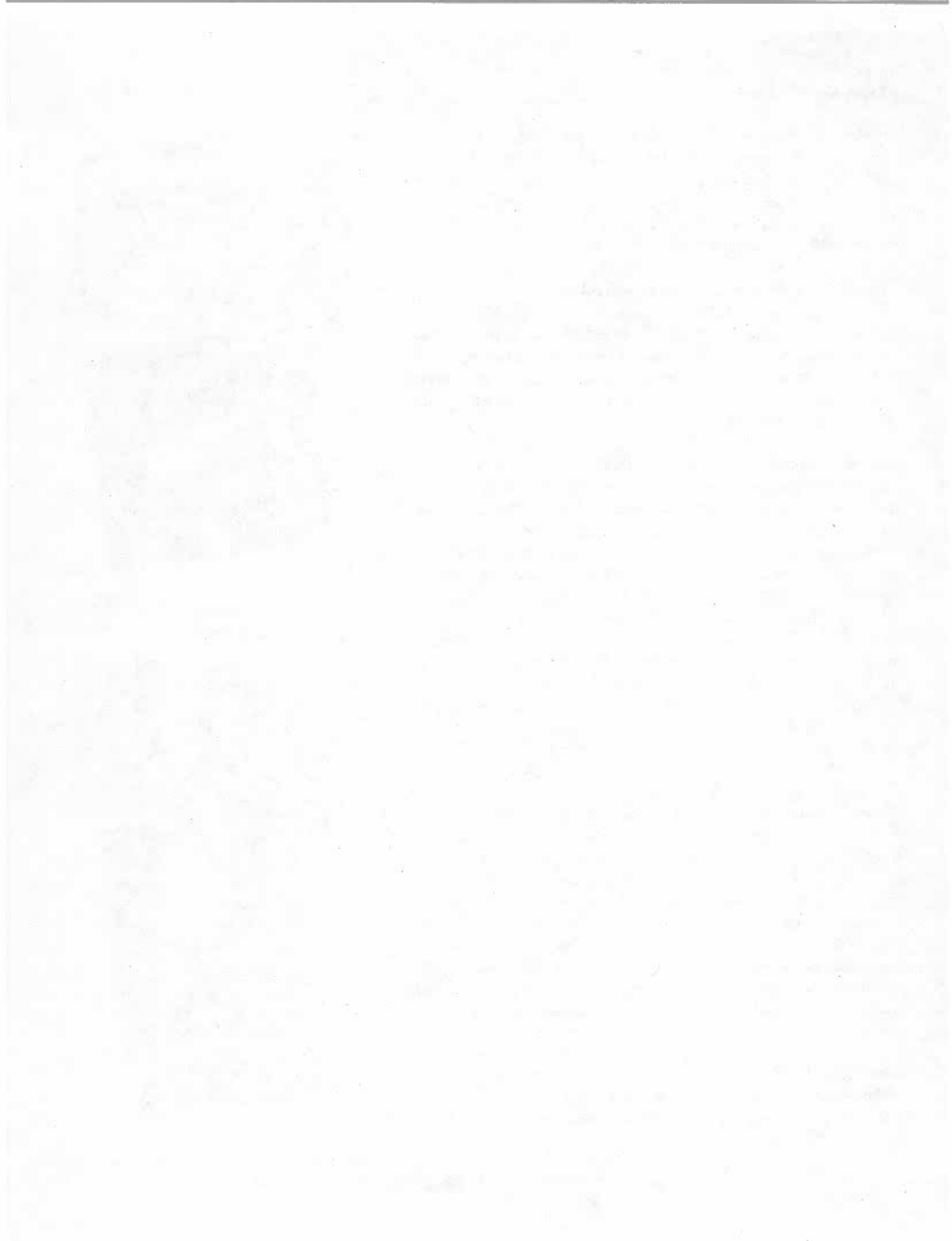
Risk assessments were conducted for 27 habitats and 169 Species of Greatest Conservation Need using a standard methodology adopted by the northeast states. Eleven different threat categories with 37 sub-categories were ranked in terms of their potential impact on each species and habitat throughout New Hampshire. Saltmarshes, warmwater rivers and streams, dunes, lowland spruce-fir forest, and vernal pools had the greatest number of high-ranking threats. Commercial and residential development, pollution, disease, and climate change are among the higher-ranking risk factors that impact the health of wildlife populations and habitats. As a part of the revision process, scientists identified where and how wildlife will be affected over the next ten years and what actions need to be taken to prevent further losses of the most vulnerable species and habitats.

The revision of the Wildlife Action Plan included an extensive amount of public participation. Over 90 wildlife experts throughout New Hampshire and neighboring states assisted in the evaluation of species for inclusion as Species of Greatest Conservation Need and assessed threats to those species and their habitats. Five public engagement sessions were held throughout the state, attended by 166 participants representing 79 communities and an array of non-profit, municipal, state and federal agencies, and private landowners. During these sessions participants identified a wide range of actions to help conserve wildlife and habitats. In addition, 1,142 people responded to an online survey to express their concerns and priorities for wildlife in New Hampshire. A complete draft of the Plan was posted on the NH Fish and Game website for 30 days and received comments from 123 people.

The successful implementation of the 2015 NH Wildlife Action Plan will require coordinated and strategic involvement by all levels of government and by landowners, non-profit organizations, universities and varied interest groups throughout the state. 117 overarching actions are identified that span monitoring, research, species and habitat management, land protection, interagency and interstate coordination, local and regional planning, education and technical assistance. Dozens more actions were identified specific to certain species or habitats. It is only through a broad-based, all-hands-on-deck approach that the state will continue to protect and manage species and habitat that improve the quality of life and the economy in New Hampshire.

New Hampshire Fish and Game uses many techniques, data sets and programs to monitor changes in wildlife populations and habitat. Where available, NHFG uses standardized protocols for



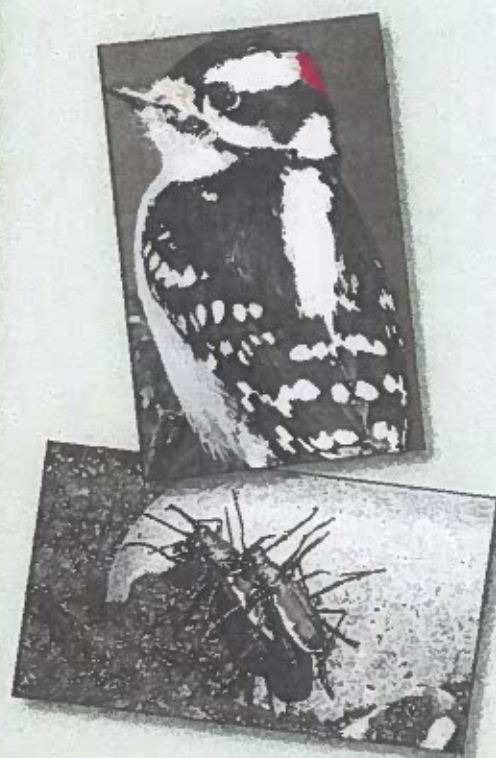


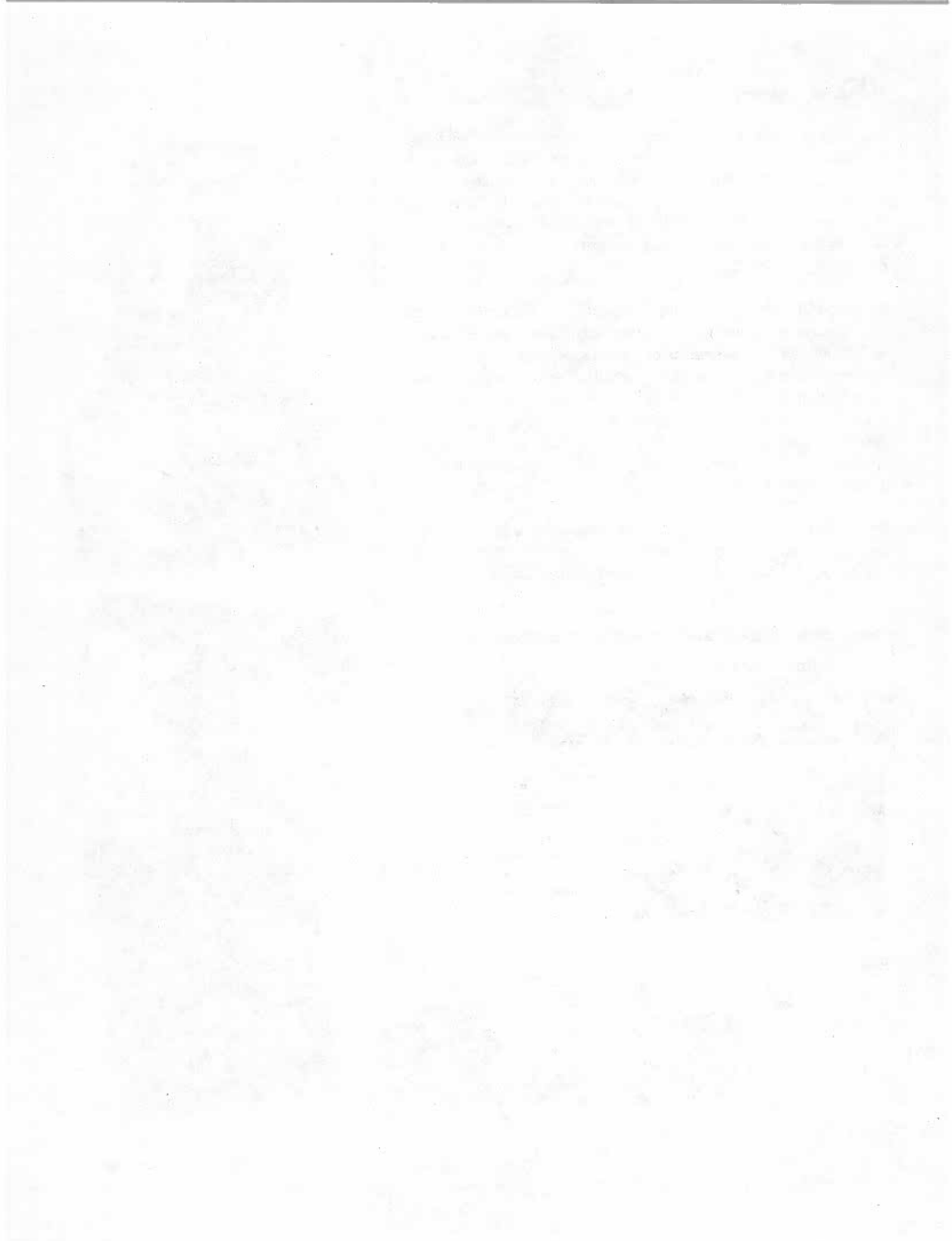
Executive Summary

monitoring to allow for consistency and comparison among states. New research and data is continually integrated into conservation planning, implementation, monitoring, and performance evaluation. This approach to adaptive management has been ongoing since the original Wildlife Action Plan was developed in 2005 and will continue through the next 10 years until this document is revised again.

Through existing and new partnerships, NHFG is moving forward with implementing the Wildlife Action Plan. Doing this effectively will require additional sources of financial support over the coming 10 years. It also requires prioritization of action items and participation of partner organizations. Prompt action is crucial—not only for the health and diversity of wildlife and habitats in the state - but also to ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to experience and enjoy the Wild New Hampshire we love and appreciate today.

Information from the Wildlife Action Plan is accessible through the NHFG website (wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/wap.html) and “Taking Action for Wildlife” (takingactionforwildlife.org).





New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Species of Greatest Conservation Need are those in serious trouble – declining numbers, with smaller patches of habitat, and/or threatened by a host of issues

Mammals

American Marten
American Water Shrew
(Eastern)
Big Brown Bat
Canada Lynx***
Eastern Red Bat
Eastern Small-footed Bat**
Eastern Wolf****
Hoary Bat
Little Brown Bat**
Long-tailed Shrew
Moose
New England Cottontail**
Northern Bog Lemming
Northern Long-eared Bat***
Rock Vole
Silver-haired Bat
Southern Bog Lemming
Tri-colored Bat**

Birds

American Black Duck
American Kestrel
American Pipit
American Three-toed
Woodpecker
American Woodcock
Bald Eagle
Bank Swallow
Bay-breasted Warbler
Bicknell's Thrush
Black-billed Cuckoo
Blue-winged Warbler
Bobolink
Brown Thrasher
Canada Warbler
Cape May Warbler
Cerulean Warbler*
Chimney Swift
Cliff Swallow*
Common Gallinule
Common Loon*
Common Nighthawk**
Common Tern*
Eastern Meadowlark*
Eastern Towhee
Eastern Whip-poor-will
Field Sparrow
Golden Eagle**
Golden-winged Warbler
Grasshopper Sparrow*
Horned Lark
Least Tern**
Least Bittern
Marsh Wren

Nelson's Sparrow
Northern Goshawk
Northern Harrier**
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Peregrine Falcon*
Pied-billed Grebe*
Piping Plover***
Prairie Warbler
Purple Finch
Purple Martin*
Purple Sandpiper
Red Knot*
Roseate Tern****
Ruddy Turnstone
Ruffed Grouse
Rusty Blackbird
Saltmarsh Sparrow
Sanderling
Scarlet Tanager
Seaside Sparrow
Sedge Wren
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Sora
Spruce Grouse
Upland Sandpiper**
Veery
Vesper Sparrow
Whimbrel
Willet
Wood Thrush

Reptiles

Blanding's Turtle**
Eastern Box Turtle**
Eastern Hog-nosed Snake**
Eastern Ribbonsnake
Northern Black Racer*
Smooth Green Snake
Spotted Turtle*
Timber Rattlesnake**
Wood Turtle

Amphibians

Blue-spotted/Jefferson
Salamander complex
Fowler's Toad*
Marbled Salamander**
Mink Frog
Northern Leopard Frog

Fish

Alewife
American Brook Lamprey**
American Eel
American Shad
Atlantic Sturgeon*
Banded Sunfish
Blueback Herring
Bridle Shiner*
Brook Trout
Burbot
Finescale Dace
Lake Trout
Lake Whitefish
Northern Redbelly Dace
Rainbow Smelt
Redfin Pickerel
Round Whitefish*
Sea Lamprey
Shortnose Sturgeon****
Swamp Darter

Butterflies & Moths

Barrens Itame
Barrens Xylotype
Broad-lined Catopyrrha
Cora Moth (Bird Dropping
Moth)
Edward's Hairstreak
Frosted Elfin**
Graceful Clearwing
Hessel's Hairstreak*
Karner Blue Butterfly****
Monarch
New Jersey Tea Span Worm
Noctuid Moth
Persius Duskywing Skipper**
Phyllira Tiger Moth
Pine Pinion Moth*
Pinion Moth
Sleepy Duskywing
Twilight Moth
White Mountain Arctic*
White Mountain Fritillary**
Zale sp. 1 nr. lunifera

* State Threatened
** State Endangered
*** State Endangered,
Federally Threatened
**** State Endangered,
Federally Endangered



Tiger Beetles

Appalachian Tiger Beetle
Cobblestone Tiger Beetle**
Margined Tiger Beetle
Puritan Tiger Beetle***

Bumblebees

American Bumble Bee
Rusty-patched Bumble Bee****
Yellow Bumble Bee
Yellowbanded Bumble Bee

Dragonflies & Damselflies

Coppery Emerald
Kennedy's Emerald
Lyre-tipped Spreadwing
Ocellated Emerald
Pine Barrens Bluet
Rapids Clubtail
Ringed Boghaunter*
Ringed Emerald
Sedge Darner
Skillet Clubtail

Freshwater Mussels

Alewife Floater
Brook Floater**
Creeper
Dwarf Wedgemussel****
Eastern Pearlshell
Eastern Pondmussel*
Triangle Floater

Marine Wildlife

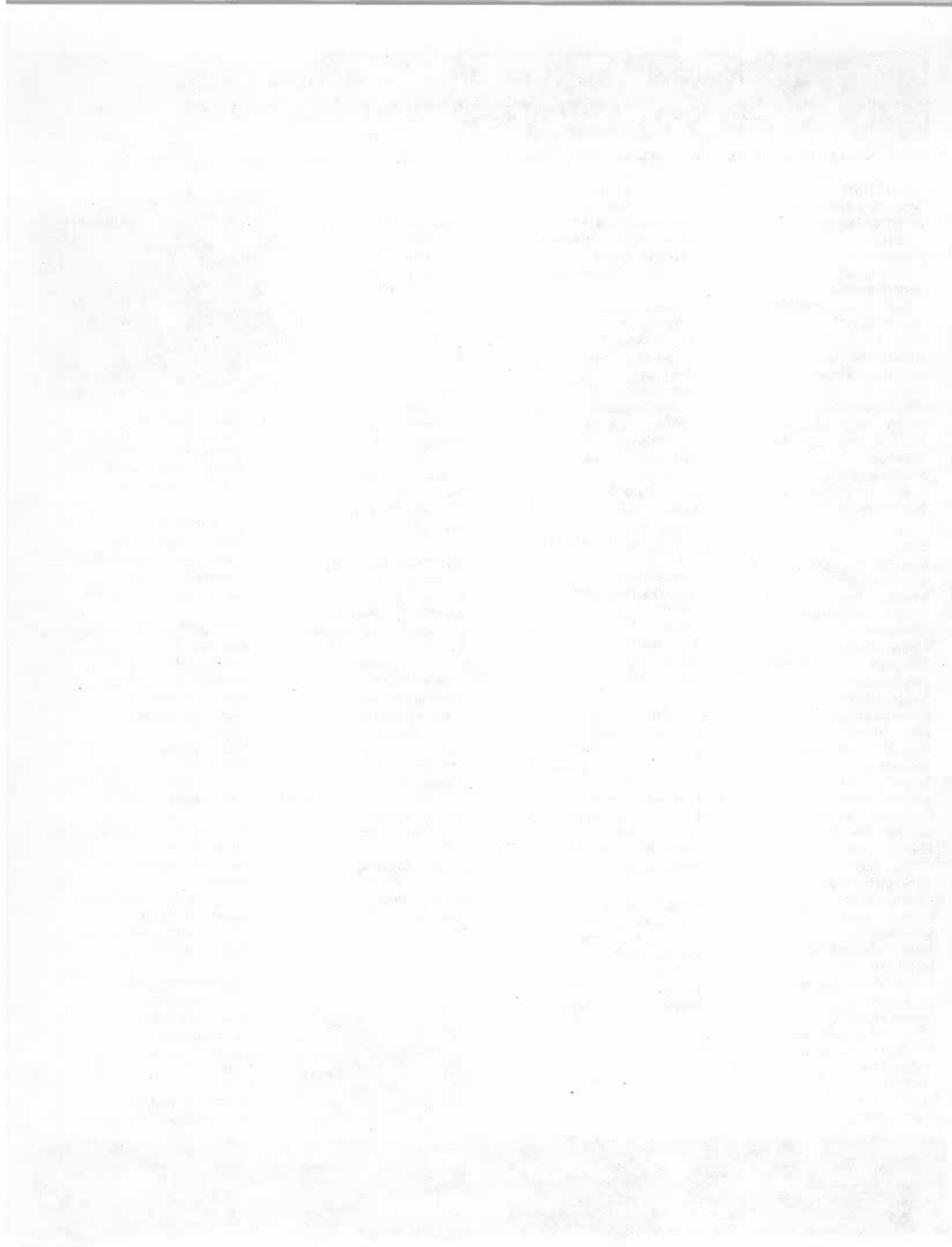
American Oyster
Atlantic Sea Scallop
Horseshoe Crab
Northern Shrimp
Softshell Clam
Fin Whale
Humpback Whale
North Atlantic Right Whale



wildnh.org
takingactionforwildlife.org



Extension



New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan Habitats

Appalachian Oak Pine Forest
Hemlock Hardwood Pine Forest
High Elevation Spruce-Fir Forest
Lowland Spruce-Fir Forest
Northern Hardwood-Conifer Forest

Alpine
Rocky Ridge, Cliff, and Talus
Caves and Mines
Grasslands
Pine Barrens
Shrublands

Floodplain Habitats
Marsh and Shrub Wetlands
Peatlands
Temperate Swamps
Northern Swamps
Vernal Pools

Salt Marshes
Coastal Islands/Rocky Shore
Dunes
Estuarine
Marine

Large Warmwater Rivers
Coldwater Rivers and Streams
Warmwater Rivers and Streams
Lakes and Ponds with Coldwater Habitat
Warmwater Lakes and Ponds

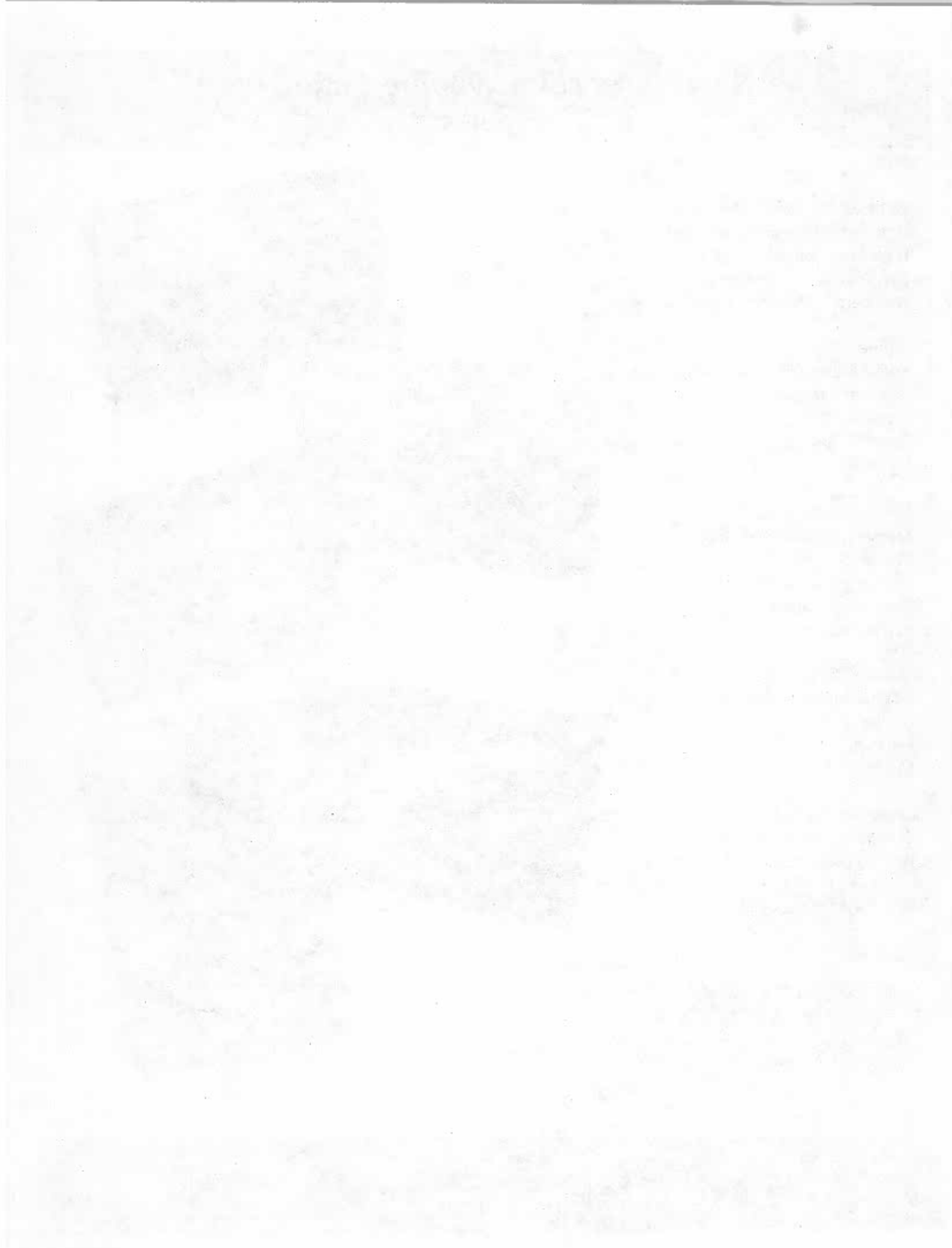
Habitats are recurring combinations of plants and other features (like water) that occur on the landscape. Different species may use different habitats for their life cycles.



wildnh.org
takingactionforwildlife.org

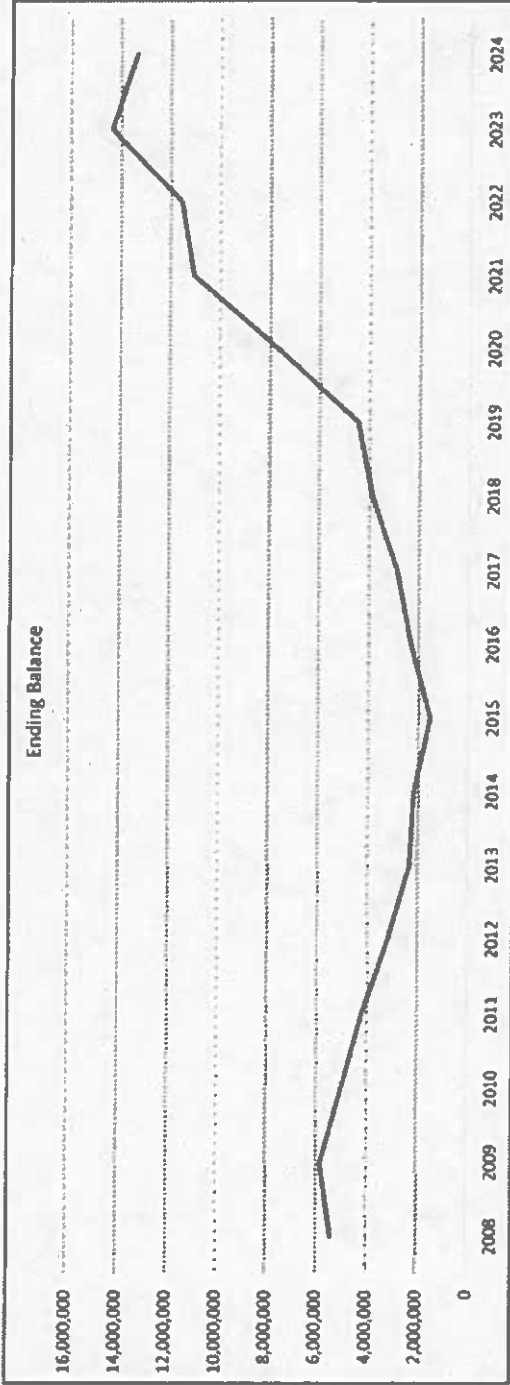


Extension



NH Fish and Game Department
Fiscal Year Ended June 30
Fish and Game Fund Ending Balance

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Ending Balance (Budgetary/Cash Method)	5,406,000	5,845,000	5,031,000	4,238,000	3,203,000	2,352,000	2,187,000	1,541,000	2,326,000	2,898,000	3,906,230	4,477,442	2,688,639	11,080,081	11,569,436	14,355,301	13,375,768





Scott R. Mason
Executive Director

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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Website: www.WildNH.com

TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964
Fax: (603) 271-1438
Email: info@wildlife.nh.gov

September 18, 2024

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Hon. Kevin Avar, Chairperson
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Senator Avar:

In accordance with RSA 214:1-f.X., Annual Report: Wildlife Habitat Fund, the Department is submitting the following report for Fiscal Year 2024. As always, if you have any questions regarding this report or if you require additional information, please feel free to contact either myself or Jim Oehler, Wildlife Habitat Program Supervisor within the Wildlife Division.

020-075-21550000 Wildlife Habitat Account

Balance forward from Fiscal Year 2023	\$ 909,952.01
Plus: Revenue – Fiscal Year 2024	+ \$3,234,081.42
Federal Funds	\$3,035,354.44
Stamps and Prints	\$ 178,124.85
CLNA Funds	\$ 14,965.75
Interest	\$ 5,636.38
Less: Expenditures – (see detail following)	- \$3,712,647.32
Less: Encumbrances	- \$ 98,887.90
Account Balance available June 30, 2024:	\$ 332,498.21
Less: Granite Reliable Power mitigation funds Restricted use per SEC permit conditions	- \$ 102,200.00
Actual Balance available June 30, 2024:	\$ 230,298.21

Respectfully submitted,

Scott R. Mason
Executive Director

A summary of expenditures by expense class for the Wildlife Habitat Account (Org. 2155) during fiscal years 2019 - 2024.

CLASS	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
010 Personnel Costs	48,704.10	51,000.00	51,140.25	53,771.00	56,732.92	62,837.76
020 Current Expense	495.00	477.57	421.92	927.72	963.75	1,300.00
022 Rents, Leases				564.00	564.00	517.00
029 Intra-Agency Transfers				14,164.00	14,092.50	13,994.50
030 Equipment	0.00	34,469.00	599.00	0.00	3,792.50	222,765.64
033 Land Acquisition	4,740,413.05	177,059.11	1,646,567.05	261,097.36	216,500.72	2,986,086.87
041 Audit Fund Set-Aside	877.00	560.00	1,438.56	728.00	553.20	2,816.00
049 Transfers to Agencies	41,203.11	35,277.60	32,252.16	28,109.07	43,288.21	34,323.84
050 Personal Service Temp					8,712.86	15,973.22
060 Benefits	18,339.01	18,926.60	17,770.35	21,402.10	23,347.72	25,204.58
070 In State Travel	0.00	0.00	87.74	882.00	500.00	560.00
073 Nonfederal Grants	29,041.00	18,920.00	56,562.00	35,471.50	51,547	36,312.00
080 Out of State Travel	0.00	406.31	0.00	0.00	1,540.59	1,840.01
217 Inter Agency Transfers	13,435.75	14,706.50	14,863.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
304 Research & Mngmnt.	278,409.61	136,042.21	126,135.42	264,124.52	212,570.87	272,954.41
305 Acquisition & Manage	20,027.76	100,424.04	61,864.28	7,598.00	4,997.50	35,161.49
Total Expenditure	5,141,746.29	536,791.37	1,958,140.06	\$688,839.27	639,704.34	3,712,647.32

Habitat Stamp Revenue*	625,384	189,744	166,039	168,835	162,189	178,125
Total Revenue	4,622,529	778,017	1,624,766	1,014,544	773,817	3,234,081
Habitat Acct. Ending Bal	244,089	784,958	358,135	719,802	-295,097	332,498

*Includes stamp and other revenue deposited into the 2155-008 state revenue line.

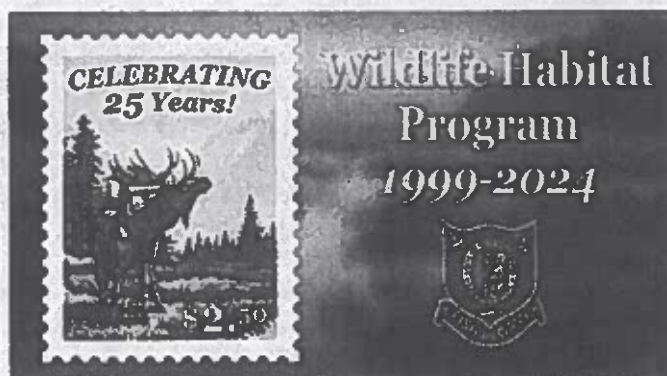
Habitat Stamp Revenue By Calendar Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Stamp Revenue	\$133,865	\$135,188	\$146,923	\$146,190	144,338	141,453

2024 data will be available upon completion of the 2024 calendar year.

Habitat Happenings

This year marks the 25th anniversary of NH Fish & Game's Wildlife Habitat Program, a milestone that highlights a quarter-century of dedication to maintaining and enhancing the woods, waters, and wildlife of New Hampshire.

The Wildlife Habitat Program was established in 1999, catalyzed by the introduction of a \$2.50 wildlife habitat license fee on hunting and trapping licenses. This modest fee, which helps leverage three times the amount in federal funds, has proven to be a game-changer, providing crucial funding for conservation efforts that benefit both wildlife and the people who enjoy New Hampshire's outdoors.



To commemorate this milestone, the Wildlife Habitat Program has developed various media including a sticker, banner, and videos. A Wildlife Journal magazine article is also in the works. A few videos worth highlighting include:

- A thank you to hunter and trappers – these constituents are the only contributors to the Wildlife Habitat Fund
- A 25th Anniversary video highlighting the accomplishments of the Wildlife Habitat Program and the fee that supports its work.
- A WMUR segment on NH Chronicle about the program.

All of the Wildlife Habitat Program's work is detailed in various other media as well, aimed at keeping constituents informed of our work and how their funding is used. Project updates are provided twice annually in an online interactive map format. A FY24 year-end review can be viewed at this link. The report is best viewed on a tablet or computer.

Other videos, press releases, and social media posts can be viewed by searching for #nhhabithappenings on Facebook or Instagram.

Equipment: Habitat Account Class 030

The following equipment purchases were made:

- 4WD pickup truck to be used by the Department's Habitat Biologist to plan and conduct habitat projects on state lands across the state.
- Mini-excavator with bucket and mulching head to aid in maintaining property infrastructure such as woods roads, stream crossing, signs, and parking areas on Fish & Game Wildlife Management Areas across the state.
- Tractor to replace the 22-year old tractor used to maintain 200 +/- acres of field and old-field habitat for wildlife on State lands throughout NH on an annual basis. The former tractor required extensive and expensive repairs over the last several years.
- Water tank, pump and hose skid unit - this is a mobile spray system for habitat work on Fish and Game Wildlife Management Areas and other state lands. It will be periodically mounted to the Wildlife Habitat Program's UTV and used on wildlife habitat-focused prescribed fires to establish a blackline, keep the fire contained, and for mop up.

Land Acquisition and Easements: Habitat Account Class 033

Land conservation is a core component of our Department's mission which is carried out by the Wildlife Habitat Program. Land conservation ensures long-term protection of habitats for a wide range of species and provides access to the public for wildlife-related recreation now and for future generations. Nearly all of the purchases of land interests, whether fee title or conservation easement, involve the use of funds from the Wildlife Restoration Grant Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. However, the Department also acquires properties in several other ways including donations and accepting properties as mitigation for environmental impacts associated with development. Wildlife Habitat funds can be used, as approved by the Commission, to purchase fee titles, easements or to serve as match for federal funds.

Lands to be purchased are assessed by criteria developed by the Department's Lands Team to ensure that we are using our limited funds to gain the best outcomes for wildlife and public access for wildlife-based recreation. The criteria include the size of the parcel, its connectivity with other conservation lands and quality and diversity of the habitat found on the property, among other things. Lands are often conserved with help from non-profit partners - pooling our staff and financial resources necessary to get a project done.

While the actual land purchase price is the largest expense associated with a project, the due diligence work required for any real estate transaction makes up remaining project costs. These activities include appraisal and appraisal review (a requirement when using federal funds), environmental hazards assessment, legal work, title insurance and property surveys.

Five land conservation projects were completed over the last six months totaling 2,255 acres. Another five are in the works for the coming year that total another 3,000+ acres. Those that were completed in FY24 are detailed below.

Maidstone Bends Conservation Easement, Northumberland

Along the shores of the Connecticut and Upper Ammonoosuc Rivers lies farmland spanning 750 acres in the town of Northumberland. The Wildlife Habitat Program partnered with The Nature Conservancy in NH to conserve this property that provides diverse wildlife habitats including farmland, woods, wetlands, and expansive floodplains – those areas along the river that flood each spring, filtering water and providing important wildlife habitat. Fish & Game now holds an easement on 358 acres of the property that was not already under easement. Closing occurred on July 13, 2023.

Glover Farm WMA, Dummer

The Wildlife Habitat Program teamed up with The Conservation Fund to conserve this 820-acre property. The sale closed in October 2023 creating the Glover Farm Wildlife Management Area. This property harbors diverse habitats including active hayfields, old field and orchard, a white cedar swamp, marshes, and extensive northern hardwood forest. These diverse habitats support equally diverse wildlife including moose, deer, bear, bobolink, marsh wren and many others. It's popular among local hunters for grouse, woodcock, and snowshoe hare hunting, as well as deer hunting. We plan on maintaining those diverse habitats for the benefit of wildlife and the public. Many thanks to The Conservation Fund for helping to conserve this tremendous property for today's and future generations to enjoy. Learn more about this spectacular project using the following links: [Press Release](#); [Video](#).

Carter Brook WMA, Springfield

With the support from local residents and the Town of Springfield, NH, 837 acres of land were recently purchased to create the Carter Brook WMA. Two separate properties were acquired to protect wildlife habitat, aquatic and upland resources, and to provide the public with recreational opportunities such as hunting, trapping, and wildlife watching.

The local community rallied to conserve this property, providing assistance and funding to make this project successful. The total project costs were over \$1.3 million, which involved funding from a generous anonymous donor, a bargain sale from Jennifer Lyn Shaw, one of the former landowners, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife Restoration Grant Program derived from taxes on firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment. The property's size affords the opportunity for habitat improvement through forest management and will benefit diverse wildlife populations.

This WMA abuts the 6,679-acre Gile State Forest and is close by other conservation lands including the Department's McDaniels Marsh WMA improving habitat connectivity for wide-ranging mammals such as bobcat, bear, moose, fisher, and deer.

Pinchard WMA, Mont Vernon

The Department accepted a generous donation of 240 acres from the estate of Roger and Joanne Pinchard in June. In 2013, the Pinchards were engaged in estate planning and reached out to several conservation organizations to inquire about donating their land, including Fish & Game. After evaluating their options, they determined the Department best aligned with their values and how they wanted to see their land managed. A pledge agreement was signed by both parties and made part of their estate. The Pinchards have since passed away and their estate manager reached out last year to initiate donation procedures.

The property consists of 50 acres of hay and cornfields that will be farmed by the same local farmer, 60 acres of wetlands including a beaver impoundment, red maple swamp, and shrub swamp, with the remainder in hemlock, oak, red maple, and pine forest. This habitat diversity will support a variety of wildlife while also providing excellent wildlife-based recreation opportunities.

The Pinchard's lasting conservation legacy will be extended far beyond these 240 acres as the appraised value of this land can be used to leverage three times the amount in federal funds to conserve elsewhere in NH. A lasting conservation legacy indeed!

Easement Monitoring: Habitat Class 49

The Department's system of conservation easement lands (over 24,000 acres) is monitored annually to ensure landowners comply with deed restrictions designed to maintain the habitat and public access values of those lands. Staff from the NH Conservation Lands Stewardship Program (CLS) monitors over 5,000 acres of Fish & Game easements under a Memorandum of Understanding. Costs incurred through the MOU are paid for out of the Habitat Account Class 49. Funding to monitor the remaining Fish and Game easements comes from either the Land Conservation Investment Program endowment (if purchased with LCIP funds) or the State Land Conservation Endowment fund (more recent easement purchases covered with endowment contributions from partner sources).

CLS staff members work cooperatively with Fish & Game staff to rectify compliance issues that may arise. Department conservation easements require landowners to prepare a stewardship plan

that must be approved by the Department prior to implementation. Department staff review draft plans and work with landowners to ensure they incorporate the guidance necessary to maintain the habitat values of the land.

Small Grants: Habitat Account Class 073

The Small Grants Program helps landowners who own a minimum of 25 contiguous acres restore or enhance habitat for wildlife. Funding for on-the-ground work comes from the Wildlife Habitat Fund. In exchange for the grant, landowners agree that their land will remain open for non-motorized public access activities, including hunting for at least 5 years. Twenty-two small grants were awarded during FY24. Awards and technical assistance supported approximately 26 acres of shrubland/young forest enhancement, 278 acres of grassland and field maintenance, creation or maintenance of 7 acres of wildlife openings, the release of 19 mast trees, and the development of one wildlife-focused management plan covering 320 acres.

Public Lands Habitat Restoration & Management: Habitat Account Class 304

This class covers wildlife habitat improvement projects on state lands and maintenance of WMA infrastructure (gates, signs, access roads, parking areas, etc.) that facilitates public use and property management by NHFG staff.

State Lands Habitat Projects

To have a diversity of wildlife, you need a diversity of habitats. The Wildlife Habitat Program manages a variety of upland habitats - from woodlands to fields of various types, shrublands, and barrens to help in providing that habitat diversity. Over the last year, staff completed three mulching mower, two apple pruning, and three invasive exotic plant control projects. Projects are detailed below.

Forest Lake State Forest, Dalton

A mulching mower was used to reclaim an old field area and release apple trees, hawthorne, and other mast producing shrubs last December. Maintaining healthy old apple orchards result in increased wildlife food production benefitting moose, deer, bear, ruffed grouse, brown thrasher, and purple finch among others. We aim to release the orchard every 15 years or so. This project was done in collaboration with the NH Division of Forests and Lands.

Farrar Marsh WMA, Hillsborough

A mulching mower was used to mow back vegetation in a 4.5-acre old field to maintain an important wildlife opening in an area dominated by older forest. Three or four pockets of healthy aspen were left to reach pole-size before being cut during a future entry to increase the stem density of this species. Crabapples and blueberry were also left. This work occurred last January.

Cascade Marsh WMA, Sutton

A mulching mower was used last January to maintain seven acres of young forest habitat, increase the aspen/birch component, and create woodcock singing grounds. This project will benefit ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare, beaver, nesting waterfowl, and young-forest dependent songbirds in addition to woodcock.

Agnew State Forest, Jefferson

The Wildlife Habitat Team kept warm in single digit temperatures on Valentines Day pruning two dozen apple trees at Agnew State Forest. This one-acre old apple orchard was re-released in 2021 as part of a mosaic of habitat types on the property. Apple trees are a preferred nest site of many species such as robin, great crested flycatcher, and red-eyed vireo. They are sought after by both song and game birds, bear, deer, coyote, fox and mice for their fruit production. Wintering robins and waxwings are dependent on the everhanging fruit of apples and crabapples in late winter and early spring. Deer browse on twigs in the winter and grosbeaks (evening and pine) and orioles eat the flower buds. Fruit trees, with their thin bark, are also a favorite of sapsuckers. Both the flowers and the fruit are an important food source for native pollinators and honey bees. While apple trees are not native, they have become an important habitat feature in their naturalized state.

Deer Hill WMA, Brentwood

Habitat staff worked several days over February and March to prune 15 crabapple trees at Deer Hill WMA. These trees were partially released as part of a property-wide effort to regenerate young forest habitat in the winter of 22/23. Work actually began last summer when remaining trees in and around the orchard were felled by hand with chainsaws and old fencing enclosures set when the trees were first planted were removed. The site was difficult because bittersweet had entangled much of the fencing and trees making felling, clean-up, and pruning a challenge. Herbicide control of the bittersweet began last summer and will be ongoing to ensure the crabapples remain healthy and free of vines.

Mascoma River WMA, Canaan

About 8 of the 22 acres treated with a mulching mower in FY23 was herbicide treated in July 2023 to control the invasive exotic glossy buckthorn. Only the buckthorn was treated. Buckthorn can hinder establishment of the native wild raisin, alder, birch and maple that we aim to promote. The mowing that occurred during the winter of 2023 was done to stimulate the production of more sprouts that will produce higher stem densities, more berries, and better habitat for many shrubland songbirds, American woodcock, and even wood turtles. This project is a continuation of habitat work originally started in 2006.

Pearly Lake WMA, Rindge

This WMA has several small fields that have been invaded by glossy buckthorn. Repeated mowing of glossy buckthorn to maintain the fields can help it spread. Staff worked with licensed contractors to complete a targeted herbicide application to the glossy buckthorn in August 2023. Ten acres was treated.

Prescott State Forest, Laconia

An herbicide application in July 2023 targeted resprouting invasives in an old apple orchard, particularly Asiatic bittersweet that can smother and kill trees. The intent is to keep the apple trees released for improved wildlife food production and provide a feathered edge to the adjacent field. Wildlife Habitat Program staff has been working with the NH Division of Forests and Lands to reclaim this 13-acre abandoned apple orchard for several years.

Field Mowing

One hundred seven acres was mowed on 14 properties. This acreage does not include fields harvested for hay which provide additional field habitat for grassland birds and other species. Fields larger than 5 acres are generally mowed annually to maintain grass dominance which benefits grassland birds such as bobolinks and savannah sparrows. Smaller fields are mowed every 2-3 years. Mowing less frequently will allow a mix of goldenrods, milkweeds, raspberries

and blackberries, and other wildlife food sources to become established and grow in combination with grasses. This mix will benefit a different sweet of songbirds as well as butterflies and pollinators, the latter being important in helping to produce food for wildlife. Regardless of how fields are maintained they all provide excellent nesting and bugging habitats for turkeys, singing and potentially roosting grounds for woodcock, and foraging areas for deer and bear, among other wildlife benefits.

Infrastructure Projects

During FY24, 20 signs were repaired, repainted, or created new and installed. Additionally, 17 properties with signs, gates, and parking areas were cleaned up and vegetation was brushed back, and 14 gates were scraped and painted on 13 properties. Other infrastructure projects included:

- Ellis Hatch Jr. WMA, Brookfield -- Staff worked with the Town and the Lakes Region Conservation Trust to develop a plan to improve parking on the north end of the property, at the end of Hansen Road, to meet everyone's needs including abutters who have been impacted by high public use there in recent years. A new parking area is slated to be installed in a former log landing during the next reporting period.
- Pearly Lake WMA, Rindge -- Staff was back at this property to continue work on waterbars and other drainage to stabilize this extensive road system.
- William B. Ruger Jr South WMA, Croydon/Newport -- Staff continued planning to remove a dike that is prone to beaver damming and erosion during high rain events. The dike will be removed to deter further erosion and sedimentation of a downstream marsh. It would be cost prohibitive to upgrade the dike to a dam meeting today's standard that would eliminate the erosion hazard. Staff completed and submitted a wetlands permit application in May. The permit was received in early July and so work can commence. Removal is slated to be completed during the next reporting period but may be delayed as priority needs to shift to addressing the extensive road damage at the 25,000-acre CT Lakes Natural Area in Pittsburg.
- Lower Shaker WMA, Enfield - Staff completed extensive access road repairs including the replacement or installation of five stream crossings, the filling of major washouts, and the filling, grading, and ditching of 4,300 feet of access road. Given the number of infrastructure projects needing addressing elsewhere and how much time this particular project was expected to take, we attempted to put this project out to bid. We bid it three times but had few bidders, and those that did bid were higher in cost than the Department could afford. Therefore, staff took this project on with the Wildlife Habitat Program's new mini-excavator coupled with equipment and staff time provided by the Department's Facilities Division. Staff started this project in late May and completed in late July, therefore spanning to reporting periods.
- Mascoma WMA, Canaan -- A portion of the access road is being eroded by the Mascoma River. Staff is developing a plan to move a small portion of the road away from the river. A wetlands scientist was engaged to delineate the wetlands in that location, a wetlands permit application was submitted to DES, and a permit issued. The repair is slated to be completed during the next reporting period.
- Kearsarge WMA, Andover -- High rain events and beavers led to consistent flooding of Leadmine Rd, the sole access to this 1,000-acre property. Staff visited the site often over the last several months to remove beaver debris to reduce the flooding.

- Several WMAs prone to erosion from high rain events were checked after several major storms.

Public Lands Habitat Acquisition & Management: Habitat Account Class 305 Boundaries need to be maintained every 10-15 years to ensure visitors to the properties and our abutters know the extent of our ownerships, and to ensure habitat management projects stay within our bounds. Over the last FY, 28 miles of boundary were marked at Perkins Pond WMA, Powdermill Pond WMA, McDaniels Marsh WMA, and the South Bay Bog section of the CT Lakes Natural Area in Pittsburg. Staff also addressed and investigated significant encroachments including those at Cocheco River WMA, Bellamy River WMA, and Ellis Hatch Jr WMA. Here's a link to a short video describing encroachment issues on WMAs and highlights the extent of a particular encroachment on the seacoast (the property was not named in the video to protect abutter identities): <https://youtu.be/JdQIDcYqnj4?si=T2uHJ8Ayh6Ln6t8b>



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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Committee to Study Fish & Game Department Funding and Partnerships Scott R. Mason, Executive Director NH Fish & Game Department October 15, 2024

First, over the past 8 years, the F&G budget has increased from \$29.7 million in 2017 to a proposed \$45.1 million in 2026. Support from the General Fund has risen from \$600,000 to \$1,548,809 over that same period. I would like to thank the Governor and the legislature for their strong support, however, as we examine our future needs, it's important to balance the statutory mandates of the Department to the appropriations it receives.

Sometimes to look forward, we need to look backwards. Others have testified that this is not the first time that funding for F&G has been studied by the legislature. Most of us remember SB 48 and the report from that Commission. Allow me to quote from the book *The History of New Hampshire Fish and Game* by Jack Noon.

Executive Director Parker in 1932:

"The Legislature did not act to invest the necessary funds into Fish & Game's activities for the Commission to operate effectively. The other New England state are providing generous funds for their Fish and Game Department to carry out their programs for better fishing and hunting and to increase the income derived from such a wise and great dividend-paying investment."

"Our income from the sale of licenses alone is not sufficient to carry out a program to this end."

Executive Director Carpenter 1957:

In 1957, following an across-the-board state employee pay raise without a counterbalancing appropriation for Fish and Game, Executive Director Carpenter was forced to cut operational expenses and staff. He wrote, "Where do we go from here? Current levels of austerity spending will leave us with worn out trucks, and equipment, neglected maintenance jobs, and a minimum of capital improvements."

I believe in both past cases the solution was cuts in service and increases in license fees. Funding has been a long-term problem for Fish and Game. Trying to balance service with license fees has been a problem for many years. The issue today has become more complicated with the increased demand for F&G services from citizens that are not license holders. The Department's proposed budget will eliminate the Fish and Game Fund except for any returned surpluses by the end of the next biennium. If the legislature does not act to increase the amount of general funds appropriated to the

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Department the following biennial budget will require dramatic cuts in personnel and services, an increase in license fees, or more General Funds.

Committee members have asked me to look at unfunded mandates that have been assigned to the department and what are the costs associated with these actions. It is very hard for staff to break out all the costs associated with these extra duties. For example, the legislature has assigned the director to serve on 22 committees or commissions. These duties are broken up among multiple staff members but would account for more than one full-time staff person. Which will cost the department approximately \$138,000 per year.

Colonel Jordan has testified that 30% of the time law enforcement personal is spent on activities not associated with serving our "paying customer" constituency. In other words, services rendered not to hunters, anglers, trappers, ATVs, or snowmobile users. These services include searching for lost Alzheimer patients and children, collecting rabies samples for HHS, and assisting other law enforcement agencies in recovering evidence. That equates to about \$2,177,575.

Most of the other divisions do not keep task-oriented time sheets. So, the same person might be attending a legislative hearing in the morning and removing a bobcat from a hen house in the afternoon.

As you have heard, our marine division is very active in many non-sportsmen areas. Allow me to list a few of them:

- Offshore Wind Development (OSW) in Gulf of Maine (comments for various BOEM timeline processes, NH Offshore Wind Commission, various organization's meetings associated with OSW.
- Marine related Environmental Review: e.g., DES Wetland Permits (dredge and fill applications), FERC applications/relicensing for hydro dams, Seabrook Nuclear Plant reports and meeting, etc.
- Aquaculture work that exceeds the licensing income from aquaculture.
- Associated regional partnerships and advisory organization's meetings, e.g., Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership, Sea Grant, Northeast Regional Ocean Council, etc.
- Administration, such as extensive time for G&C requests, contracts, etc.
- Becoming an Outdoors Woman
- DES Spill Response events and training as well as advisory and meetings for Dam Removal and River Restoration.
- NOAA Fisheries meetings, such as Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team and Plan development and Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Team and Plan development.
- Atlantic Coast Joint Venture - Saltmarsh Sparrow
- Legislative mandates that don't pay for staff time, such as in-water derelict gear removal.
- Legislative rules testimony
- Any work related to species in NH waters that are not migratory that are not covered by ASMFC or NEFMC, such as oysters, clams, etc. The work that involves ASMFC and NEFMC may not be covered by federal grants (only finfish is covered) or the work involved is more than the funds received by NEFMC.

Historically, user fees the Department charged have been insufficient to completely fund our appropriations, thus the need for other funding sources or a realignment of our mission. One example: The revenue from marine license sales falls about \$500,000 short of meeting the statutory needs of the Divisions.

I would like to remind you of the 2022 New Hampshire Report from the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation that we presented to you at the first hearing. In 2022, NH citizens and noncitizens spent \$5.2 billion on wildlife associated recreation in New Hampshire. Tourism drives the New Hampshire Economy. Fish and Game plays an integral role in providing the opportunities that many people come here to enjoy.

**Fish and Game Department
Use of Fish and Game Funds
by Fiscal Year**

Fiscal Year	Unrestricted Revenue	F&G Fund Expenses	Variance
2011	11,447,854	12,314,115	(866,261)
2012	11,489,701	12,670,904	(1,181,203)
2013	11,755,294	12,517,545	(762,251)
2014	11,718,371	12,952,684	(1,234,313)
2015	11,632,042	12,971,370	(1,339,328)
*2016	12,922,014	12,828,878	93,136
2017	13,181,201	12,994,677	186,524
2018	13,650,567	12,779,333	871,234
2019	13,561,697	13,108,308	453,389
**2020	15,975,564	12,764,367	3,211,197
2021	15,511,675	12,120,284	3,391,391
2022	14,821,735	14,332,381	489,354
2023	14,900,822	14,114,957	785,865
2024	14,936,414	15,915,947	(979,533)
***2025	13,700,000	17,417,373	(3,717,373)
***2026	14,015,000	18,138,049	(4,123,049)
***2027	14,015,000	18,929,714	(4,914,714)

*Beginning in 2016 there was a significant increase
in the funds received for the road tolls.

**Beginning of the COVID Pandemic

*** Budgeted

**NH Fish and Game
Unrestricted Revenue**

13,375,767	Beginning Balance 7/1/24
13,946,441	Budgeted Estimated Revenue
18,165,671	Less Appropriations
9,156,537	Ending Balance 6/30/25

9,156,537	Beginning Balance 7/1/25
14,015,000	Estimated Revenue
18,138,047	Less Appropriations
5,033,489	Ending Balance 6/30/26

5,033,489	Beginning Balance 7/1/26
14,015,000	Estimated Revenue
18,929,714	Less Appropriations
118,775	Ending Balance 6/30/27

118,775 Ending Balance 6/30/27

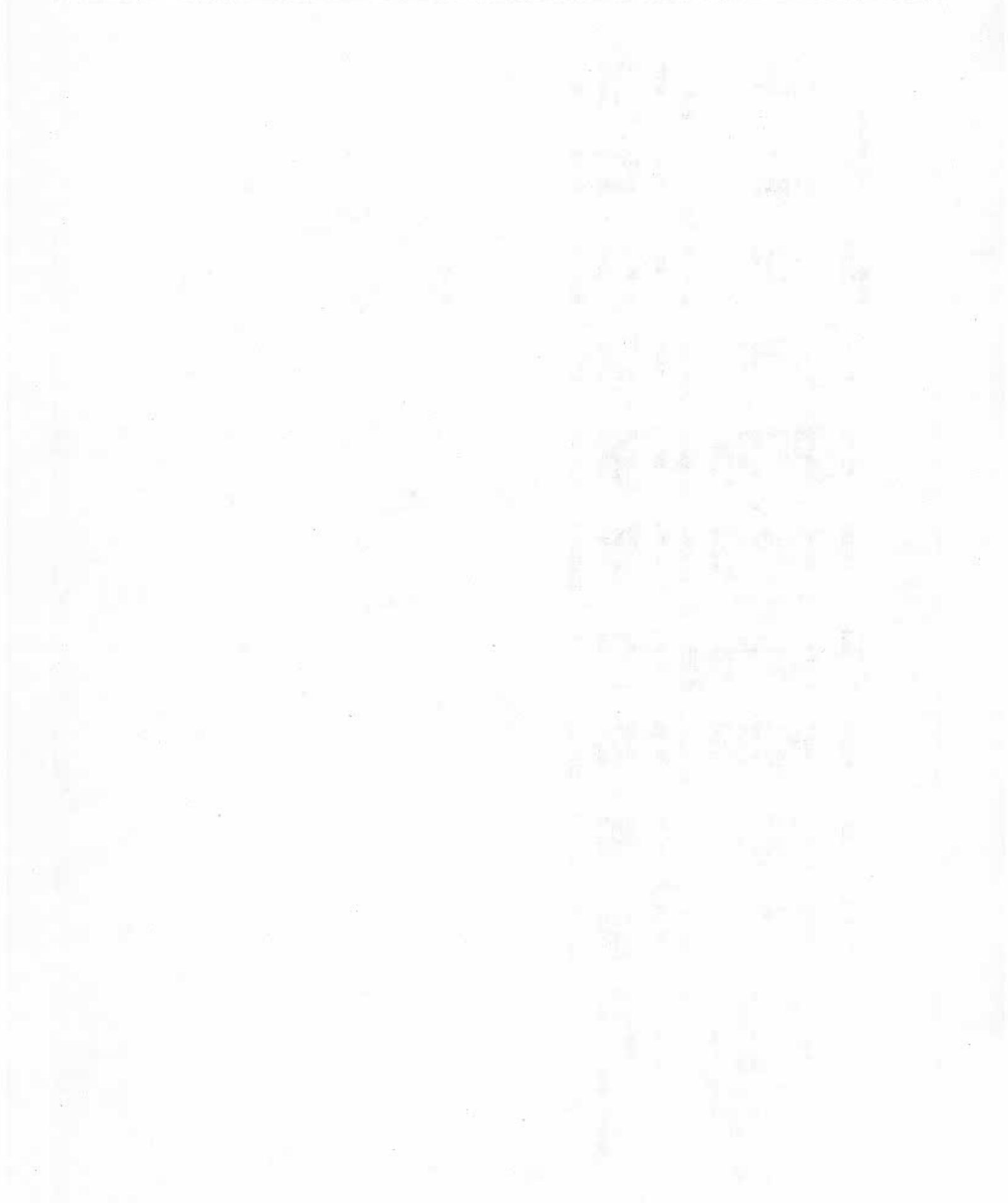
Original Budgeted UR was \$13,700,000
Adjusted Estimated Revenue is based on
actual road toll revenue received and an
increase in interest earnings.



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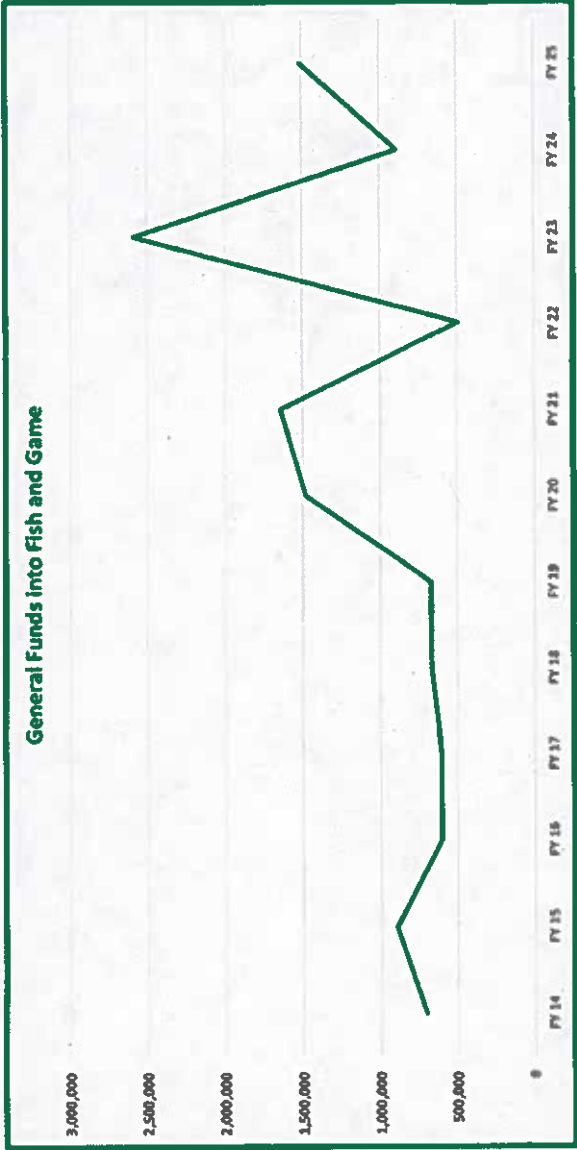


	<u>FY 2018</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>Actuals</u> <u>FY 2021</u>	<u>FY 2022</u>	<u>FY 2023</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>Authorized</u> <u>FY 2025</u>	<u>Budget Request</u> <u>FY 2026</u>	<u>FY 2027</u>
010 PERSONAL SERVICES-PER	9,544,563	9,799,492	10,211,812	10,013,424	10,283,483	10,659,578	11,526,538	12,810,821	12,999,501	13,209,100
011 PERSONAL SERVICES-UNCL	108,961	113,433	117,805	128,090	117,571	125,093	131,691	133,931	135,278	135,278
018 OVERTIME	587,755	557,038	559,771	595,257	679,773	782,859	773,188	947,105	1,026,000	1,050,402
019 HOLIDAY PAY	98,163	101,726	113,834	118,597	121,758	126,403	137,170	199,364	213,222	219,821
050 PERSONAL SERVICE-TEMP	459,440	467,592	351,975	301,815	312,082	389,985	434,986	763,690	822,743	799,733
059 FULL TIME TEMPORARY	0	3,555	91,235	101,797	51,258	54,145	87,336	191,910	167,077	174,116
060 BENEFITS	5,698,056	5,905,823	6,038,178	5,527,020	6,661,740	6,949,270	7,212,671	8,330,874	8,784,138	9,223,400
064 RETIREMENT, PENSION &	880,461	791,781	801,211	710,409	578,808	605,303	774,995	886,300	956,900	1,124,600
Total Budget	31,462,748	34,532,370	30,116,649	33,688,599	34,334,660	35,093,895	39,583,614	45,252,278	45,121,737	44,150,722
Personnel % of Budget	55.23%	51.37%	60.72%	51.94%	54.77%	56.11%	53.28%	53.82%	55.64%	58.75%
All Personnel	10,798,882	11,042,835	11,446,433	11,258,980	11,565,905	12,138,062	13,090,907	15,046,621	15,363,821	15,588,450
Benefits	5,698,056	5,905,823	6,038,178	5,527,020	6,661,740	6,949,270	7,212,671	8,330,874	8,784,138	9,223,400
Retirees' Health Care Benefits	880,461	791,781	801,211	710,409	578,808	605,303	774,995	886,300	956,900	1,124,600
	17,377,398	17,740,438	18,285,823	17,496,409	18,808,454	19,692,635	21,078,574	24,263,795	25,104,859	25,936,449



Infusion of GF into F&G*

FY 14	699,000
FY 15	893,000
FY 16	600,000
FY 17	600,000
FY 18	662,944
FY 19	666,969
FY 20	1,476,019
FY 21	1,639,275
FY 22	490,227
FY 23	2,586,328
FY 24	888,137 **
FY 25	1,512,626 **Budgeted



*These GF infusions DO NOT include the \$100,000 transfer into the Non-Game Program per RSA 212-B:6

**These GF infusions DO Not include the \$100,000 for Derelict Fishing Gear per HB442

Additional \$2M put into HB2 for pay raise, original amount was \$586,328

FY 14-17 the GF were a direct transfer into the F&G Fund. Beginning with FY 18, the funds were budgeted within AU 7887, Conservation Law Enforcement



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Economic Impacts of Recreational Fishing – New Hampshire



- New Hampshire
- New Hampshire District 1
- New Hampshire District 2

Economic Contributions of Recreational Fishing — New Hampshire —



Angler participation and spending presented here reflect 2018 estimates. The 17% increase in license sales in the U.S. through September 2020 compared to the year before and 65% increase in excise tax collections since 2018 indicate economic contributions for 2020 could be significantly greater.





Outdoor industry a 'significant driver' of New Hampshire's economy

But despite jumps in participation, job loss during Covid topped 20%

November 16, 2021

[David Brooks-Concord Monitor](#)



Only eight other states got a larger share of their GDP from the outdoor industry in 2020.

The pandemic clobbered certain parts of the outdoor recreation industry in 2020, cutting its employment in New Hampshire by one-fifth, but even so, the industry contributed more to the economy of the Granite State than in most other states in the country.

That's one conclusion from a [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis study](#). It said the outdoor recreation industry – which it considers everything from amusement parks and outdoor concerts to fishing trips and RV'ing – contributed \$2.2 billion New Hampshire's

economy, about 2.6 percent of the gross domestic product in 2020, and employed over 26,500 people.

Only eight other states got a larger share of their GDP from the outdoor industry. Among those were Maine, where the tally was 3.3 percent, and Vermont, whose 3.7 percent was topped only by Hawaii and Montana.

Areas that boomed in New Hampshire in 2020 were those that could be enjoyed by individuals even while social distancing. It was led by boating and fishing, which rose a whopping 41 percent, and bicycling saw a hefty 14 percent increase. Camping in a RV saw a 9 percent increase and off-road riding a 5 percent boost.

"Noteworthy is the productive output of the RV, boating, and biking segments, which are likely harbingers of 2021 numbers. Going forward, the New Hampshire outdoor industry is mobilized and well-positioned to improve its meaningful impact through workforce initiatives, community development, and making the outdoors accessible and welcoming to all," said Tyler Ray of the industry group Granite Outdoor Alliance.

"Despite the global pandemic, New Hampshire's outdoor recreation employers were still significant drivers of the state's economy last year," said BEA Commissioner Taylor Caswell.

Presumably because many of the increased activities require little or no interaction with a business, the number of jobs related to outdoor activities in New Hampshire fell sharply, declining more than 41 other states. Outdoor employment was down 20.7 percent in 2020, according to federal data, compared to a national decline of 17.1 percent. Vermont (26 percent) and Maine (24 percent) saw even sharper declines.

This article is being shared by partners in the Granite State News Collaborative. For more information visit, collaborativenh.org.

https://www.unionleader.com/news/business/report-outdoor-recreation-added-2-6-billion-to-nh-economy-last-year/article_92d53cf8-39f8-5fa6-8420-91766ca4124c.html

November 14, 2022

Report: Outdoor recreation added \$2.6 billion to NH economy last year

The fifth year of annual government reports on the outdoor industry showed continued growth in the sector in New Hampshire, though growth was faster in the other northern New England states.

Every year, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis tallies the impact of outdoor recreation on the economy, a broad category that includes everything from hiking and skiing, to gardening, to outdoor concerts. [The report](#) estimates New Hampshire saw \$2.6 billion in value added from the whole outdoor recreation sector in 2021 — including money that comes directly from the outdoor industry, as well as other supporting industries.

The biggest piece of that value came from what the bureau termed “conventional” outdoor activities, like hiking, hunting, biking and boating. Skiing and other snow sports added more than \$190 million, the report estimated.

Water parks and amusement parks added \$38 million and another \$14 million in economic value came from outdoor sports events and outdoor concerts.

Last year, New Hampshire saw slower growth in outdoor-industry employment than its northern New England neighbors.

While New Hampshire saw a 13% climb in outdoor recreation employment, Maine’s increased by almost 16% and Vermont’s increase was more than 17%.

The outdoor industry is also a slightly larger part of the job market for Maine and Vermont than for New Hampshire. The outdoor industry accounts for 4.9% of Maine’s total employment, 4.7% in Vermont, and 4.1% in New Hampshire.

The annual report was instituted following a 2016 bill introduced by Sen. Jeanne Shaheen and former Sen. Cory Gardner, a Colorado Republican.



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ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

— New Hampshire —

TARGET SHOOTING

In New Hampshire **105,000** participants spent **\$62 Million** on target shooting-related purchases.

Total Multiplier Effect	Jobs Supported	Salaries & Wages	Contributions to GDP	State & Local Taxes	Federal Taxes
					
Statewide					
\$105 Million	1,000*	\$38 Million	\$58 Million**	\$6 Million	\$9 Million
United States					
\$39.4 Billion	281,200*	\$12.8 Billion	\$21.2 Billion***	\$2.2 Billion	\$3.2 Billion

There are **20 Million** target shooters in the U.S.

In 2020 they spent **\$15.7 Billion** on shooting purchases!



*If target shooters were to stop spending, this many jobs would disappear.
State GDP *United States GDP

STANDARD
PRACTICES

THE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

STANDARD PRACTICES
FOR THE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

STANDARD
PRACTICES

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

STANDARD
PRACTICES

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

— New Hampshire —

HUNTING

In New Hampshire **55,000** hunters spent **\$70 Million** on hunting-related purchases.

Total Multiplier Effect	Jobs Supported	Salaries & Wages	Contributions to GDP	State & Local Taxes	Federal Taxes
					
Statewide					
\$106 Million	900*	\$36 Million	\$53 Million**	\$5 Million	\$8 Million
United States					
\$109.9 Billion	688,542*	\$32.2 Billion	\$58 Billion***	\$5.4 Billion	\$8.3 Billion

There are **15 Million** hunters in the U.S.

In 2020 they spent **\$49.4 Billion** on hunting purchases!



*If hunters were to stop spending, this many jobs would disappear.
State GDP *United States GDP



Committee to Study Fish and Game
Department Funding and Partnerships
SB 542, Chapter 302:1, Laws of 2024
Final Report

APPENDIX C

Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee –
Fish and Game Department
Search and Rescue Quarterly Report
April 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024



New Hampshire
Fish and Game Department

FRS 24 291

48

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Headquarters: (603) 271-3421
Website: www.WildNH.com

TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964
Fax: (603) 271-1438
Email: info@wildlife.nh.gov

Scott R. Mason
Executive Director

August 9, 2024

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

In accordance with RSA 206:42, Search and Rescue, the NH Department of Fish & Game is submitting the following Quarterly Report of Expenditures for the period April 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024.

Balance Forward from FY 2023 (Undesignated Reserve)	\$475,268.39
Plus: Revenue FY 2024	+ 587,493.97
407364-Fees & Donations	215,233.71
403247-Hike Safe Card	363,944.51
407369-Agency Response Fee	8,315.75
Less: Expenditures (1 st Qtr. 07/01/23- 09/30/23) (1)	-136,636.67
Expenditures (2 nd Qtr. 10/01/23-12/31/23) (2)	-100,617.99
Expenditures (3 rd Qtr. 01/01/24-03/31/24) (3)	- 73,630.55
Expenditures (4 th Qtr. 04/01/24-06/30/24) (4)	-156,466.93
Less Encumbrances:	207,572.77
Balance per NHFIRST 06/30/2024	<u>\$387,837.45</u>

Expenditures by Class for All Quarters

Class Description	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Expenditures
Overtime	70,746.04	46,935.76	26,364.79	58,119.08	202,165.67
Holiday Pay	0.00	0.00	2,127.12	0.00	2,127.12
Part-Time Personnel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Current Expenses	13,776.68	24,564.47	23,997.95	51,533.14	113,872.24
Equipment	12,589.36	3,019.89	966.00	10,794.12	27,369.37
Benefits	39,524.59	26,097.87	16,678.65	31,896.85	114,197.96
In State Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,711.48	1,711.48
Out of State Travel	0.00	0.00	3,496.04	2,412.26	5,908.30
YTD Expense	<u>136,636.67</u>	<u>100,617.99</u>	<u>73,630.55</u>	<u>156,466.93</u>	<u>467,352.14</u>

Footnotes:

- 1) Expenditures of \$136,636.67 shown represent direct expenditures charged to the Search & Rescue account in the 1st Quarter of the Fiscal Year.
- 2) Expenditures of \$100,617.99 shown represent direct expenditures charged to the Search & Rescue account in the 2nd Quarter of the Fiscal Year.
- 3) Expenditures of \$73,630.55 shown represent direct expenditures charged to the Search & Rescue account in the 3rd Quarter of the Fiscal Year.
- 4) Expenditures of \$156,466.93 shown represent direct expenditures charged to the Search & Rescue account in the 4th Quarter of the Fiscal Year.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott R. Mason
Executive Director

Kathy Ann LaBonte, Chief
Business Division

