



# New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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Stephanie L. Simek, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

2A

January 30, 2025

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte  
and Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, New Hampshire, 03301

### Requested Action

Pursuant to RSA 4:8, Gifts to the State, authorize the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFGD), to accept a donation of equipment from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The equipment is worth is an estimated fair market value of \$6,242.05 (USFWS) effective upon Governor and Council approval.

### Explanation

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) reached out to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFGD), offering available year end monies for equipment relating to conservation projects. USFWS purchased and donated equipment for both the Marine Division and Inland Fisheries Division. The video monitoring equipment for the Marine Division is necessary to the department for monitoring the annual spawning returns of anadromous fish in our coastal rivers. The equipment for the Marine Division includes an underwater camera, a viewing monitor, a Dell lap top, an external hard drive and software. The equipment for Inland Fisheries are two generators that were donated as components of an electrofishing system that they are currently outfitting for a whitewater raft. Total amount of the combined donations from USFWS is \$6,242.05.

The Fish and Game Commission voted unanimously to accept this donated equipment at their meeting held December 17, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie L. Simek Ph.D.  
Executive Director

Kathy Ann LaBonte, Chief  
Business Division

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**NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT**  
**DECEMBER 17, 2024 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Location: NH Fish & Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301

Commissioners Present: R. Green, B. Temple, C. Hodgdon, E. Stohl, J. Titone, J. Caveney, P. McGonagle, G. Chandler, D. Poole & A.J. DeRosa.

Commissioners absent/excused:

Rockingham County Commissioner seat: vacant

Executive Director Simek – Present

Chairman R. Green called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. He informed the audience that the public is entitled to attend all Commission meetings and when recognized by the Chairman, the public may speak on any item on the agenda. The Chairman reserves the right to limit comment to the extent necessary for the orderly conduct of the meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1.) Commissioner E. Stohl moved to approve the November 19, 2024 Commission Minutes, as written, and Commissioner A.J. DeRosa seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2.) Consent Agenda - The following items were grouped together and were noticed as consent agenda items to expedite action on routine matters, which may not require public discussion. The Commission voted to approve these matters as presented. Commission members may remove certain items if further public input or discussion is deemed necessary.

Commissioner A.J. DeRosa moved to accept consent agenda items 2a & 2c, as presented below, and Commissioner B. Temple seconded.

2a.) The Commission accepted the donation of two generators and accessories, valued at \$2,256.93, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for use on an electrofishing raft.

2b.) The Commission accepted the following donations totaling \$39.00 made to the Small Gifts & Donations Account:

Margaret Kilrain, Manchester, NH -	\$20.00
Barbara Derr, Royal Oak, MI -	\$15.00
Cameron St. Pierre, Richmond, NH -	\$ 4.00
Total: \$39.00	

2c.) The Commission accepted the following donations totaling \$575.00 made to the Search & Rescue Account

Stephen Wheeler -	\$450.00
John Collins -	\$100.00
Jaffrey Woman's Club - on behalf of Autumn Lewis	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
	\$575.00

3.) Commissioner A.J. DeRosa moved to accept the donation of an underwater camera, viewing screen and Dell laptop and Commissioner P. McGonagle seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

1.) Financial Statement – Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Business Division – there were no questions.

**COMMITTEE STRUCTURE:**

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** Public policy development & recommendations, as well as Commission advocacy before legislature.

**Commissioner Stohl, Chair;** Commissioners: Caveney, DeRosa & McGonagle.

**Staff members:** Director Simek, Kevin Jordan & Marty Mobley.

Commissioner E. Stohl reported that the committee met the morning of the Commission Meeting and had an informational meeting and discussed an AOT (Alteration of Terrain) issue, which took most of the meeting.

He further reported that the committee would be meeting prior to the January 21, 2025 Commission Meeting, at 10:00 a.m., in the east conference room.

Chairman Green announced that legislation was the priority right now over other committee meetings, and asked that committee Chair's to plan their meetings around the Legislative Committee Meeting schedule.

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:** Commission professional development, education & policy recommendations related to Commission conduct & activities.

**Commissioner DeRosa, Chair;** Commissioners: Temple, Caveney & Titone.

**Staff member:** Cheri Patterson.

Chairman R. Green reported that the committee did not meet.

**SUSTAINABILITY & STRATEGIC PLANNING:** Agency funding, development & oversight of strategic plan.

**Commissioner Hodgdon, Chair;** Commissioners: Caveney, DeRosa & Stohl.

**Staff member:** Director Simek.

Commissioner C. Hodgdon reported that the committee did not meet.

## **Proposal for USFWS year-end monies available to fund equipment for conservation projects**

### **3. Project Title**

Anadromous Alosid Restoration and Evaluation

### **4. Amount Requested**

~\$3,985.12

### **5. Cooperator/Contractor**

Conor O'Donnell, NHFG

### **6. Other Partners**

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)

### **7. Project Summary**

**Insert a brief descriptive summary of the project and why it's important.**

New Hampshire Fish and Game requests the purchase of fish passage video monitoring equipment. Seven fishways on six New Hampshire coastal rivers are operated and monitored each spring to allow for the passage of river herring, American Shad, and other anadromous fish to spawning and nursery areas. Monitoring the annual returns is essential for developing management strategies and restoration practices that can help restore anadromous fish to a level of abundance that will enable them to fully utilize historical spawning habitat.

### **8. Species/Resources:**

**List species or resources that this project will benefit (i.e. bog turtles, saltmarsh habitat, etc.)**

Interjurisdictional anadromous species including but not limited to Alewife, Blueback Herring, American Shad and Sea Lamprey.

### **9. Measureable Outcomes**

**List the measurable outcome(s). Each project needs a measurable outcome (i.e. # acres restored, # of samples collected, # of reports written, # of students reached). This will be a way to measure how complete/successful a project is.**

Video monitoring equipment would contribute to more accurate spawning return estimates. Accurate estimates of abundance will better support the development of management strategies and the assessment of ongoing restoration practices.

### **10. Timeline**

**Anticipated completion date.**

Video monitoring would be needed for the spring 2025 season, and will be used for many years to come.

### **11. Time Sensitivity**

**Are there any important factors to consider related to the time sensitivity of this project? Does the project need to happen soon, why? Will the project happen regardless of funding? Explain.**

Monitoring anadromous fish returns began in New Hampshire in 1970's on select coastal rivers and is required to continue each year.

### **12. Budget Summary**

**Please briefly outline budget to describe how funds would be used (I.e. supplies, staff time, etc.)**

The requested funding would pay for the following equipment needed to set up a video monitoring system:

#### Sea Viewer Analog Fish Package

Customized Pelican Case, Anodized Aluminum Panel, 7ah Battery / Charger / Meter, Internal External Power 12/110v, 10" IPS Sunlight Monitor, 950 Sea-Drop Camera / 50ft Cable, Internal 21 LEDs IR lights in Camera.

The cost would be ~\$2,706.13 including shipping

#### Laptop

Dell Latitude 5540 laptop

The cost would be ~ \$1,199.00

#### External Hard Drive

WD Easystore 2TB External USB 3.2 Gen 1 Portable Hard Drive

The cost would be ~\$79.99

#### Software

iSpy camera security software

The cost would be \$0, as it is free open source software

### **13. Matching Funds**

**Are there any matching funds being leveraged?**

No