



STATE OF MAINE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE PLANNING OFFICE
38 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0038

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
GOVERNOR

EVAN D. RICHERT, AICP
DIRECTOR

January 15, 2002

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Kathleen Leyden, Director, Maine Coastal Program 

SUBJ: Notice of Requested Changes to the Core Laws of the Maine Coastal Program

In accordance 15 C.F.R. § 923.84, the Maine State Planning Office ("SPO") is submitting to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management ("NOAA"), for review and approval as enforceable policies of the Maine Coastal Program amendments to State statutes that were enacted during the First Regular Session of the 120th Maine Legislature, which was in session from December 6, 2000 to June 22, 2001.

Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act ("CZMA"), the so-called "federal consistency" provision, provides that federal agencies shall conduct their activities in a manner consistent to the maximum extent practicable with state environmental laws that NOAA has approved as enforceable policies of a state's coastal zone management program. NOAA's approval of these state laws as changes to Maine's enforceable policies is needed before these laws apply to federal agency actions pursuant to Section 307 of the CZMA.

SPO is submitting the following public laws for NOAA's approval: P.L. 2001 Chapters 22; 40, section 2; 64; 105; 207; 212; 216, sections 1-3; 230; 231, sections 17-18; 232; 233; 247; 248; 302, sections 1-2; 315; 356, sections 8-9; 359; 365; 373; 402; 406, section 17; 418; 431; and 466, sections 9-11. These laws (Laws of Maine enacted by 120th Maine Legislature) are available via the Internet for review and download at: <http://janus.state.me.us/legis/ros/lom/lomdirectory.htm>. These laws amend statutes that comprise the enforceable policies of the Maine Coastal Program, including the Natural Resources Protection Act, the Shoreland Zoning Act, the Subdivision law, and Site Location of Development Act, as well as State laws governing the Land Use Regulation Commission, waste management, and water quality.

SPO has determined that these changes are routine program implementation and has requested that NOAA concur with this determination so that these changes can be incorporated into Maine's Coastal Program.



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BACKGROUND

The federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 ("CZMA") establishes a state-federal partnership encouraging state management of coastal resources in accordance with policy goals aimed at balancing development and conservation uses. The CZMA provides funding to implement management measures consistent with these goals and requires federal agency actions to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the state environmental laws, often referred to as "core laws", which form the basis of the State's coastal program. NOAA approved the Maine Coastal Program in 1978.

COMMENTS

A copy of the State's filing submitting these changes to NOAA can be obtained from Lorraine Lessard, Maine Coastal Program, State Planning Office, 38 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333 (tel. 207-287-3261 / email: lorraine.lessard@state.me.us).

Comments on whether the requested changes are routine program implementation should be sent within three weeks of the date of this notice to:

Ms. Joelle Gore
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
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phone: 301-713-3105

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