**§401. Maine's rivers**

The Legislature finds: [PL 1983, c. 458, §1 (NEW).]

**1. Rivers and streams a natural resource.**  That the State's nearly 32,000 miles of rivers and streams comprise one of its most important natural resources, historically vital to the state's commerce and industry and to the quality of life enjoyed by Maine people;

[PL 1983, c. 458, §1 (NEW).]

**2. Increase in value of rivers and streams.**  That the value of its rivers and streams has increased in recent years due to the improvement in the quality of their waters, the restoration of their fisheries, the growth in demand for hydropower and the expanding interest in river recreation activities, leading at times to conflict among these uses;

[PL 1983, c. 458, §1 (NEW).]

**3. Use of rivers and streams.**  That its rivers and streams afford the state's people with major opportunities for the enjoyment of nature's beauty, unique recreational activities and solace from an industrialized society, as well as for economic expansion through the development of hydropower, the revitalization of waterfronts and ports and the attraction of both tourists and desirable new industries; and

[PL 1983, c. 458, §1 (NEW).]

**4. Policy.**  That the best interests of the state's people are served by a policy which recognizes the importance that their rivers and streams have for meeting portions of several public needs, provides guidance for striking a balance among the various uses which affords the public maximum benefit and seeks harmony rather than conflict among these uses.

[PL 1983, c. 458, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 458, §1 (NEW).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through January 1, 2025
. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.