

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 5 FY 96/97
DATE April 22, 1997

**AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING
AND ASSESSMENT**

WHEREAS, Maine's quality of life and economic well-being are dependent to a great extent on the quality of Maine's environment;

WHEREAS, making effective decisions on environmental issues is dependent on the availability of sound scientific data on the Maine environment;

WHEREAS, volunteer environmental monitoring programs have proven to be a valuable source of data on the health of Maine's surface waters;

WHEREAS, environmental monitoring programs should be encouraged to coordinate and share information to maximize the contribution of volunteer collected data to a more complete understanding of the Maine environment;
and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Angus S. King, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby direct the Land and Water Resources Council to establish The Council on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment.

1. Purpose

The Council on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (CEMA) is established to promote improved coordination and communication among volunteer environmental monitoring programs and the state agencies involved with those programs.

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2. Membership

The Council on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment shall include a representative from each state agency which is involved in environmental monitoring and assessment activities. These representatives shall be designated by the Commissioners of those agencies and shall initially include the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Marine Resources, the State Planning Office, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of Conservation, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Agriculture. The CEMA shall also include representatives from organizations involved with environmental monitoring and assessment activities. These members shall initially include such groups as:

- a) The University of Maine, Water Research Institute;
- b) The University of Maine Cooperative Extension;
- c) The Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program;
- d) The Casco Bay Estuary Project;
- e) The Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve;
- f) A representative from Maine's Native American tribes;
- g) A representative involved with private sector monitoring activities;
- h) Two private citizens active in local volunteer monitoring programs.

The Land and Water Resources Council shall make appointments of staggered, three year terms. Members shall be eligible for reappointment.

3. Duties

The Council on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment shall:

- a) Provide improved coordination and communication among local volunteer monitoring programs, state, academic and private sector efforts;
- b) Serve as a clearinghouse for information and support;
- c) Ensure consistency of quality control and quality assurance;
- d) Improve data management, data interpretation and data presentation;
- e) Minimize duplication of efforts between different programs;
- f) Secure technical assistance for existing programs and share expertise among those programs once the needs and gaps have been identified;

- g) Serve as an advocate for volunteer monitoring and assist the Administration in identifying additional resources (including the possibility of corporate support, foundation grants, and EPA funding) for existing and future volunteer monitoring programs;
- h) Submit any recommendations it may have for the improvement of State policies relating to volunteer environmental monitoring and assessment to the Land and Water Resources; and
- i) Submit an annual report of its activities to the Land and Water Resources Council.

4. Meetings

The Council on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment shall meet approximately four times per year.

5. Compensation

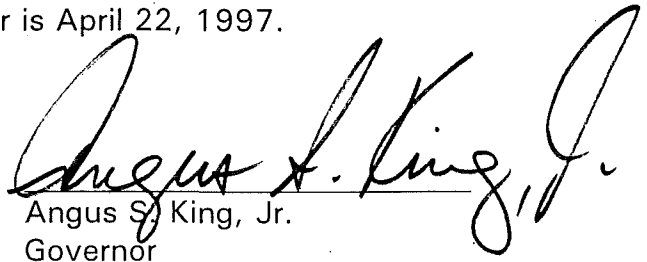
The members of the Council on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment shall serve without compensation.

6. Staff

The Land and Water Resources Council shall designate a lead staff person from among the state agencies represented on both the Land and Water Resources Council and the CEMA. The CEMA may also request additional staff assistance from existing resources through the Land and Water Resources Council from the state agencies represented on both the Land and Water Resources Council and the CEMA.

7. Effective Date

The effective date of this Order is April 22, 1997.


Angus S. King, Jr.
Governor