Office of
The Governor

No. 50 FY 19/20
DATE April 30, 2020

AN ORDER REGARDING WATERCRAFT EXCISE TAX

WHEREAS, I proclaimed a state of emergency on March 15, 2020 and a renewed state of emergency on April 14, 2020 to authorize the use of emergency powers in order to expand and expedite the State's response to the serious health and safety risks of the highly contagious COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, municpalities have altered operations to reduce in-person contact to better protect public health and this Order can help those municpalities without certain online capactities to collect watercraft excise tax more effectively; and

WHEREAS, the governor's emergency powers expressly include the authorities to suspend the enforcement of a statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business pursuant to 37-B M.R.S. §742(1)(C)(1) and §834;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, pursuant to 37-B M.R.S. Ch. 13, including but not limited to the provisions cited above, do hereby Order as follows:

I. ORDER

The requirement in 36 M.R.S. §1504(3) that watercraft excise tax must be paid directly to a municipality is, until the state of emergency is terminated, suspended as applied to those municipalities that:

A. are not accepting such payments online or in the municipal office during this state of emergency; and

B. request of the Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife (IFW) that such tax be paid indirectly to the municipality by means of the taxpayer paying the tax to IFW and IFW remitting such payment to the municipality.

II. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Order shall take effect on April 30, 2020.

Janet T. Mills
Governor