



Photo by J.Monkman/NRCM

Support a Free-Flowing Kennebec River

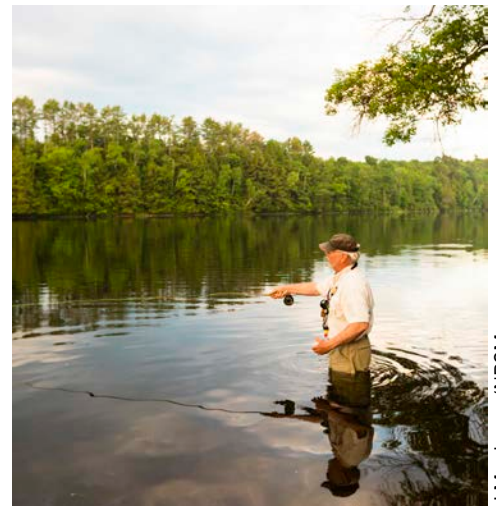
The Kennebec River is at a turning point. Maine can continue successful restoration of the river and help save Atlantic salmon from extinction. Removing the four obsolete dams between Waterville and Skowhegan will improve the health of the Gulf of Maine, enhance riverfront communities, and bring back millions of sea-run fish.

Bringing Rivers Back to Life

The Kennebec was once the most productive river in Maine for sea-run fish, with Atlantic salmon runs in the hundreds of thousands.

The removal of the Edwards Dam in Augusta in 1999 has been one of Maine's biggest environmental success stories, with millions of river herring returning annually, along with shad, sturgeon, and other species.

But the good news stops at a dam in Waterville, the first of four Brookfield dams that prevent Atlantic salmon from reaching the Sandy River, a tributary of the Kennebec that has some of Maine's best spawning and rearing habitat for salmon.



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Brookfield's Four Dams Do More Harm than Good

The harm these dams cause far outweighs the benefits from their small energy output. That's why anglers, conservationists, and Mainers who care about the Kennebec and the Gulf of Maine have called for their removal.

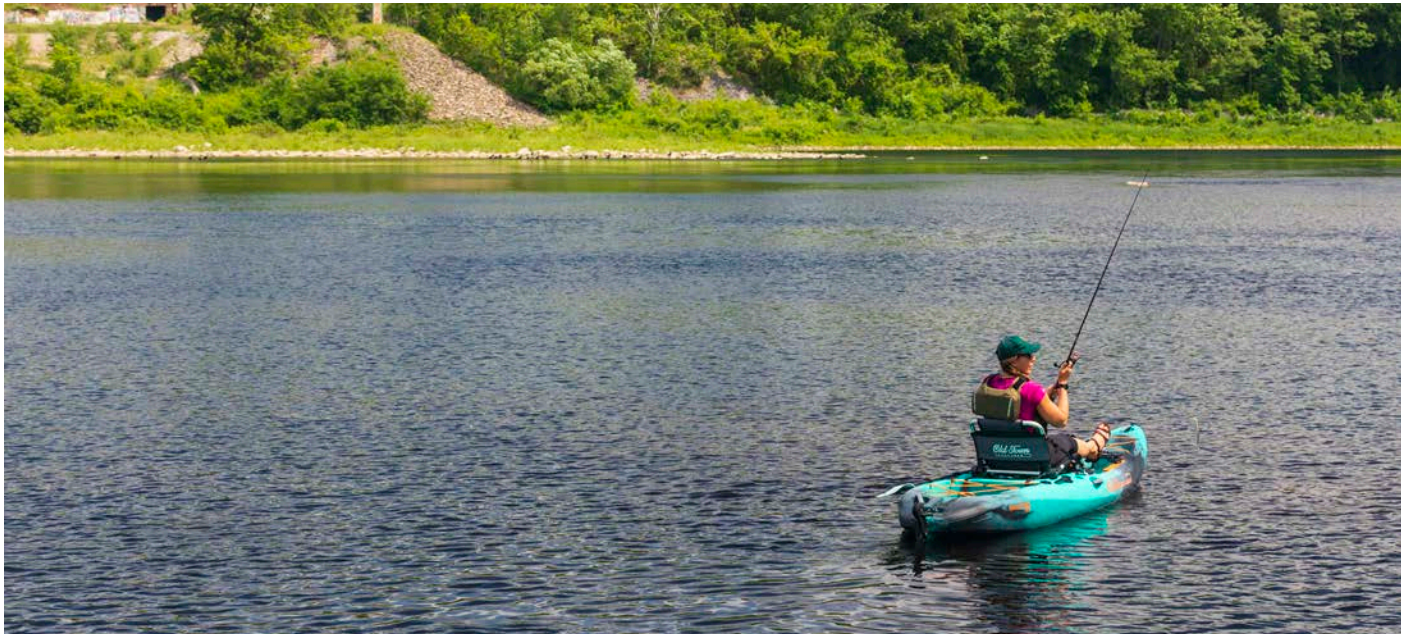
Brookfield's four dams between Waterville and Skowhegan produce only 0.43% of Maine's electricity yet threaten salmon with extinction and damage the habitat of other sea-run fish.

- Brookfield is violating the Endangered Species Act by killing Atlantic salmon due to inadequate fish passage.
- Instead of working with state and federal agencies to come up with solutions, Brookfield has sought to change state laws in its favor, sued the State of Maine, and attacked the work of Maine marine scientists.
- Brookfield's proposals to build engineered fish passage, like fish ladders or fish lifts, won't work on the Kennebec, just like they have not worked anywhere else in the world where Atlantic salmon need to pass multiple dams.

Without Action, We Could Lose Atlantic Salmon Forever

Today, critically endangered Atlantic salmon are struggling to survive.

- Fisheries biologists believe that Atlantic salmon will go extinct in the U.S. without safe and unrestricted access to the Sandy River to spawn.
- Removing Brookfield's four dams would open the Kennebec River to its confluence with the Sandy, helping Atlantic salmon recover and restoring millions more American shad, American eel, and river herring as well.



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We Need to Act Now

Right now, the Shawmut Dam, the third dam upriver from Waterville, is in the middle of a relicensing process. This includes a detailed review by the federal government that only happens once every 30-50 years. This moment provides the best chance to shape the future of the Kennebec. We cannot let this opportunity pass us by.

Hundreds of Mainers have already begun to speak out for a new future for the Kennebec River. Join us today by visiting nrcm.org to sign the petition for a free-flowing Kennebec.



Shawmut Dam, by J.Monkman/NRCM

