

Legislative Document #405 HP 271 An Act To Support Expanded Capacity for Breeding Wild Atlantic Salmon in Downeast Rivers

The downeast Maine rivers attracted large numbers of fishermen and women from all over Maine, New England, and other states. These people came into Washington County from April 1st to October 15th. Most spent their entire vacations on one or several of the downeast rivers in pursuit of this fish.

The island in Whitneyville is a narrow strip of land accessible by bridge. From mid June to mid July this little island (approx. 2 acres) had 60 tents on it. All fishermen.

The people bought food, gas, fishing gear, licences, hotel rooms and hired guides. Many bought camps and houses when they retired just so they could fish for one of the world's greatest game fish.

The towns that saw the most activity were Machias, East Machias, Cherryfield and Dennysville and Whitneyville. The area benefitted from the fishing activity also stretched from Calais to Milbridge and up to and above the airline.

There is the potential here to restore the Atlantic Salmon to a level that would support a recreational fishery. Let's do it.

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