

271 Kenduskeag Ave.
Bangor, Me 04401
April 27,2015

Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Testimony in support of LD 800

Senator Baker, Representative Kumiega, and other members of the Joint Committee on Marine Resources,

My name is J.R. Mabee, I am a Registered Maine Guide and the current president of the Grand Lake Stream Guides Association. I have actively guided on the St. Croix watershed since 1997 and fished it since childhood. I am a firm believer that natural barriers prevented most anadromous fish access to the upper St. Croix River except for juvenile eels or elvers which are known to “flash” concrete dams and natural ledges by climbing over each other to migrate around barriers they are unable to swim up. The Landlocked Salmon and Smallmouth Bass fishery my family has enjoyed and the liviehoods of myself and many others is seriously threatened by the passage of LD 72 in 2013.

Grand Lake Stream has been known as a fishing destination for Landlocked Salmon since the early 1800's. Before they had even been identified as their own species or sub-species and scientifically named. Before any river wide dams had been built and potentially impede a sea run salmons migration. If sea run Atlantic Salmon could not negotiate these natural barriers and make their way upstream how could an alewife?

Smallmouth Bass were introduced to the St. Croix sometime after the civil war and became a popular and economically important sportfishery. Downeast Maine has been refered to as the Smallmouth Bass capital of the world. After redesigning, blasting natural ledge, and rebuilding fish ladders the anadromous alewife population exploded and the Smallmouth Bass fishery at Spednic Lake crashed. Spednic was studied for ten years, the data was compiled by a state fisheries biologist and the findings were that the Bass in Spednic did much better without anadromous alewives!

The recent hydrologic and historic research done by Steve Whitman shows even more doubt that anadromous alewives could access the upper parts of the St. Croix watershed.

Research and data collected by Maine Department of Inland Fisheries Biologists show negative impacts created by anadromous alewives.

The Landlocked Salmon and fish hatchery in Grand Lake Stream would be compromised and ruin 75% of the entire Landlocked Salmon sportfishery in Maine.

Stop the effects of LD 72 and Pass LD800!

James (J.R.) Mabee