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My name is Macauley Lord and I live in Brunswick. I started teaching fly-fishing professionally for an international sporting goods company out of Freeport 29 years ago. I'm a Registered Maine Fishing Guide, the author of two fly casting books, and I've trained fishing guides and fly-casting instructors on four continents.

One of the best places in the world to fish is in Maine smallmouth bass rivers, primarily in rivers that have alewives, like the Penobscot, the Kennebec, the Sebasticook and the lower Androscoggin. Teaching fly fishing schools in the 1980's and 90's out of Grand Lake Stream, I used to fish the St. Croix a little bit every summer and I've fished it occasionally since then. It's a very nice fishery but it just doesn't stand up to rivers with alewives. It's kind of funny to hear this idea of alewives as competing with smallmouths for food, because to a smallmouth, alewives ARE food.

The best day of smallmouth bass fishing I ever had was in the fall of 1996. A friend and I fished the Sebasticook River at its confluence with a tributary brook [at a secure, undisclosed location] where there were juvenile alewives coming down the brook and trying to swim out into the river. But they didn't get very far. Between us, we landed about 30 fat bass that ranged from 18 to 21 inches [I'm assuming I'm under oath here], all on flies. On another fall trip to the Sebasticook, the bottom of the river below the dam in Benton was covered with silvery, juvenile alewives that had been crunched as they tried to migrate down through the turbines. Despite the tremendous amount of bait in the river, smallmouth were still whacking my fly.

The greatest flyrodder in North America is Lefty Kreh and he's been to Maine many times to smallmouth fish. What is his go-to river in Maine? The Sebasticook. I know the fellow who guides Lefty. He's also a professional fisheries biologist and he told me flatly that the Sebasticook is the best bass river in Maine. Did I mention that it has alewives? Last year, nearly 2.4 million alewives were transported up it and *it's the best smallmouth river in Maine*. I fish it every year, along with the Penobscot above Milford Dam where, last year, 187,000 alewives were lifted over the dam. And it's a spectacular fishery. I've run into guys on that river who've trailered their boats from as far as Virginia just to fish *right there*. As for the lower Androscoggin just above Brunswick, my friend Mike landed 83 smallies on that stretch last August, *in one day*. And yes, he laboriously tallies every one with a mechanical fish counter. If you come and float that stretch with me for one day sometime in May, we'll land between us at least 40 bass up to 19 inches—and we won't even *see* a fish shorter than 15 inches. Last year, 60,000 alewives swam up that short stretch of river.

So, as a crazed bass fisherman, I implore you: give those smallmouths in the St. Croix the alewives they deserve.

Respectfully submitted,      N. Macauley Lord