

John Burrows
Atlantic Salmon Federation

The Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) supports the proposed upgrade of the lower Androscoggin River per our attached letter, which was submitted to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in 2020 as part of the Triennial Review process of water quality classifications. Given the concurrent legislation and the desire of those of us advocating for an upgrade to work collaboratively with wastewater operators to accomplish the reclassification, we recognize that the timing of the upgrade needs be finessed to some extent. Therefore, while ASF fully supports LD 676, An Act to Reclassify Part of the Androscoggin River to Class B, we recommend that passage of the upgrade bill be delayed until the second session in 2022, which will allow DEP to renew now-expired discharge permits for the Lewiston/Auburn, Lisbon, and Brunswick wastewater plants at the current C classification in 2021. This will allow for the legally required upgrade to Class B while providing sufficient timing - 5 years - for these dischargers and the DEP to formulate and enact any necessary plans to meet Class B conditions. Please find our letter of support for this upgrade attached. Thank you for your time and consideration.