

TO: Senator James Dill, Senate Chair
Representative Scott Landry, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
RE: May 10, 2021 Public Hearing on LD 883

This letter is offered in support of **LD 883 (SP298): An Act to Protect Endangered Species Whose Life Cycles Include Maine Land or Waters.**

While the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) is designed to protect and recover endangered species, federal listing alone does not fully ensure state protection. Examples of federally listed species that are not currently listed under Maine Endangered Species legislation include Atlantic salmon and Atlantic sturgeon. Furthermore, Maine is the only northeastern state that does not mandate or advise state listing of species listed under the federal ESA.

Having spent 37 years (1968-2005) involved in the Maine Atlantic salmon restoration and management program, I am perplexed by the state's apparent reluctance to list Atlantic salmon under Maine ESA statutes. Logically, the species should have automatically been listed concurrently with the federal ESA listing. The State of Maine is the "last frontier" for the Atlantic salmon in the entire United States. With the last remaining wild Atlantic salmon populations in the country, the State of Maine should be - must be - in the forefront of all efforts to maintain, protect, and restore this precious natural resource that is unique to our state.

The management and recovery of migratory species such as Atlantic salmon, that spend half of their life cycle in fresh water and the other half of their life cycle in saltwater, requires a complex and coordinated effort on both the state and federal management levels. Inclusion of Atlantic salmon under State of Maine endangered species legislation will provide additional national and international prominence to the value of Maine's Atlantic salmon resource and better management of the species from all relevant state agencies.

I urge the Maine Legislature to support LD 883.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward T. Baum

75 Hermon Heights
Hermon, Maine 04401

Certified Fisheries Scientist
Statewide Atlantic Salmon Program Coordinator, Maine Atlantic Sea Run Salmon Commission
(Retired)

Edward Baum
Hermon

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