

Mark DesMeules
Alna

Mark P. DesMeules – Wildlands Coalition of New England
P.O. Box 85
Alna, Maine 04535
(207) 350-1996
salmon@tidewater.net

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Committees on Marine Resources & Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Committee Members:

I urge you to support LD 883: An Act to Protect Endangered Species Whose Life Cycles Include Maine Land or Waters

It makes no sense to have a listing at the Federal level for an Endangered Species and not have the complimentary support at the state level. If a species is listed at the Federal level, this means that every state where this species occurs, by definition, truly needs to be part of the solution. Being part of this solution is in name and in making resources available. In name because this alerts the general public that Maine not only has a species in immediate need of conservation action but that the public's support will help policy makers apply the needed attention by departments to address the species needs. An official listing by Maine also makes financial and logistical resources available which would otherwise not be available. These resources are a good deal for Maine and will translate into supporting the work of our Fish and Wildlife Department and our Department of Marine Resources. Additionally, a complimentary listing also promotes the creation of a recovery plan which brings together all of the knowledge and science-based ideas necessary for recovery. A recovery plan is one of the best tools states have to prioritize actions and to utilize resources directed at recovery and in an efficient way. The plan allows our state departments to target actions and apply federal and private funds to where they are most likely to yield results.

Another reason for listing a species at the state level is that it demonstrates that the State is serious about the conservation and recovery of the species and non-profit sources of financial support are far more likely to be granted in support of the recovery plan. This means that funds made available through state and federal sources can be matched thus leveraging important resources that might otherwise not be available to Maine.

In closing, please keep in mind that the passage of this bill will be a good thing for Maine, our departments in charge of the boots on the ground and for the Atlantic Salmon. In fact, not only will this result in good conservation for the Atlantic Salmon which our departments have been working to protect for decades, but for many other natural resource benefits from clean water, our wildlife economy in general, and all wildlife that rely upon natural systems that are functioning and ecologically sound.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for LD 883: An Act to Protect Endangered Species Whose Life Cycles Include Maine Land or Waters

Mark P. DesMeules, Senior Ecologist
Wildlands Coalition of New England