



## Testimony in Support of LD 883:

### **An Act to Protect Endangered Species Who's Life Cycles Include Maine's Lands and Waters**

Senator Dill, Representative Landry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:

My name is Greg Ponte, and this testimony is being presented on the behalf of the Kennebec Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited (KVCTU) with over 500 members.

We are testifying in support of LD 883: *An Act to Protect Endangered Species Who's Life Cycles Include Maine's Lands and Waters*.

Because KVCTU is a coldwater conservation organization, our strong support today for LD 883 is for one species, the Atlantic salmon which has been federally listed as Endangered since 2000. But, for some inexplicable reason it is not listed by the State of Maine as either a Species of Concern, nor Threatened nor Endangered. This inconsistency is baffling to our membership.

Atlantic salmon populations have been extirpated in the United States except for a few rivers here in Maine for many reasons including impassable dams, pollution, land management, climate change etc. Today, these noble fish are at a great risk of extinction in the United States.

We find it very confusing that the Maine Department of Marine Resources is responsible for the anadromous Atlantic Salmon even though this fish swims upstream far above tidal waters to spawn in waters where the Atlantic salmon is under the jurisdiction of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW). IFW does not take any responsibility for this fish because of inter-agency jurisdiction.

With passage of LD 883 this confusion and oversight can finally be corrected and the State of Maine can join the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries and recognize Atlantic salmon as an Endangered Species.

Sincerely,

Greg Ponte

President KVCTU

**Report Shows Atlantic Salmon Stocks Need Additional Protection**

<https://nctc.fws.gov/library/salmon/index.html>