

Testimony of Geri Vistein for LD 883

As a wildlife biologist practicing here in Maine, I fully understand the precarious circumstances under which so many of our wildlife species live. Loss of habitat, human encroachment on their lives, and human activities to name a few that threaten their existence.

Therefore, I fully support [LD 883](#) - An Act To Protect Endangered Species Whose Life Cycles Include Maine Land or Waters.

Our Federally Listed Endangered Species, among them the Atlantic Salmon, live their lives with the daily threat of extinction. They are the last of their kind on the Eastern seaboard, a place that once supported their vibrant and large numbers. And the rivers of Maine are their Last Stand.

Therefore it is of the greatest importance that the state of Maine includes them as a State Endangered Species. It is here in our state where they once were abundant and free to swim to their spawning grounds and it is here in our state that they now struggle to survive. Those who lived here in past generations gave no thought to this loss as they greedily overfished, polluted their rivers, and built dam after dam to block them from their ancient spawning grounds.

Now we know what can be lost forever. We have seen what man's behaviors are capable of destroying. But we also know that OUR behaviors have the ability to protect and conserve our Native fish for future generations to come.

Let us act on this knowledge to include the federally endangered species whose life cycles include Maine land and waters....as a Maine Endangered Species.