



DEC 14 2012

Governor Paul LePage
Office of the Governor
State of Maine
1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0001

Dear Governor LePage:

I am writing to you regarding the issue of re-introduction of alewives (also known as Gaspereau) into the St. Croix River Basin. In Canada, alewife is an anadromous species that falls under the jurisdiction of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and I would like to provide you with my Department's views on the matter.

Canada has long been of the view that the alewife, a species native to the St. Croix River, be unrestricted in its passage upstream within the basin in order to spawn and thrive. There is broad consensus among both Canadian and United States researchers of this species' ecological importance. It provides a source of food for seabirds and other predator species; it acts as a source of nutrients (carcasses, excrement); and, it is the only known vertebral host of the freshwater mussel *Anodonta imbecilis* which removes large amounts of algae, zooplankton and bacteria from the water.

The alewife also serves an important economic purpose. The species is a source of bait for the lobster industry, which is of significant value to the economies of both Maine and New Brunswick. The alewife further provides forage for commercially viable groundfish stocks in the Gulf of Maine and small harvesters on both sides of the border could stand to benefit from its re-introduction.

The Government of Canada has been working actively with the State of Maine, various United States federal agencies including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United States State Department, as well as with the International Joint Commission and its International St. Croix Watershed Board, to find a mutually agreeable solution to enable full re-introduction of alewives in the St. Croix River basin.

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We are aware of the views of the different interests that led to the adoption of the Maine legislation restricting the alewives' passage. Since then, however, the scientific community has concluded that the presence of alewives in the St. Croix River poses no threat to the basin's smallmouth bass population; in fact, history has shown that the two species once co-existed in the same lakes and rivers.

Your decision to move forward with the International Joint Commission's Adaptive Management Plan is a positive step towards the re-introduction of the alewife to the greater river basin, and we look forward to the immediate adoption of any necessary state legislation to facilitate this. While the current plan would have full re-introduction taking place over a prolonged timeframe (15 - 25 years), the Government of Canada encourages you to consider a more accelerated timeframe so as to quickly restore the ecosystem to its natural state. It is our view, based on science, that this approach should not negatively impact the smallmouth bass population which may be of concern to interests in Maine.

I would therefore urge you to take this into account as you move forward with any legislative processes required to re-open the fishways along the St. Croix River.

Yours sincerely,


Keith Ashfield

c.c. William J. Schneider, Attorney General for the State of Maine

Chandler E. Woodcock, Commissioner, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

John Boland, Director of the Bureau of Resource Management, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Lee Martinez, Director, Office of Canadian Affairs, United States Department of State

John Williamson, Member of Parliament for New Brunswick Southwest

The Honourable David Alward, M.L.A., Premier of New Brunswick

The Honourable Mike Olscamp, M.L.A., New Brunswick Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries



Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pêches et Océans Canada

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JUL 22 2010

Ms Nadine MacKay
Environment Canada
16th Floor, 45 Alderney Drive
Dartmouth, NS
B2Y 2N6

Dear Ms. MacKay:

This will respond to the June 9, 2010 letter from Mr. Bill Appleby requesting comments on the proposed discussion document *An adaptive Plan for Managing Alewife in the St. Croix River Watershed, Maine and New Brunswick*.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) generally supports this proposal and is pleased that Dr. Jamie Gibson of our Science Branch Population Ecology Division was one of the Contributors.

From a Canadian fisheries management perspective, our preference would be for a greater focus on restoring a self-sustaining alewife population than the current priority for maintaining the small mouth bass population for the recreational fishery. Nevertheless, the proposal does offer a way forward, that we can support.

We are, however, concerned about the costs associated with implementation of this adaptive plan. Costs as outlined in Table 8 of the discussion document estimate one-time implementation costs to DFO at \$16,000 with annual costs of about \$16,000 minimally for the first 5 years. These are likely underestimates, and DFO is unable to make a commitment to fund at this time or at this level.

Yours sincerely,

Faith G. Scattolon
Regional Director-General
Maritimes Region

Cc: Bill Appleby

Canada