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To: [DEP-Hydropower](#)
Subject: Kennebec River Dams
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To whom it may concern:

Please consider supporting efforts to restore the lower Kennebec River to the thriving healthy ecosystem that it once

I have learned so much in the past year about just how much harm major dams can do to overall river ecosystems. Yes- electricity is generated- but the amount of harm that is done far outweighs the benefits, especially in this day and age where we have the technology to produce power in less harmful ways.

Last week I paddled the lower Sebasticook river (which is the largest tributary of the Kennebec), from Benton to Winslow and it is absolutely thriving with abundant wildlife! Because there is free passage from Benton to the ocean the Alewives are coming back prolifically. Since the removal of the Edwards dam in Augusta and the Halifax dam in Winslow the Alewife run has increased each year. This year we've counted over 7 million so far. Because of this abundance of fish, we also have the largest collection of eagles ever documented in New England.

When we remove the obstacles for fish passage- they do come back!! We have an excellent example of that here in Central Maine. The Penobscot River has also seen an incredible recovery since the removal of the Great Works dam in Veazie.

We can do even better by restoring more of the Kennebec and ideally allowing for unrestricted fish passage to the Sandy River which is historically and currently excellent breeding grounds for Atlantic Salmon.

The damming they did on the ST John river in Canada for the hydro they are running lines through Maine for has stopped the spring krill bloom (base of marine food chain) and I believe that all the rivers dammed on the Northeast is one of the major reasons that the Gulf Stream has been weakening- as I believe those spring melt rushes are a great portion of what propels the Gulf Stream on to Europe.

Hydro electric could be made by turbines suspended under bridges rather than damming the whole river.

Thanks for your consideration,

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