



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE  
353 WATER STREET  
41 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA ME 04333-0041



February 14, 2025

Marc Restuccia  
Toddy Pond Association  
PO Box 645  
Blue Hill, ME 04614

**RE: Bucksport Mill Dams**

Dear Mr. Restuccia:

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) is in receipt of your letters sent on behalf of Toddy Pond Association dated December 2, 2024, and January 1, 2025, pertaining to the current Petition for Release from Dam Ownership related to Bucksport Mill LLC's ("Bucksport Mill") ownership of the Toddy Pond impoundment, as well as the Alamoosook Lake and Silver Lake impoundments. We understand the uncertainty and angst this situation is creating for members of the Toddy Pond Association and others, and while we welcome the submission of any materials or information that the Toddy Pond Association may offer to assist us in this process, we do not feel that an in-person meeting is necessary at this time.

Per Title 38 M.R.S.A § 902, Bucksport Mill is required to consult with MDIFW to determine whether we wish to assume ownership of the dams. If, after the consultation period a new owner is not located, per § 903, MDIFW is required to conduct an assessment of whether the best interest of the public requires the MDIFW to assume ownership of the dams. In anticipation of this, we requested both an Engineering and Operational Analysis and an Environmental Assessment for each of the three dams, associated impoundments, and tailwater resources from Bucksport Mills (refer to the attached letter dated December 3, 2024). On December 20, 2024, we received a response from Bucksport Mills' attorney stating that neither an Engineering and Operational Analysis nor an Environmental Assessment have been prepared, but that Bucksport Mill will provide our department with any documents they have to help in our analysis. At present, we have not received any materials to support our assessment. To that end, we would appreciate if you could send us any materials that the Toddy Pond Association might have in its possession that would help with our assessment. After reviewing these materials, we will reach out to you if we feel that additional information is necessary from the Toddy Pond Association.

It is our understanding that we are still within the 180-day consultation period, as provided in § 902, and we anticipate receiving materials from Bucksport Mill to assist in our assessment of public value for the dams, as dictated in § 903. While this information will aid our department in making an informed decision regarding assuming dam ownership, we have been clear during the consultation phase that MDIFW does not presently have the capacity to maintain and operate these dams and corresponding impoundments. We simply lack the funding and staffing necessary to rehabilitate and maintain dams of this nature. That said, we recognize we have a statutory requirement under § 903 to assess the cost-benefit analysis of assuming ownership and will complete that assessment as required under State law.

We continue to stay informed and to work with the Department of Environmental Protection, which has regulatory authority over this process. Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions regarding this information, or if I can be of any further assistance.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith Camuso", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Judith Camuso  
Commissioner

Cc: Tim Peabody, Christl Theriault—MDIFW Commissioner's Office  
Liz Latti, MDIFW Fisheries Division  
Nathan Webb, MDIFW Wildlife Division  
John Perry, Environmental Review Program  
Laura Paye, Maine Department of Environmental Protection