

Gerald D. Reid, Commissioner  
Department of Environmental Protection  
17 State House Station  
28 Tyson Drive  
Augusta, Maine 04333-017

April 3, 2019

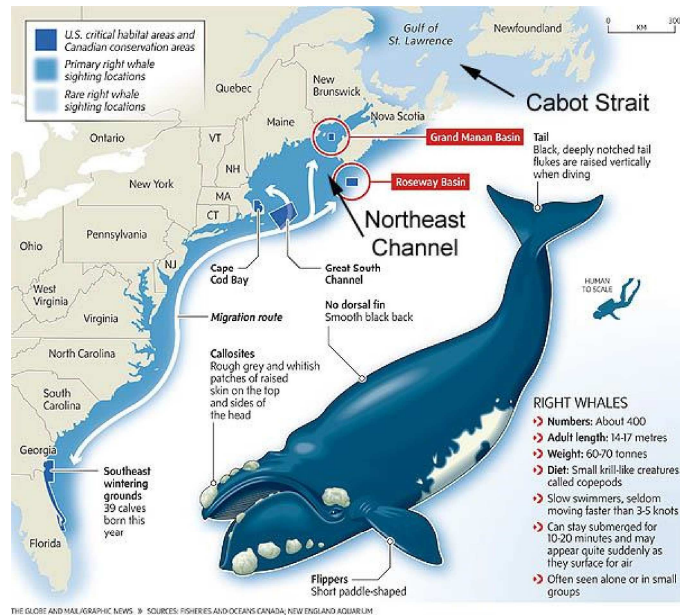
Subject: Proposed CMP New England Clean Energy Corridor (NECEC) Project

Dear Commissioner Reid,

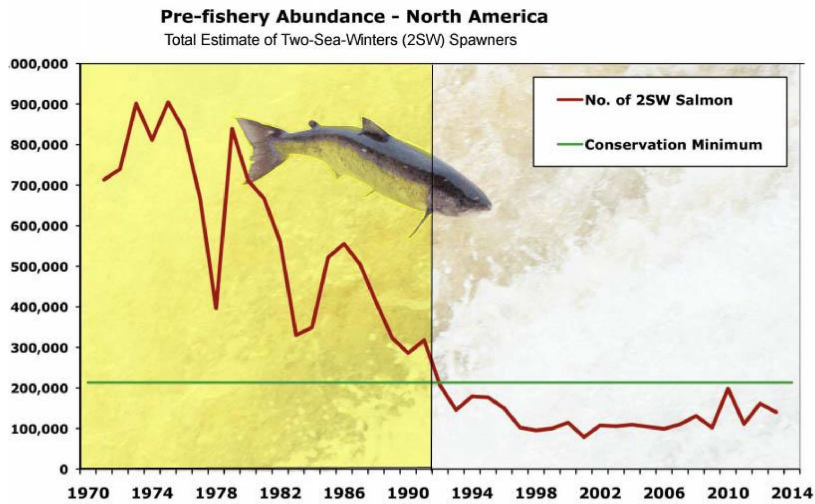
I suspect that neither you nor your staff realize that before 1969, the Gulf of Maine, which is Essential Fish Habitat for the federally endangered Maine Atlantic salmon and North Atlantic right whale, was the beneficiary of a four month long natural tsunami out of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

From 1969 to 1993, HydroQuebec built 7 mega reservoirs hydroelectric facilities, which have starved the salmon, and right whale to the point of depletion. (see graph on next page)

Historically, before long term storage of the spring runoff, this colossal freshwater wave was the driving force behind strong upwelling currents pumping dissolved silicate and other essential nutrients of the deep seas waters up onto the Scotian Shelf and into the Gulf of Maine via the Northeast Channel.



## EIGHTY PERCENT DROP IN SALMON ABUNDANCE IN LESS THAN 25 YEARS



**Pre-fishery Abundance (PFA)** graph for North American 2SW salmon showing the total number needed to meet the total Minimum Conservation Limit in North American rivers in green (corrected for 11 months of natural mortality). The PFA numbers are those 11 months before they return to their home rivers in North America.

Source: Atlantic Salmon Federation 2015

From 1969 to 1993 (highlighted in yellow) HydroQuebec built 7 mega reservoir hydroelectric facilities which have starved the salmon, cod et.al. fisheries to the point of depletion.

**THERE WAS A SUSTAINABLE MEDIAN (COD) CATCH FOR 100 YEARS OF 8,000 METRIC TONS IN THE GULF OF MAINE AND THE PRECIPITOUS DECLINE, WHICH BEGAN IN 1991, IS CONSISTENT WITH THE TIMING OF COD COLLAPSES IN THE GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE AND WESTERN ATLANTIC (see attached Fact Sheet Feb. 4, 2019)**

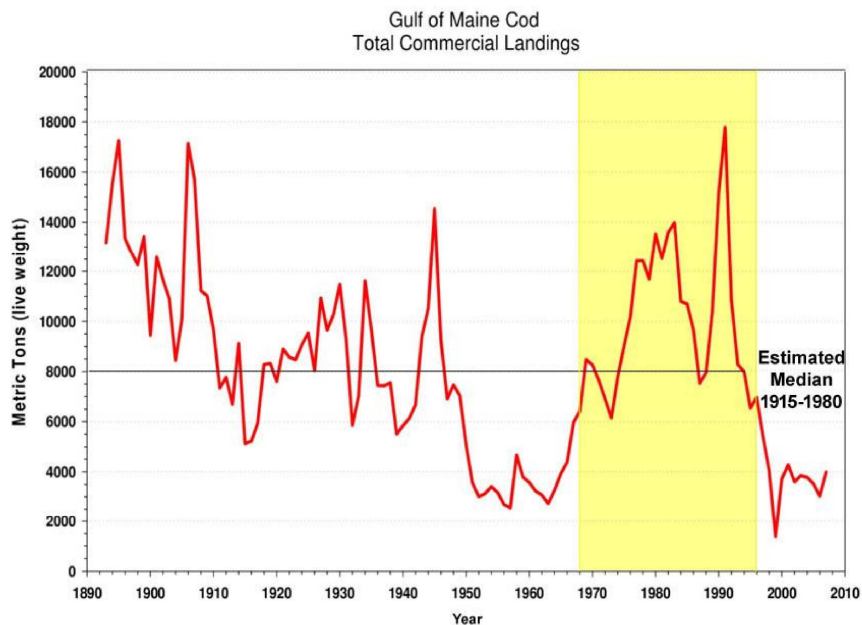


Figure 1.2 Total commercial landings (mt) of Atlantic cod from the Gulf of Maine stock, 1893-2007.

I have documented all of the adverse environmental impacts of this long term storage on these endangered species et.al. fisheries in the attached April 2, 2019 Letter to Mr. Jay Clement of the USACE.

I am writing to ask the DEP to include in its Environmental Assessment (EA) on CMP's application for the proposed NECEC transmission line, the impacts that long term storage of the spring runoff from Canadian rivers is having on these endangered species in the Gulf of Maine,

CMP has made the long term storage of the spring runoff part of its application when it submitted the HydroQuebec December 14, 2018 letter to Maine's PUC with the following statement: "Excess water not used to generate electricity is stored in large reservoirs for use in later periods. As the reservoirs become full, and storing water is no longer an option, water is spilled."

**HydroQuebec's long term storage of spring run off into the Gulf of St. Lawrence has starved the Atlantic salmon and North Atlantic right whale to the point of depletion.**

Therefore, this application should be denied.

Respectfully,

  
Stephen M. Kasprzak