

# Frank J. Wood Bridge Natural Resources

## **What natural resources are present in the Frank J. Wood Bridge Project Area?**

The Androscoggin River supports many species of fish and wildlife. Federally Threatened Atlantic sturgeon and Endangered Shortnose sturgeon stage and spawn below the dam. Federally Endangered Atlantic salmon migrate through the project area. American shad and blueback herring spawn in the project area. Alewives, smelts, and eels are also present. Spawning and migration occur in the spring and summer and are the most sensitive to impacts.

## **How could the bridge improvements impact these resources?**

Bridge piers, abutments, and riprap slope protection could permanently convert habitat in the Androscoggin River.

In-water activities during construction can also temporarily affect fish and water quality:

- Installing sheet piles to isolate the work area
- Installing piles for a detour bridge or work trestles
- Constructing piers
- Rock removal
- Placing fill or riprap

These activities can cause in-water noise, can disturb the river substrate and cause turbidity. In addition, soil disturbance adjacent to the river can result in erosion and sedimentation into the river. These short-term impacts can disrupt fish behavior (migration, spawning, foraging) and sometimes injure or kill fish.

## **What can be done to minimize impacts to fish and wildlife?**

MaineDOT/FHWA can avoid and minimize permanent impacts by designing permanent features (piers, abutments, scour protection) to use the smallest footprint possible while meeting design standards.

In addition, the following measures can be taken to minimize impacts during construction:

- Restricting in-water construction activities during sensitive spawning and migration periods (spring and early Summer)
- Using cofferdams to isolate the work area
- Minimizing footprint of temporary construction access and temporary detours
- Employing Best Management Practices during construction to minimize the area of disturbed soil, manage runoff, and prevent erosion during construction.

## **What State and Federal Laws protect the resources affected by the project?**

<b>Applicable Law</b>	<b>Agency that Administers the Law</b>
Endangered Species Act	National Marine Fisheries Service U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Essential Fish Habitat)	National Marine Fisheries Service
Maine Natural Resources Protection Act	Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Section 404 of the Clean Water Act Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers