

ATLANTIC SALMON RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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TOPICS

- Goals
- Need
- Process
- Status
- Next Steps



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GOALS

- Achieve no net loss of species
 - offset of adverse affected resource with function of equal or greater value
- Offset the loss of aquatic resource functions lost through permitted impacts



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NEED

- Permitted activities have potential to cause in-stream impacts
- ILF provides option for compensatory mitigation after proper mitigation sequencing
- Increase extent and quality of Atlantic salmon natural resources in Maine
- Achieve ecological success on regional basis by integrating ILF projects with other conservation activities



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Flanders Stream
Culvert Replacement

Blackman
Stream Fishway



PROCESS



○ Regulatory framework

- Corps Compensatory Mitigation **Rule** published 2008
- Atlantic salmon listed as endangered in 2000 and then area expanded in 2009
- USFWS Compensatory Mitigation **Policy** published 2016



PROCESS

- Concept initiated
 - MaineDOT/USFWS desire for programmatic consultation on road crossings
 - Corps attendance at Mitigation & Conservation Banking Conference in 2014
- MaineDOT contracted TCF to develop a draft ILF prospectus and ILF instrument

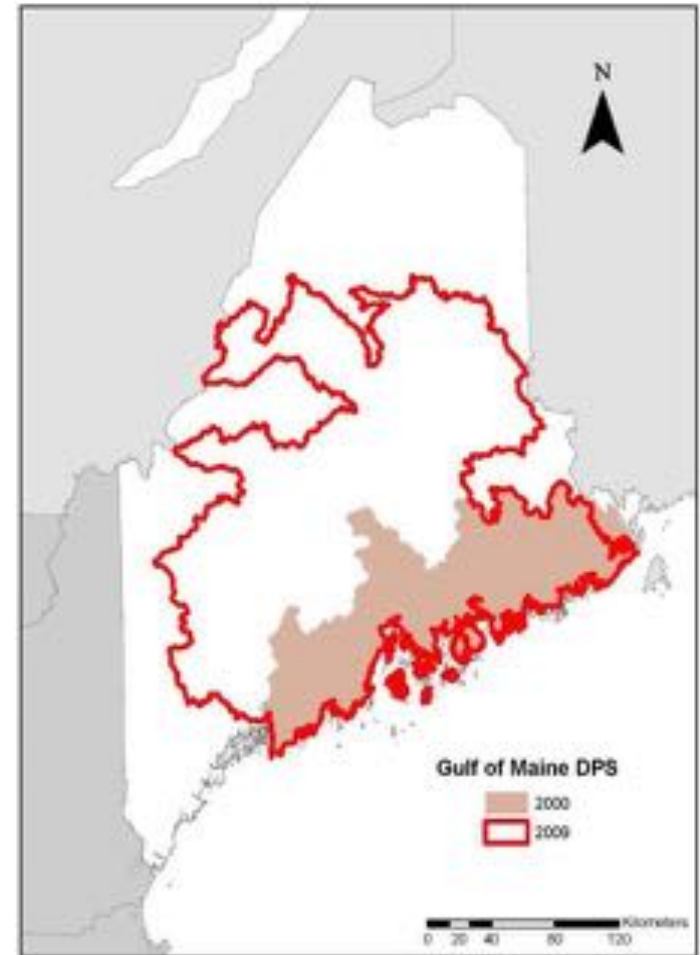


PROCESS

- Sponsor: Maine Department of Marine Resources
- IRT members
 - Corps – Co-chair
 - USFWS – Co-chair
 - NMFS
 - Penobscot Indian Nation
 - Maine Department of Marine Resources
 - Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
- Conservation Partners
 - ID projects
 - Implementation if approved via RFP process

PROCESS

- Area covered: Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment
 - DPS covers all anadromous Atlantic salmon in 87 watersheds in Maine
 - NOT landlocked salmon
 - >40 watersheds have suitable habitat but are unoccupied or inaccessible



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PROCESS

○ Fee determination

- Need “consistent, defensible and ‘user-friendly’ mechanism for calculating program credits and debits”
- White paper: “Compensation Rate Calculations and Fee Schedule” by TCF Anderson et al.
 - Task 1 – Partner coordination, data gathering, literature review
 - Task 2 – Apply rapid assessment cost models to estimate cost of improving all potential stream crossing barriers within SHRUs
 - Task 3 – Develop quantitative and qualitative metrics to evaluate potential impacts of crossings
 - Task 4 – Apply metrics to cost estimates to calculate credits and debits



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PROCESS

Current Fee Schedule

RESOURCE COMPENSATION RATES			
SERVICE AREA	PRICE PER CRITICAL HABITAT UNIT	PRICE PER SQ. METER OF CRITICAL HABITAT	PRICE PER SQ. FOOT OF CRITICAL HABITAT
Merrymeeting Bay SHRU	\$4,856	\$48.56	\$4.51
Penobscot Bay SHRU	\$3,408	\$34.08	\$3.17
Downeast Coastal SHRU	\$6,347	\$63.47	\$5.90

1 Critical Habitat Unit = 100 m²



STATUS

- Prospectus went out for 30-day public notice on March 28, 2017
- Instrument signed
 - Corps – 9/10/2018
 - USFWS – 9/13/2018
 - MaineDMR – 9/20/2018
- Primary user: MaineDOT



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NEXT STEPS

- So far no project has used this – WHY?
 - Cost! The difference in cost between a 1:1 structure and a 1:1.2 structure is sometimes 50% of the ILF
 - Lesson learned: As a state agency, DOT required to be fiscally responsible: means cost is primary driver for decisions
 - USFWS and MaineDMR considering credit fee adjustments to balance affordability with cost to do required mitigation



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CONTACT INFORMATION

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FYI: I retire 7/3/2019

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