

RULEMAKING: An Act To Ensure that Replacement Culverts Permit Fish Passage

Conserve Maine Fisheries

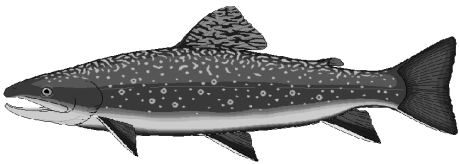
Adopting important rules regarding stream crossings will help fisheries, aquatic wildlife, and recreational and commercial fishing industries in Maine.

- The roads that cross Maine's rivers, brooks and streams can have negative impacts on fish and wildlife, including Maine's prized native brook trout.
- Culverts are often installed when a road must cross a small stream. Culverts that are too small or poorly installed keep fish and other water dependent animals from moving, which they must do to find food, mates and shelter.
- Large numbers of culverts prevent fish from moving. In the lower Penobscot River a recent survey found 91% of the 533 crossings hampered fish movement. Requiring culverts that will pass natural stream flow will fix this problem.
- Putting in properly sized culverts will prevent costly road washouts.
- Agriculture and forestry are exempt from these rules unless building a permanent road. Compliance with existing Forest Water Quality Best Management Practices should be adequate for meeting these requirements.
- Maine's wildlife resources are critical for Maine's economy and quality of life. The value of our natural environment is Maine's brand and draw to the rest of the world. The total expenditures in Maine on wildlife-related recreation in 2006 were \$1.5 billion.



Pass the Fish Passage bill and help protect an important part of Maine's natural heritage

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RULEMAKING: An Act To Ensure that Replacement Culverts Permit Fish Passage is supported by the:

Environmental Priorities Coalition

We are 26 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations who have joined together for a sixth consecutive year around a Common Environmental Agenda. We represent over 100,000 members in Maine who want to protect the good health, good jobs, and quality of life that our environment provides for all of us.

Coalition partners include:

American Lung Association in Maine
Appalachian Mountain Club
Atlantic Salmon Federation
Bicycle Coalition of Maine
Conservation Law Foundation
Environmental Health Strategy Center
Environment Maine
Environment Northeast
Friends of Casco Bay
Maine Audubon
Maine Center for Economic Policy
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Maine Council of Churches
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Maine Conservation Voters Education Fund
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Maine People's Alliance
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