



Stop blocking sea-run fish from Sheepscot Pond

Oppose LD 1667 and support Maine's native species and fishing industries

Protecting Maine's recreational and commercial fishing industries is about preserving our way of life and an important resource for our children

Despite their critical role in Maine's recreational and commercial fishing industries, native sea-run fish are currently being blocked from Sheepscot Pond

- At 1,200 acres, Sheepscot Pond represents 40% of the historic alewife habitat above Head Tide in the Sheepscot River.
- Sheepscot Pond is by far the most important pond for alewives in the entire watershed. There is no substitute.
- Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW) has been blocking native sea-run fish from Sheepscot Pond Dam's fishway, based on the unscientific belief that native sea-run fish, such as alewives and eels, are a threat to freshwater game fish.
- IFW and some homeowners on the lake, many of whom are out-of-state residents, are now pushing to put these unscientific practices at Sheepscot Pond into law.



Sheepscot Pond could and should be a great place for both sea-run fish and freshwater fish

- Alewives and other sea-run fish are central to Maine's natural resource-based economy, and Sheepscot Pond has the potential to support a run of at least 280,000 alewives.
- Restoring alewives is a key to bringing back Maine's once prosperous ground fishing industry. Maine scientists have linked the disappearance of coastal cod stocks to the dramatic decline in alewives compared to historic levels.
- Alewives are critical food sources for many species of birds and mammals, as evidenced by the rejuvenated alewife run in the Sebasticook River and the huge numbers of eagles that now gather there to feed¹.
- Former Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Commissioner Bucky Owen calls alewives the "most important fish species in Maine" because of their important role in the aquatic food chain.

LD 1667 poses a grave threat to alewives and other native sea-run fish

- LD 1667 would require in law that IFW continue blocking alewives and other native sea-run fish from Sheepscot Pond.
- Putting this flawed policy into law is the same misguided approach that resulted in the legislature blocking alewives on the St. Croix River for decades.



Oppose LD 1667: Support Maine's recreational and commercial fishing industries

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¹See the Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW) report, "Maine's Sebasticook River: A Rare and Critical Resource for Bald Eagles in the Northeast". Available at <https://www1.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/species/pdfs/Sebasticook%20Eagle%20Flyer%2092115.pdf>



Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition

is a partnership of 34 environmental, conservation and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to make wise use of Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine communities can thrive

Acadia Center	Maine People's Alliance
Appalachian Mountain Club	Maine Public Health Association
Atlantic Salmon Federation	Maine Rivers
Bicycle Coalition of Maine	Maine Wilderness Guides Organization
Conservation Law Foundation	MidCoast Conservancy
Environmental Health Strategy Center	Natural Resources Council of Maine
Environment Maine	Physicians for Social Responsibility Maine Chapter
Friends of Casco Bay	RESTORE: The North Woods
Islesboro Island Trust	Sierra Club, Maine Chapter
Maine Association of Conservation Commissions	Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative
Maine Audubon	The Ocean Conservancy
Maine Center for Economic Policy	The Trust for Public Land
Maine Conservation Alliance	The Wilderness Society
Maine Council of Churches	Toxics Action Center
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited	Upstream
Maine Interfaith Power & Light	350 Maine
Maine Lakes Society	
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association	

