

Project Title: Atlantic Salmon Freshwater Assessments and Research

Project Location: Augusta office of the Maine Department of Marine Resources Bureau of Sea-run Fisheries and Habitat

Project Leader: Jennifer Noll (jennifer.b.noll@maine.gov)

Project Time Frame: May 2022 – August 2022

Total Hours: up to 520

Semester Hour Allocation: 40 hours per week as available

Gulf of Maine Atlantic salmon are the last wild populations in the USA and are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Continued management-based research and assessments are necessary to document population responses to management action and habitat improvements and restoration.

ME-DMR Bureau of Sea-run Fisheries and Habitat (BSRFH) has been in a cooperative agreement with NOAA-Fisheries for several years with the purpose of preserving Atlantic salmon within the Gulf of Maine. Under this agreement, ME-DMR staff conduct a variety of activities associated with Atlantic salmon management and recovery. These activities include: smolt (juvenile Atlantic salmon) trapping operations, adult salmon trap operations, juvenile assessments using electrofishing, spawner surveys and stream surveys for salmon habitat, stream restoration projects such as adding large wood to streams, and documenting temperature regimes of streams. ME-DMR staff also works with other diadromous species such as river herring and rainbow smelt, collecting data and counts. This intern would be exposed to a variety of fisheries techniques and management over the course of their term. A clean driving record is a requirement as there may be a need to use a State of Maine vehicle for project needs. All work is contingent on being able to conduct it in a COVID-safe environment and appropriate modifications to the scope of work will be made as appropriate.

The intern would assist in:

- Operation of rotary screw traps for the purpose of enumerating out-migrating Atlantic salmon smolts in the Sandy River
- Collection and preparation of biological samples and translocation of adult Atlantic salmon
- Surveying habitat & deploying temperature loggers
- Annual juvenile salmon assessment work using electrofishing in the Kennebec River
- Data entry into ME-DMR databases & inventorying and maintaining sampling equipment

Opportunities Include:

- Connecting with scientists and professionals in the fisheries field
- Exposure to fisheries science and enumeration and assessment techniques such as electrofishing and habitat surveying
- Learning the layout, functionality and issues with multiple Atlantic salmon watersheds