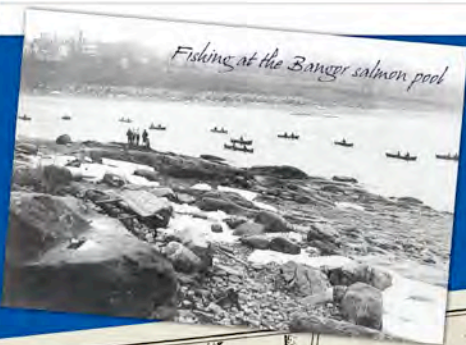


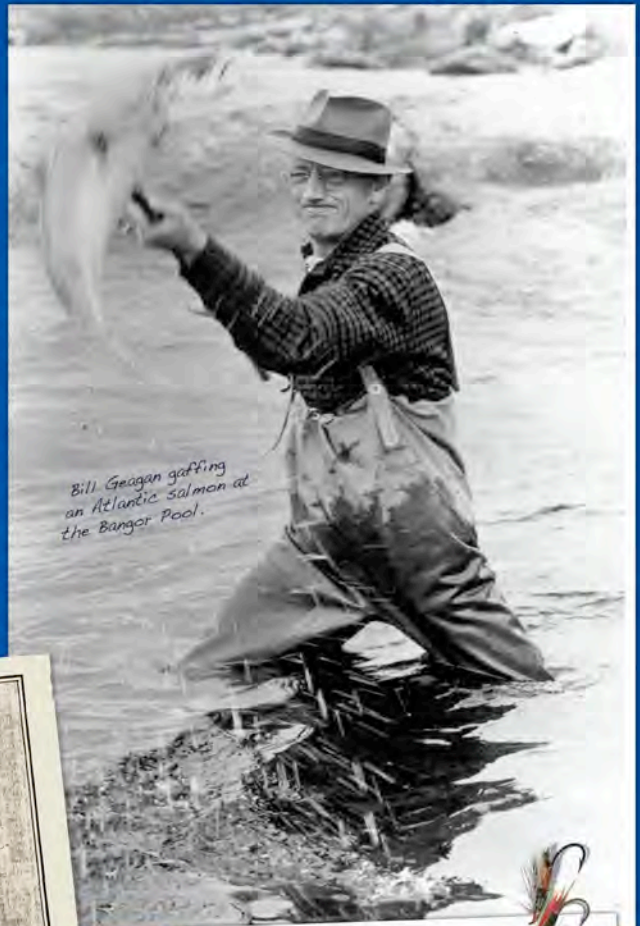
HISTORY of the PENOBSCOT SALMON CLUB

The Penobscot Salmon Club was organized in 1884, the first salmon club in the United States. The original clubhouse was built on this spot on the Brewer side of the Bangor Salmon Pool in 1887. "Persons are rapidly adding their names to the list of membership of the club and 40 have already been secured. They include not only those from our own town and vicinity, but gentlemen from other cities in this state and other New England states," proclaimed the *Bangor Daily Whig and Courier*, the newspaper of the time.

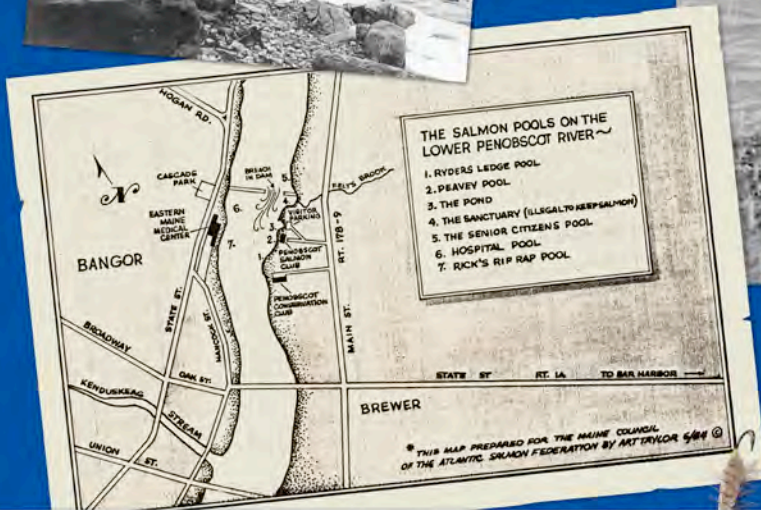
The Bangor Salmon Pool soon became the social center of the angling community, and an opening day tradition began, when "members gathered each April 1st, each with a setter dog, a pound of beefsteak and a quart of whiskey, the steak being for the dogs. When properly fortified, the Isaac Waitons gathered their rods and began the day's activities."



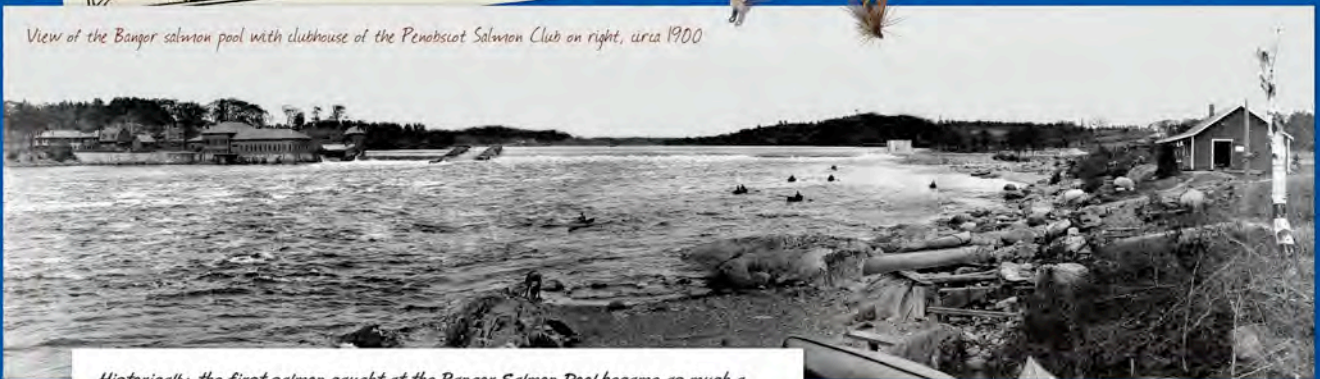
Fishing at the Bangor salmon pool



Bill Geagan gaffing an Atlantic salmon at the Bangor Pool.



View of the Bangor salmon pool with clubhouse of the Penobscot Salmon Club on right, circa 1900



Historically, the first salmon caught at the Bangor Salmon Pool became as much a sign of spring as the melting April snows. Competition among club members to catch the first salmon of the season was always fierce, leading to the tradition, established in 1912, of sending the first salmon of the season to the President of the United States.

When fire destroyed the original buildings, a new clubhouse was built and the Penobscot Salmon Club was incorporated in 1923. On September 15, 1976, the Penobscot Salmon Club and Pool were placed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Poster produced for the Penobscot Salmon Club by Maine Sea Grant in partnership with NOAA-National Marine Fisheries Service, Orono, ME. Photos courtesy Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery and Penobscot Salmon Club.

