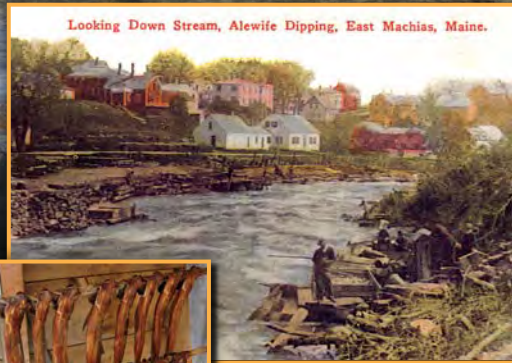


Reconnecting habitat, restoring migrations

Where a dam and hydroelectric plant once blocked migratory fish from moving to their upstream spawning habitat, the East Machias Aquatic Resource Center is reconnecting land and sea. In spring, alewives ascend the East Machias River and its tributaries by the hundreds of thousands to spawn in the numerous lakes and ponds upstream. This abundance is what attracted French settlers to the region in 1744; today the Center continues the tradition of smoking alewives.



Alewives are part of the herring family and measure about 10 inches long. Alewives favor the East Machias River watershed because it has the most lake area of all the Downeast rivers, and the most connectivity between lakes, streams, and the ocean.

Nearly 1,000 salmon once returned to the East Machias River every year. To help bring back this endangered fish, a hatchery powered by sun and wind raises fish prepared to survive in the wild.



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Map: Downeast Salmon Federation with data from Maine Department of Marine Resources and U.S. Geological Survey; Postcard courtesy of Michael Hoyt. Alewife art: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Photos—Salmon parr: E. Peter Steenstra, USFWS, others: Downeast Salmon Federation.