

Lower mainstem Kennebec:

Salmon update by Jennifer Noll:

This week has brought in cool fall weather without a whole lot of precipitation. The discharge level has undulated between ~6,500 cfs and 4,200 cfs and is now between 25th% and the median historic discharge levels (based on 36 years of data). ([USGS current conditions](#)). The temperature has decreased to 15°C in Waterville.

The fish lift has been fully operating over most of the past week. **No** Atlantic salmon were captured since the last report.

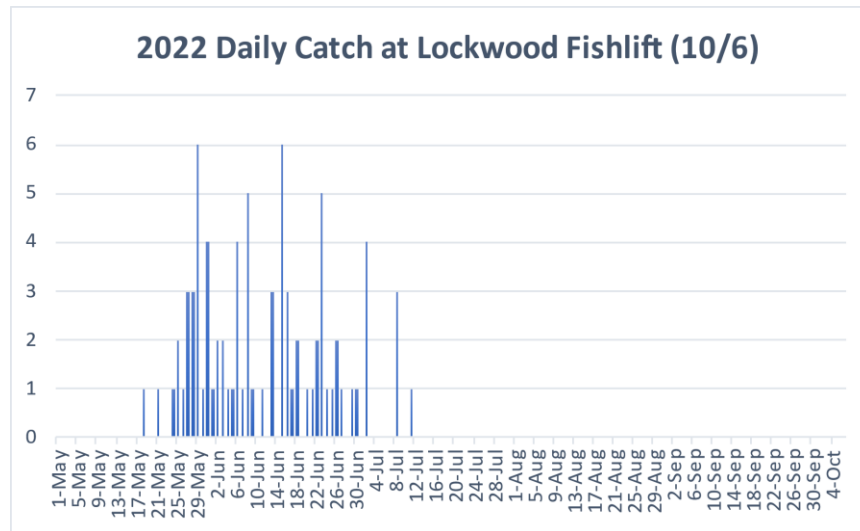


Figure: Daily Atlantic salmon catch at Lockwood fish lift, Waterville, ME. Daily catches range from 0-6 salmon/day.

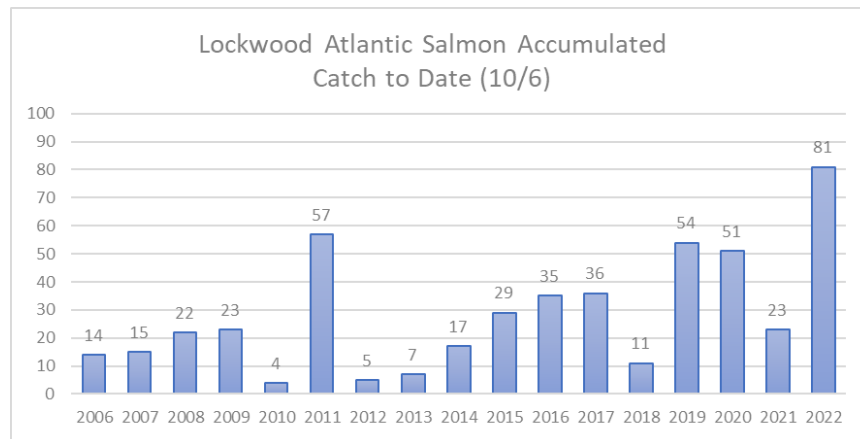


Figure: Atlantic salmon catch to date for each year since Lockwood fish lift (Waterville, ME) has been operational (2006).

Lockwood fish lift (mainstem Kennebec) total catches for 2022 (as of 10/3):

- River herring: 83,978
- American shad: 5
- Sea Lamprey: 7
- Striped Bass: 52
- Atlantic Salmon: 81

Benton Falls (Sebasticook River) total catches for 2022 (as of 7/23):

- River herring: 2,779,209
- American shad: 3
- Atlantic salmon: 5
- Sea Lamprey: 61
- Striped Bass: 0

Final electrofishing surveys were completed last week on 10/27 in the lower Kennebec. One parr was found in Bond Brook, likely from the Salmon in Schools program.

Chris Yoder from Midwest Biodiversity Institute typically samples the lower Kennebec from Waterville to Augusta via boat electrofishing for fish community and biomass data; this has been an ongoing effort for 20+ years. DMR crews typically assist in this effort, and this year Maranda Nemeth of Atlantic Salmon Federation was able to join as well. Species that were identified were: striped bass, American eels, juvenile blueback herring, juvenile alewives, brown trout, Northern pike, pumpkinseed sunfish, redbreast sunfish, spottail shiners, fallfish, white catfish, among others.



Mattea and Jen on their way to the first site which was at the mouth of Messalonskee Stream. Quite a foggy morning!



Maranda Nemeth of ASF holding a striped bass captured just below the old Edwards Dam footprint in Augusta.

Stock enhancement/beach seine project updates by Craig King – from the Kennebec and beyond:

As mentioned previously, last week wrapped up our juvenile assessment of both the above tide portion of the Kennebec and the greater Merrymeeting Bay section. The lower river yielded yet another surprise on Friday, we found a juvenile Crevalle Jack. This was not the first time we have found these in this section of river; however, their unique appearance always catches us off guard. We continued to catch young of the year bluefish in the lower river as well, hopefully a sign of increased spawning success in the area. We were able to complete all the lower sites once again in 2022! For the upper sites, a combination of boat breakdowns and river flows made it difficult for 100% completion, however considering all the factors we were able to have a 94% completion rate above head of tide.

Although it was odd to not load the beach seine this week, there was no lack of things to do! Crews continued to winterize stocking pumps and plumbing as well as monitor fishways to ensure migrating fish can head towards the ocean. More Juvenile samples were collected this week from both China lake and Togus pond. In addition, crews went out to monitor sturgeon wintering areas and check for presence of acoustically tagged fish. Two areas, one in the Eastern River and one on the mainstem Kennebec were checked and both places held tagged fish. Further investigation will be done to determine where the fish were tagged.



Juvenile Bluefish



Crevalle Jack

Sheepscot River:

Salmon update by Jennifer Noll:

Electrofishing surveys were completed in the Sheepscot River on 10/28. The last couple of sites in the Sheepscot River were index sites as well as part of the rapid geomorphic survey. Melissa Cote from Midcoast Conservancy assisted DMR crews with data collection from these index/RGA sites.



Melissa Cote of Midcoast Conservancy assisting with measuring an American eel for a rapid geomorphic assessment electrofishing site (Maxcy's Mill) in the Sheepscot River.

Androscoggin River:

Provided by Brookfield:

The upstream fishway has been operational all week.

Brunswick fish lift (mainstem Androscoggin) total catches for 2022 (as of 10/3):

- River herring: 139,326
- American shad: 228
- Sea Lamprey: 370
- Atlantic Salmon: 17

Salmon update by Jennifer Noll:

Two index electrofishing sites were completed on the Little River, a tributary to the lower Androscoggin River. Salmon were found in both sites; however, the upper site contained both freshwater year classes of salmon and more than 30 young of year. Salmon captured were likely from the Salmon in Schools program.



Releasing Atlantic salmon, likely from the Salmon in Schools program.



Atlantic salmon young of year being weighed alive; from the upper site on the Little River.

*All data is preliminary until final auditing is complete.