



**United States Department Of Commerce**  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Northeast Region  
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The Penobscot River Restoration Project is a great example of effective community collaboration. It includes representatives from industry, federal, state and tribal agencies and numerous environmental organizations standing together for the same common goal.

This coalition is a model for others striving to accomplish large-scale ecological restoration in other regions of the United States.

Although we have participated in many fish passage projects in the last 10 years, the Penobscot River Restoration represents one of the most significant for NOAA. This project offers a historic opportunity to help restore an entire watershed and improve access to nearly 1,000 miles of river and tributary habitat for a number of species, including the Atlantic salmon, American shad, endangered shortnose sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon, alewife, striped bass and blueback herring.

In particular, this represents a key opportunity for us to help recover the overall population of Atlantic salmon as 74% of the total Atlantic salmon returns are to the Penobscot River.

The Penobscot also represents the largest freshwater input into the Gulf of Maine, thus acquiring these dams is a leap forward in not only river restoration but also efforts to improve our coastal waters and protect the species that inhabit them.

