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Penobscot River project plans progress report

OLD TOWN, Maine (AP) _ Partners in an ambitious project aimed at opening 500 miles of river habitat to salmon and other sea-run fish plan to announce major milestones.

Gov. John Baldacci will join federal officials and the chief of the Penobscot Indian Nation on Thursday in Old Town for a progress report on the Penobscot River Restoration Project.

The plan, first announced in 2004, calls for the elimination of the Veazie and Great Works dams and the construction of a fishway at the Howland Dam. In return, power producer PPL Corp. was allowed to increase production of electricity at other dams along the river.

The project is a collaborative effort involving PPL, the Penobscot tribe, seven conservation groups and state and federal agencies.