

# Bangor Daily News

*Founded in 1889*

TODD BENOIT  
EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR

SUSAN YOUNG  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

RICHARD SHAW  
EDITORIAL PAGE ASSISTANT

P.O. Box 1329, Bangor, Maine 04402-1329

Tel. 990-8000, fax 941-9476, e-mail address letters@bangordailynews.net

---

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Win-win for Penobscot

Growing up along the shores of the Penobscot River as a child and as a lifelong fisherman who was taught to fish the river's banks, I am thrilled about the proposed Penobscot River Project and its potential to restore not only Atlantic salmon but shad, striped bass, rainbow smelt and other fish to the river.

The river's native fisheries are decimated and decades of experience and money have proven there are too many dams for adult fish to get upriver and for their young to get back down without heavy mortality. Species such as sturgeon, striped bass and, for the most part, shad, won't use any type of fish passage ladder.

Today there is not a self-sustaining run of Atlantic salmon in the United States or Canada above three dams and now that we have a documented short-nose sturgeon population on the river, we have the chance to restore 100 percent of its spawning habitat for an endangered species through a project that is already under way.

I remember a time when the Penobscot was so polluted that I was forbidden to play near its shores. Now the river, thanks to the Clean Water Act, flows much cleaner and the river project would offer a wonderful opportunity to reconfigure hydropower production, maintain basically the same level of energy production but with fewer dams, and restore the abundant fisheries that should once again be an important part of the river and our communities.

That's a win-win in my book.

Gary Arsenault  
*Winterport*