

This session, Maine legislators have the opportunity to restore populations of native Alewives to the St. Croix River.

An Act to Restore Diadromous Fish in the St. Croix River (LD 1957) will bring back this river's once great population of native alewives and give them access to their historic spawning grounds in the St. Croix watershed.

Why Are Alewives Important?

Alewives are critical for Maine's river and marine ecosystems. They carry vital nutrients from the oceans to our inland waters and they are a source of food for striped bass, cod, pollock, seals, trout, salmon, ospreys, eagles, kingfishers, mink, otter and many other species.

Alewives are also a preferred bait for Maine's lobster industry. Fishermen can earn good money harvesting alewives each spring and a restored run on the St. Croix could provide thousands of bushels for Downeast lobstermen.

An Act to Restore Diadromous Fish to the St. Croix Watershed (LD 1957):

- Re-establishes Maine's largest native alewife population at no taxpayer expense.
- Fuels alewife harvests for lobster bait.
- Creates opportunities for nature-watching & ecotourism.
- Restores Maine's heritage and ecosystems.

Restore Alewives to the St. Croix River

The Science is In; Now it is Time to Act

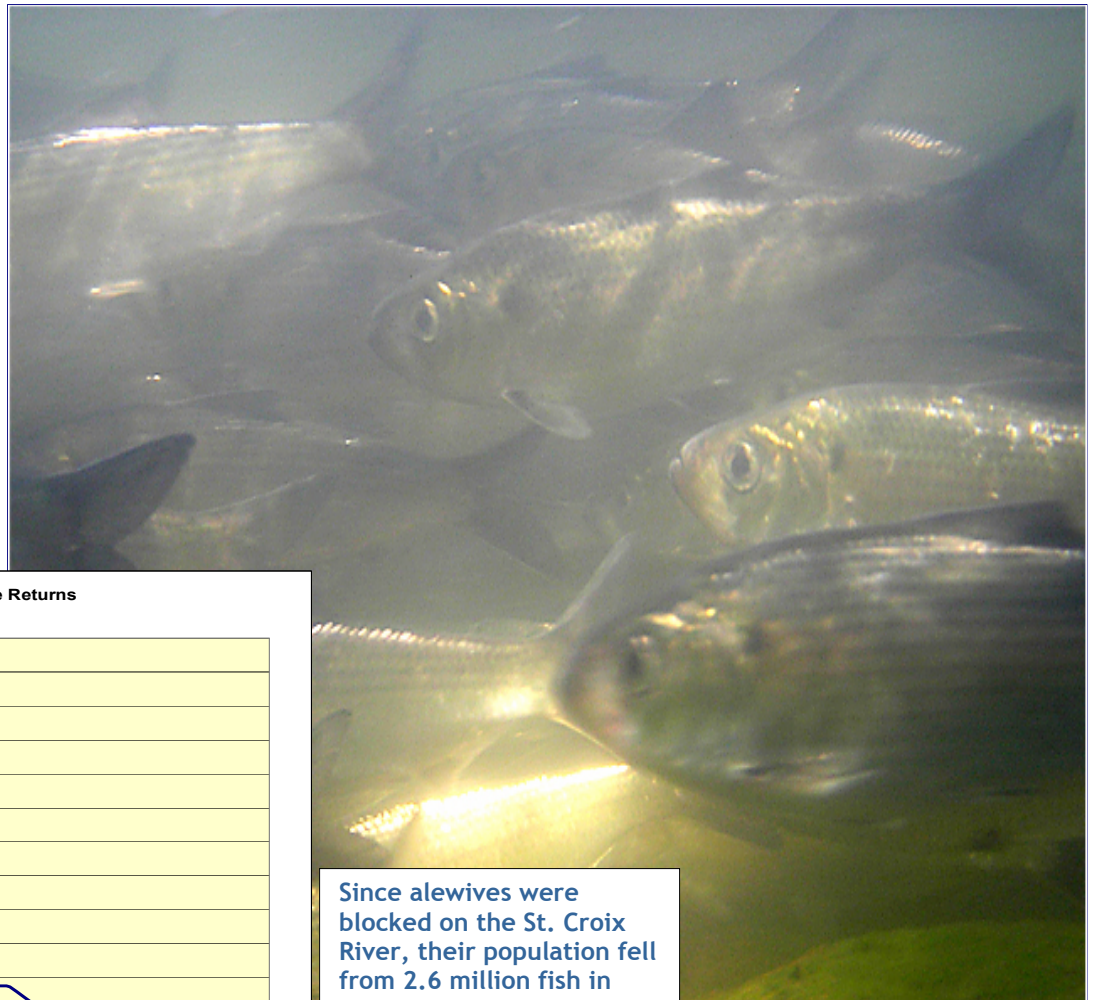


A healthy alewife population feeds wildlife, supplies bait for lobster fishermen and draws Maine residents and visitors who view them with delight every spring.

Due to Misunderstood Science Alewives Have Almost Disappeared from the St. Croix River

- In 1995, the Maine Legislature passed a law that prevented upstream passage for alewives at two dams on the St. Croix River.
- Peer-reviewed science has now demonstrated beyond a doubt that sea-run alewives pose no threat to smallmouth bass in the St. Croix.
- This closure came at the request of a handful of fishing guides who believed that alewives caused the collapse of Spednic Lake's smallmouth bass populations in the 1980's.
- Alewives have played a crucial role in the St. Croix ecosystem for millennia and their absence harms everything from bald eagles to Atlantic salmon.

Help Maine fishermen and wildlife by bringing back alewives to this historic river.



Since alewives were blocked on the St. Croix River, their population fell from 2.6 million fish in 1987 to 1,300 returning adults in 2007.

St. Croix River Alewife Returns 1987-2007

