

**Governor John Baldacci**  
**Penobscot River Project Announcement**

**Oct. 6, 2003**

Thank you for joining us today.

We have come together to announce a unique collaboration by a broad group of parties, including conservation organizations, state and federal agencies, the Penobscot Indian nation, and PPL Corporation, for one of the largest, most creative river restoration projects in our nation's history.

This conceptual agreement represents the most important effort in one hundred years to recover the wild Atlantic salmon in the United States.

These parties have chosen to work collaboratively for an agreement in which all of us are winners... by re-configuring hydropower facilities to open more than 500 miles of habitat to sea-run fish, improving water quality, boosting wildlife, and fostering new opportunities for communities long Maine's longest river.

The agreement we announce today reflects the Maine tradition... in which people with different viewpoints come together to resolve their disagreements and to seek common ground for the benefit of all concerned. The result of their long, hard negotiations is a plan that balances the environment, the economy, and the quality of life in Maine's largest watershed.

By reaching this agreement, the parties have greatly improved the likelihood that decisions that affect Maine communities and Maine businesses will be largely shaped in Maine by Maine people... not in Washington by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

This conceptual agreement lays out creative solutions to many thorny issues, but leaves ample opportunity for the people and communities of the Penobscot valley to help shape the way solutions are implemented... and resources are employed over the next several years... as we re-establish the Penobscot River's historic connection to the Atlantic Ocean.

I am proud of the work done by the parties to this agreement, and commend them for their diligence in seeking common ground. We will all benefit from their hard work.

**Note:** the governor made additional comments at this point that were not written.

