

Penobscot River Restoration TRUST

Veazie Dam Breaching & Commemoration Event **July 22, 2013**

ADDITIONAL QUOTES

“I applaud all of the partners for finding a way to both rebuild sea-run fisheries and rebalance hydropower for the benefit of all the people of the region. This community-led, landscape-scale river restoration project will strengthen local communities, revitalize important economic uses of the Penobscot River, and maintain energy generation, while restoring salmon and the great historic fisheries of the river.”

- United States Senator Susan Collins

“You have perfected the art of balancing all of the interests that depend on this river. Environment, the Penobscot Nation, local communities, renewable energy, recreation, local tax bases - you have patiently and brilliantly perfected that formula where every part benefits and the whole is greater than their sum. Congratulations to all involved in this historic achievement.”

- United States Senator Angus S. King, Jr.

“For over a hundred years too many dams have stood between sea run fish like salmon and river herring and 1,000 miles of river habitat in the Penobscot. Breaching this dam, which is so close to the ocean, is the biggest step yet toward opening that habitat back up to the fish that once swam those waters, restoring both the river and the Gulf of Maine.”

- United States Congresswoman Chellie Pingree

“Working and living along the Penobscot River for decades, I have watched as our valuable sea-run fisheries have struggled even as the river has become much cleaner. Now, by opening up the Penobscot River at Veazie to the passage of Atlantic salmon, river herring and other sea-run fish, a critical step is being taken to rebuild this important fishery while maintaining – and likely even increasing – hydropower generation. This project has brought many diverse private and public interests together to restore the river along with the cultures, traditions, and recreational, community and economic opportunities that come with it. I look forward to watching the river rebound.”

- United States Congressman Michael Michaud

“As the waters flow free and the fish return, the Penobscot is a symbol of partnership, resilience, and hope. We are grateful to all of our partners who worked so hard to make the dream of a healthy Penobscot River a reality. The Penobscot's renaissance will benefit Maine and the nation for generations to come.”

-- Bob Irvin, President, American Rivers

“The removal of Veazie Dam may be the single most important event in the long history of salmon restoration in Maine. The Penobscot Project offers anglers and conservationists alike the genuine hope we can restore self-sustaining runs of Atlantic salmon and the entire suite of migratory species in this river.”

-Andrew Goode, Vice President, Atlantic Salmon Federation

“The removal of the Veazie Dam will have far reaching benefits for Maine wildlife and people. Whether we are canoeing, watching wildlife or fishing with friends and family, Mainers can now create and share their own river stories for generations to come.”

-Ted Koffman, Executive Director, Maine Audubon

“As the Veazie Dam is removed, I recall the last time I paddled the Penobscot River in Greenbush, where the river wound through small islands and an eagle soared overhead. The wide expanse of Maine’s largest river serves as the watershed for a huge swath of Maine, pouring water back to the sea. Since 2000, NRCM has worked to free this river and all of the life within so it can thrive. Many more people will enjoy the beauty and energy of this river now and we look forward to the day when the river is teeming with fish and wildlife, its communities flourish, the Penobscot Nation’s culture and traditions are strengthened, and the river’s connection to the sea is restored.”

-Lisa Pohlmann, Executive Director, Natural Resources Council of Maine

“Salmon, alewife, eels, birds and countless Maine paddlers, fishermen and visitors will all benefit from a restored Penobscot river system. Removing this dam is an important step in bringing back the Penobscot so that it can play a vital role in Maine's ecology and economy. The partnership that made this possible is a model for collaborative conservation that has inspired the Conservancy's work around the world.”

- Tom Rumpf, Acting Director, The Nature Conservancy in Maine

“Today’s historic removal of the Veazie Dam makes the recovery for Atlantic salmon on the Penobscot that much more imminent. We know from experience with the Edwards dam removal on the Kennebec that fish populations will recover rapidly; the Kennebec now supports a thriving recreational fishery for shad and millions of river herring, less than 15 years after dam removal. This project demonstrates that conservation can directly benefit people and communities.”

- Chris Wood, President and CEO, Trout Unlimited

“A generation ago, nobody would have imagined that the Penobscot River would flow free again, and that more than a thousand miles of an iconic American river would be re-opened to the historic migrations of Atlantic salmon. Today, the Penobscot River is a shining example of just what is possible when local communities come together to craft solutions that work for their economy, protect their way of life, and restore the lands and waters they love.”

- Hansjörg Wyss, whose charitable foundation, the Wyss Foundation, has committed \$2 million to restoration of the Penobscot River and the removal of the Veazie Dam

“This project shines as a model of cooperation among so many groups – the Penobscot Indian Nation, Black Bear Hydro Partners, private citizens, Maine Department of Marine Resources, federal agencies, and many conservation organizations. It proves that ecological restoration and energy production can go hand in hand, for the benefit of both wildlife and people.”

- Jeff Trandahl, Executive Director and CEO of the National Fish & Wildlife Federation