

Statements from Key Partners in the Penobscot River Restoration Project

Kirk Francis, Chief of the Penobscot Nation

"The Penobscot River watershed is the ancestral home of the Penobscot Nation, and has sustained our tribal members since time immemorial. The Penobscot River Restoration Project has allowed our tribe to continue our role as the original stewards of this great resource and we are proud to have been a part of a project that will benefit generations of all peoples well in to the future."

Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

"The Service is proud to have spent over a decade working with the partnership to creatively craft and create a better future for the Penobscot River, modeling how we should restore rivers across the globe. We have completed monumental construction projects, energy improvements and other steps redefining how the Penobscot River serves fish, the people of Maine and the Penobscot Indian Nation. This project has managed to do it all: restore vital habitat for fish and wildlife, support energy needs, and create new economic and recreational opportunities throughout the watershed."

Dan Morris, Deputy Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Region

"NOAA Fisheries congratulates the Penobscot River Restoration Trust on their completion of the nature-like bypass in Howland, and looks forward to the continued restoration of sea-run fish to the Penobscot River watershed. The Trust, its member organizations, State of Maine, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Penobscot Indian Nation have been wonderful partners in the Penobscot River Restoration Project over the years."

Patrick Keliher, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Marine Resources.

"Construction of the Howland bypass is another milestone in efforts to restore Maine's native sea-run fisheries in the Penobscot River. Passage of anadromous fish species is critical to the health of our state's marine and freshwater ecosystems. This project will not only provide access to hundreds of miles of critical habitat to Maine's native sea-run fish, it will ensure continued opportunity for renewable power generation on the Penobscot River."

Kate Dempsey, Maine Director, The Nature Conservancy

"The Penobscot Project is one of the most remarkable accomplishments in the country. It shows that through dedicated ingenuity, collaboration and a willingness to take an unusual path forward with community input can lead to great accomplishments and change."

Lisa Pohlmann, Executive Director, Natural Resources Council of Maine

"Today is a wonderful day for the people, fish, and wildlife of the Penobscot River. Reopening access to 1,000 miles of river for Maine's native sea-run fish is cause for celebration. The Natural Resources Council of Maine is proud to have worked alongside our partners for nearly two decades to see this dream become reality. The fish are already swimming through, and we expect to see cleaner and healthier waters as well as a big boost to the entire Penobscot ecosystem all the way to the Gulf of Maine."

Andrew Goode, Vice President for US Programs, Atlantic Salmon Federation

"This project is allowing the Penobscot to function like a river again as evidenced by its fast rebounding sea-run fisheries. This new balance between fisheries restoration, recreational and cultural use, and

hydropower generation was only achievable through a remarkable collaboration of public and private partners that now serves as a national model for river conservation.”

Steve Moyer, Vice President of Government Affairs, Trout Unlimited

“Trout Unlimited’s mission is to conserve, protect and restore trout and salmon and their habitat. Restoring a run of wild salmon to the Penobscot River is the best — and perhaps only — way to prevent extinction of wild Atlantic salmon in the U.S. The Penobscot River Restoration Project makes that possible. TU thanks all of our partners for their efforts to complete the most comprehensive river restoration project ever attempted on the Atlantic coast. Today, with sea-run fish swimming through the newly opened Howland Bypass channel, the restoration of the Penobscot watershed can begin in earnest.”

Brian Graber, Senior Director of River Restoration, American Rivers

"The Penobscot River restoration is a success story for the people of Maine and a model that is inspiring people around the nation. It is a win for the environment, economy and the many communities that depend on the river including the Penobscot Indian Nation. American Rivers is grateful to our strong coalition of partners and we applaud the hard work and dedication that made today's celebration possible."

Ole Amundsen, III, Executive Director, Maine Audubon

"Maine Audubon is proud to have been part of the Penobscot River Restoration Trust and this unprecedented project that will have far reaching benefits for Maine’s wildlife and wildlife habitat. We are delighted to witness the success of this watershed-based collaboration and conservation project that reopens one of the state's major rivers to travel – for fish, wildlife and people."