



Protect Clean Water in Maine

Increase protections for more than 400 miles of rivers and streams with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)'s water reclassification proposal.

Clean water benefits all Mainers. It increases property values, supports the fishing and guiding industries, and helps our fish and wildlife to thrive.

For the first time since 2009, DEP is proposing upgrades to water quality protections for Maine rivers.

- According to state and federal law, DEP must do this every three years.
- All the rivers and streams in DEP's proposal already meet the higher standards DEP is proposing, and many should have happened years ago.

DEP's proposal includes the following spectacular waterbodies:

- The Penobscot main stem from Medway to the confluence with the Mattawamkeag River in Mattawamkeag (upgrade from Class C to Class B);
- The West Branch of the Penobscot from the Millinocket area to Medway (upgrade from Class C to Class B);
- Fish Stream, which is part of the ecologically important Crystal Bog complex, a unique natural feature in Maine that supports many rare species of plants and animals (Upgrade from Class B to Class A); and
- All of the tributaries to Webb Lake, many of which are in the Tumbledown Public Reserved Land and provide excellent brook trout habitat (upgrade from Class B to Class A).



The Penobscot River upgrades are particularly important to the Penobscot Nation and to protect the investment (about \$60 million in public and private funds) in the highly successful Penobscot River Restoration Project.

- As a result of two dam removals and improved fish passage at other dams, sea-run fish (e.g., shad and alewife) populations in the river are recovering dramatically. The fish need clean water to continue their recovery and to be able to recolonize the upper reaches of the River.
- The West Branch and upper main stem are the last segments of the river still at Class C, Maine's lowest classification, in spite of the fact that they have met Class B for many years.
- The upgrades to Class B in the West Branch and upper main stem would allow substantial industrial development in the Millinocket area with discharges of about 7,000 pounds of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) per day on average, according to DEP modeling. BOD is a common measurement of wastewater pollution. To put this number in perspective, 7,000 pounds of BOD per day is about twice the average discharge of the Verso mill in Jay.



Support DEP's Water Reclassification Proposal and Maine's Clean Water

For more information, contact Nick Bennett, Natural Resources Council of Maine at 207-430-0116, nick@nrcm.org



Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition

is a partnership of 34 environmental, conservation and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to make wise use of Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine communities can thrive.

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| Acadia Center | Maine People's Alliance |
| Appalachian Mountain Club | Maine Public Health Association |
| Atlantic Salmon Federation | Maine Rivers |
| Bicycle Coalition of Maine | Maine Wilderness Guides Organization |
| Conservation Law Foundation | Midcoast Conservancy |
| Environmental Health Strategy Center | Natural Resources Council of Maine |
| Environment Maine | Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine Chapter |
| Friends of Casco Bay | RESTORE: The North Woods |
| Islesboro Island Trust | Sierra Club, Maine Chapter |
| Maine Association of Conservation Commissions | Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative |
| Maine Audubon | The Ocean Conservancy |
| Maine Center for Economic Policy | The Trust for Public Land |
| Maine Conservation Alliance | The Wilderness Society |
| Maine Council of Churches | Toxics Action Center |
| Maine Council of Trout Unlimited | Upstream |
| Maine Interfaith Power & Light | 350 Maine |
| Maine Lakes Society | |
| Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association | |