



Natural Resources Council of Maine

1966



NRCM leads successful campaign to protect the Allagash River. Maine citizens authorize a \$1.5 million bond that would "develop the maximum wilderness character" of the river.

1970



The Allagash Wilderness Waterway is designated a "wild and scenic river" by federal government.

1969

NRCM supports legislation to remove billboards from Maine's highways.



1959

A small group of citizen activists establishes the Natural Resources Council of Maine as the state's first statewide environmental advocacy organization. NRCM is incorporated on June 25, 1959.

1983



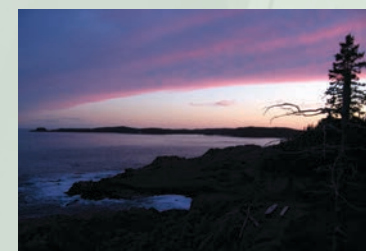
NRCM fights a 10-year battle to keep a major oil refinery from being built in Eastport. The refinery proposal is dropped.

1977



NRCM helps to secure 50,000 signatures on a petition against the Dickey-Lincoln Dam Project, which would have flooded the headwaters of the St. John River.

1974



New England's first Critical Areas Bill becomes law, growing from NRCM's Natural Areas project. Maine becomes the first New England state to designate natural areas.

1979

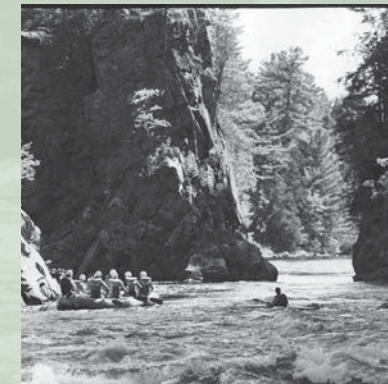
State referendum to continue Bottle Bill passes with 84% of the vote. NRCM takes bill opponents to court for deceptive advertising.

1990



NRCM leads efforts to encourage the federal government's designation of 12,000 acres of the Caribou-Speckled Wilderness. Logging, road construction and other disturbances are forbidden in this area.

1986



NRCM leads coalition effort to preserve the West Branch of the Penobscot River, defeating the "Big A" dam.

1991

NRCM works with concerned citizens to develop state mining regulations to ensure that mining activities do not pollute waterways and groundwater.

1993



NRCM joins with local residents to halt a proposed coal-burning plant in Bucksport, saving Acadia National Park from increased air pollution.

1999



After a decade of work, NRCM and its coalition partners convince FERC to rule for the first time ever that the value of a free-flowing river exceeds its value as a hydro-electric facility. The Edwards Dam is removed, restoring 17 miles of the Kennebec River.

2000

NRCM and the Georges River Tidewater Association force the Warren sewage treatment plant to reduce its discharges into the St. George River estuary, home to rich commercial shellfish beds.

2000-2001



The Board of Environmental Protection votes unanimously to develop a clean-up plan for Maine's most polluting power plant, Wyman Station in Yarmouth.

2007



NRCM helps pass the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, authorizing Maine's participation in a 10-state cap-and-trade program to reduce global warming pollution.

2007

With leadership from NRCM and its partners, Maine passes legislation that bans the toxic chemical "Deca" from being used as a flame retardant in furniture, electronics, and other products.

2008

The Legislature, spurred by NRCM and its partners, passes a bill to protect children from toxic chemicals in toys and consumer products.

2010

Leadership from NRCM helps ensure passage of Product Stewardship Bill, a first-in-the-nation program to systematically review and recommend products for manufacturer-financed collection and recycling programs so that toxic waste does not end up in landfills.

2013



NRCM and other members of the Penobscot River Restoration Project gather to watch the breaching of the Veazie Dam.

2013

After years of work by NRCM and our partners, the Maine Legislature passes a bill reopening the St. Croix River in Washington County to alewives, a native fish important to Maine's groundfishery and Gulf of Maine ecosystem.

2012



Great Works Dam on the Penobscot River is breached as part of the Penobscot River Restoration Project, co-founded by NRCM.

2014

South Portland City Council votes to pass the Clear Skies Ordinance, which will protect its residents and environment from toxic air pollution and other impacts from loading tar sands crude oil onto tanker ships in Casco Bay. NRCM worked closely with the citizen group Protect South Portland and others to protect this community and our state from the threat of tar sands oil.

2016



Members of the Penobscot River Restoration Trust, including NRCM, gather on the banks of the river by the new Howland Dam bypass to celebrate completion of the Penobscot River Restoration Project. That morning, the first endangered Atlantic salmon makes its way through the Howland bypass.

2016



Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is established, east of Baxter State Park, following five years of discussions, feedback, and outreach. NRCM played a central role, working with citizens in the Katahdin region and across Maine to conserve this spectacular piece of Maine's North Woods.

2017



NRCM led the successful charge to pass legislation to add a five-cent returnable deposit to 50 ml alcohol bottles, known as "nips," an important addition to Maine's Bottle Bill, which NRCM helped establish in 1979.

2017

Maine Legislature passes into law the nation's most protective metal mining rules. NRCM led a six-year campaign and scientific work to ensure this outcome.

2019

Governor Janet Mills signs first-in-the-nation law to ban polystyrene foam food and drink containers statewide. NRCM's Sustainable Maine team and members worked hard to enact this statewide ban.

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s

2010s

60 Years of Protecting the Nature of Maine