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# Status of FERC Projects in the Kennebec, Androscoggin Penobscot Rivers

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# Kennebec River Watershed

A satellite map of the Kennebec River Watershed, showing a dense network of green forested land, dark blue water bodies (lakes and rivers), and some lighter-colored areas representing urban or cleared land. The river system is prominent, flowing from the upper left towards the bottom right, where it meets a larger body of water.

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# Lockwood



- ISPP expired on December 31, 2019
- Next steps: Awaiting a proposal (final SPP) by FERC that will include Hydro-Kennebec, and Weston Projects in order to perform formal ESA consultation.
- Expectation for that proposal to include measures for the safe, timely, and effective passage of juvenile and adult salmon.



# Hydro Kennebec

- Upstream fishway complete
- ISPP expired on December 31, 2019
- Next steps: Awaiting a comprehensive proposal from FERC



# Shawmut

- ISPP expired on December 31, 2019
- Currently in FERC relicensing.
- Agencies and stakeholders submitted draft prescriptions and recommendations in August, 2020.
- Next step: Expect FERC's NEPA document (draft EA) this month (April 2021); comments on draft EA.
- ESA consultation: FERC has indicated that it intends to include its proposal separately from the other 3 mainstem projects. Proposal is typically included in its NEPA document.



# Weston



- ISPP expired on December 31, 2019
- Next steps: Awaiting a comprehensive proposal (final SPP) from FERC



# On the Horizon

- Anson and Abenaki
- Benton Falls





# Androskoggin River Watershed

5.26 mi

Google earth



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# Androscoggin River Watershed

- 32 FERC-licensed hydro projects in the watershed
- 18 projects have licenses that expire before 2030
- NMFS is involved, or plans involvement at seven projects:
  - **Within critical habitat:** Brunswick, Pejepscot, Worumbo, Lewiston Falls
  - **Within the GOM DPS:** Lower Barker, Upper Barker, Hackett Mills

# Brunswick



- ISPP expired on December 31, 2019
- Next steps: Awaiting a proposal (final SPP)





## Pejepscot

- SPP is in place until license expiration
- Undergoing FERC relicensing
- Ready for Environmental Analysis (REA) expected soon
- Next steps: Agency and stakeholder prescriptions, recommendations (60 days after REA)

# Worumbo

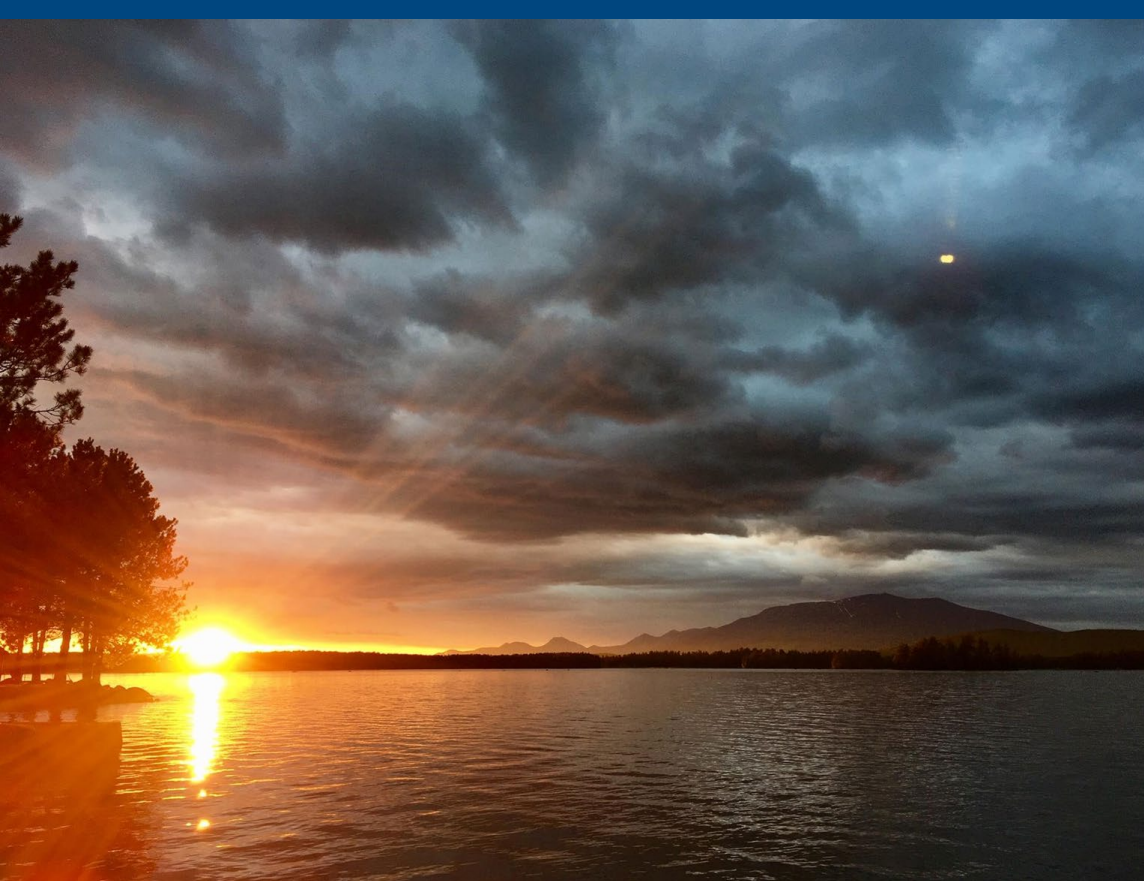


- SPP is in place until license expiration
- Undergoing FERC relicensing
- Next steps: Study planning: meetings this summer.



# Lewiston Falls

- ISPP expired on December 31, 2019
- Next steps: Awaiting a proposal (final SPP)



# On the Horizon

- Relicensing: Lewiston Falls (Fall 2021); Brunswick (Winter 2024)





# Penobscot River Watershed

- Six FERC Dams in areas containing Atlantic salmon critical habitat
  - Mainstem
    - Mattaceunk
    - West Enfield
    - Milford
    - Stillwater
    - Orono
  - Piscataquis River
    - Browns Mills (Piscataquis)



# Mattaceunk Project

- New license issued in February 2021
- Significant improvements for Atlantic salmon and other anadromous species
  - Must achieve 95% survival upstream and 96% survival downstream
  - New upstream fishway
  - Spill
  - New racks
  - Minimize impacts of impoundment on smolts



# West Enfield

- Relicensing commenced in 2019
- Currently operating pursuant to 2012 Species Protection Plan
  - Must achieve 95% survival upstream and 96% survival downstream
  - Project is currently spilling 30-50% of river flows to protect downstream migrating smolts
  - Approaching 96% survival of smolts
  - Significantly improved survival of smolts (~15%)
- Number of relicensing studies in 2020 and 2021
  - Smolt survival and injury assessments
  - Upstream and downstream assessments for alosines and eels



# Stillwater and Orono

- Licenses expire in 2040 and 2048
- Currently operating pursuant to 2012 Species Protection Plan
- Must achieve 96% survival downstream
- Projects currently spilling 30-50% of river flows to protect downstream migrating smolts in accordance with 2012 Species Protection Plan
- Stillwater achieved 96% smolt survival; Orono approaching 96% survival of smolts
- Significantly improved survival of smolts (~22% and 9%)

Source: BPA 2013



# Milford Project

- License expires in 2038
- Currently operating pursuant to 2012 Species Protection Plan
- Must achieve 95% survival upstream and 96% survival downstream
- Projects currently spilling 30-50% of river flows to protect downstream migrating smolts in accordance with 2012 Species Protection Plan
- Achieved 96% survival of smolts
- Significantly improved survival of smolts (~7%)



# Browns Mills Project

- Exempt from FERC Relicensing
- License issued in perpetuity
- Currently developing Species Protection Plan
  - Must achieve 95% upstream survival and 96% downstream survival of salmon
  - 100% survival of smolts documented over last 3 years
  - Still addressing issues with delay