

FERC STANDING COMMITTEE



Role of Committee

- Formed in 2014.
- Review research and monitoring studies at FERC hydro projects.
- Make recommendations at FERC Projects to improve Atlantic salmon survival, abundance, and distribution at FERC hydro projects.
- We also discuss other diadromous fish species including herring, shad, and American eels
- Committee consists of state and federal agencies, PIN, and University of Maine.

Responsibilities

- We provide input and coordination concerning priorities for the use of hatchery origin and wild Atlantic salmon for research and monitoring purposes at FERC hydro projects.
- We provide technical input concerning the methods, results, data analysis, and conclusions of newly issued research and monitoring study reports concerning FERC hydro projects in the GOM DPS.
- We help guide the development of opportunities to improve the survival, abundance, and distribution of Atlantic salmon at various FERC hydro projects based upon the results of research and monitoring.

2019 Activities

- In 2019, we held 6 meetings.
- Studies reviewed:
 - 4 smolt studies (Milford, Orono, Stillwater, and West Enfield)
 - 1 downstream alosine study (West Enfield)
 - 1 upstream alosine study (Milford)

2019 Activities (cont.)

- UMO gave 3 presentations:
 - A summary of the Stich et al. American shad model for the Penobscot River
 - 2 on-going research activities on upstream salmon and shad studies on the Penobscot
 - A Survival Simulator Lab

2019 Activities (cont.)

- The Committee also discussed:
 - Opportunities to reduce overcrowding of river herring at the Orono Project.
 - Atlantic salmon handling at the Orono Project.
 - FERC Project performance standards for salmon and alosines.
 - Potential impacts of the Grand Lake Mattagamon Dam on Atlantic salmon and critical habitat in the Penobscot River.

QUESTIONS?

