**NOAA Fisheries just announced Maine’s Department of Marine Resources and the Penobscot Indian Nation receive 2021 Species Recovery Grants.**

Species recovery grants support management, State and Tribal research, monitoring, and outreach activities that have direct conservation benefits for species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

**Maine’s Department of Marine Resources** was awarded $311,000.00 for disbursement over the next 3 years for the Walton’s Mill Dam Removal project. This multi-year project proposes to remove the only dam on Temple Stream, a tributary of the Sandy River located in the Kennebec River watershed in Maine’s western mountains. Removing this dam will restore access to 52.3 river miles and more than 2,247 units of spawning and rearing habitat for the critically endangered **Atlantic salmon.**Removal of the dam will eliminate a key threat to Atlantic salmon in the freshwater environment and address other habitat-related factors that are inhibiting the recovery of the species.

**The Penobscot Indian Nation** was awarded $300,000.00 for disbursement over the next 3 years for projects that continue to increase the potential for the successful recovery of Atlantic salmon populations within the geographic area of the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment. This will be accomplished through a series of activities of the Penobscot Indian Nation's Department of Natural Resources fisheries program in cooperation with ongoing Atlantic salmon management and restoration initiatives by federal, state, and non-governmental organization entities. The proposed activities include: participation in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission process for major dams in the drainage; aquatic connectivity projects to increase access to resilient, cold-water habitats in the face of climate change; active diadromous fish management on Tribal trust lands; coordination with other agencies on recovery actions identified in the Atlantic salmon Recovery Plan (2019); extensive public outreach with the Tribal and non-tribal communities; and active participation in the Atlantic salmon Collaborative Management Strategy recovery framework.