

# PENOBSCOT NATION

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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To Whom It May Concern,

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The Penobscot Nation is dedicated to restoring all native fish species to their indigenous habitats. The Nation recognizes the lasting ecological benefits of stream barrier removal projects and strongly supports free-flowing rivers. The Penobscot Nation supports local, community-based decision making, and applauds the local constituents who work to balance the needs of their diverse community, to include the long-term health and vitality of the Megunticook River.

The Megunticook River has all the habitat components that the larger Penobscot River possesses. The assemblage of lakes, ponds, riffles, runs and cold headwaters make these two systems historical habitat for many of the sea-run fishes of the northern Atlantic Ocean. From the leaping and well-known Atlantic salmon to the elusive Atlantic Tomcod, the Penobscot and Megunticook Rivers are the historical homes for most of these sea-run fish species.

The locations where fresh water meets with the ocean, and any waterfalls near those areas, are places where Penobscot Nation ancestors annually harvested and celebrated these fish for millennia. These fish were welcome sources of food in the spring and fall, when Penobscot people would gather at these historical places to take advantage of the bounty these waters provided. These same locations and fish also provided for the early European settlers to the region.

Many communities in our area have taken steps to allow these animals back into their ancestral habitats. The results are wonderful to behold. Communities are embracing these returning refugees and celebrate their return with festivals, outreach events and new friends who come from all over the world to behold the spectacular recovery and marvel at the fish returning in unbelievable numbers.

Like the Penobscot Nation, these animals have been here since time immemorial. The same places we all call home as people, are the same places that they call home, too. These lands and waters are needed and loved by all of us. I am hopeful that we can continue to work together to make our home safer, healthier and more beautiful for ourselves, our children, and all the other animals that share our home with us. When we work together in the spirit of clean water and healthy ecosystems, every living thing is sure to benefit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Mccaw".

Fisheries Program Manager  
Penobscot Indian Nation

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