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December 15, 1997



AN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Maine Atlantic Salmon Task Force has submitted the 1997 Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Plan for the conservation and restoration of salmon runs in the seven Downeast rivers in Maine; including the Machias, East Machias, Dennys, Pleasant, Sheepscot, Narraguagus and Ducktrap Rivers;

WHEREAS, the Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Plan is the product of a truly collaborative effort among the persons in both the public and private sectors knowledgeable about salmon, its habitat, and the current uses of the seven rivers;

WHEREAS, the Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Plan represents the most complete and informed plan for conservation and restoration of salmon and its habitat ever developed for the seven Downeast rivers and establishes a solid foundation for successful recovery of those salmon runs; and

WHEREAS, all Maine state agencies of jurisdiction were fully involved in the development of this Plan and the design of their respective roles in that Plan, and have already commenced implementation of that Plan through many different initiatives;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Angus S. King, Jr., Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby order the following:

1. Implementation of the Plan

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All state agencies shall fully implement the Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Plan dated March 1997. The agencies shall complete the tasks assigned to the agencies within the timelines established by the Plan.

2. Land and Water Resources Council

The Land and Water Resources Council shall have responsibility for oversight and monitoring of the Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Plan, consistent with its responsibility for effective interagency coordination of State of Maine natural resource and land management activities under 5 M.R.S.A. §3331. The Land and Water Resources Council shall continue its current standing subcommittee addressing salmon issues, including the Maine Atlantic Salmon Authority as a member of that subcommittee. The Land and Water Resources Council shall consult with the Maine Atlantic Salmon Authority on issues pertaining to the Maine Atlantic Salmon Plan and matters under the jurisdiction of the Atlantic Salmon Authority, including the regulation of the salmon fishery. The Land and Water Resources Council shall update the Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Plan as necessary, after appropriate consultation with the local watershed councils created under the Plan, affected citizens and the federal agencies of jurisdiction.

3. Report

The Chairman of the Land and Water Resources Council shall provide an annual report to the Governor concerning the status of the implementation of this Plan.

The effective date of this Order is December 15, 1997.

Angus S. King, Jr., Governor