

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
117TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 385, L.D. 520, Bill, "An Act to Stop the Alewives Restoration Program in the St. Croix River"

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas,** the bass fishery in the Woodland and Grand Falls flowages along the St. Croix River and its associated tributaries and lakes is extremely valuable to the economy of the State; and

**Whereas,** alewives and bass compete for the same food source; and

**Whereas,** that competition could significantly affect the bass fishery; and

**Whereas,** the alewife run in the St. Croix River normally begins in the first 2 weeks of May; and

**Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, '

2 Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the  
4 enacting clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in  
its place the following:

6 'Sec. 1. 12 MRSA, §6134 is enacted to read:

8 **§6134. Alewives passage; fishways on the St. Croix River**

10 By May 1, 1995, the commissioner and the Commissioner of  
12 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall ensure that fishways on the  
Woodland Dam and the Grand Falls Dam, both located on the St.  
14 Croix River, are configured or operated in a manner that prevents  
the passage of alewives.

16 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
18 preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.'

20 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

22 Although the original bill would prevent the Department of  
24 Marine Resources and the Department of Inland Fisheries and  
Wildlife from initiating new alewife restoration programs, it  
would not stop the existing program on the St. Croix River.

26 This amendment replaces the original bill with new language  
28 that would stop alewife passage through the Grand Falls Dam and  
the Woodland Dam on the St. Croix River. This is accomplished by  
30 requiring that the Commissioner of Marine Resources and the  
Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife act to ensure that  
32 by May 1st of this year those fishways are configured or operated  
in a manner that will prevent the passage of alewives.

34 The existing fishways at those dams can be modified to  
36 prevent the passage of alewives by placing screens in the  
fishway, removing some baffles to increase water speed or adding  
38 planks in the fishway to create a plunge.

40 This amendment also changes the bill to an emergency to  
ensure that the modifications on those fishways are made in time  
42 to stop the passage of alewives during their run up the river in  
early May.