



P. O. Box 1009
St. George, NB E5C 3S9

July 31, 2014

Mr. Bill Taylor
President
Atlantic Salmon Federation
PO Box 5200
St. Andrews, NB
E5B 3S8

Re: Alewife Passage on the St. Croix River

Dear Mr. Taylor,

Thank you for your letter of May 30, 2014, wherein you request Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) continued support for the St. Croix River fishways to remain open.

Like the Atlantic Salmon Federation, DFO has long advocated for the unimpeded migration of alewife in the St. Croix River, and the Department was pleased to see last year's reopening of the fish passage ways.

While I do not sit as the Departmental representative on the International Joint Commission (IJC), I understand that this issue has been within its purview in the past and in particular through the IJC's facilitation role in the development of an Adaptive Management Plan for alewives in the St. Croix River. DFO and other federal colleagues (Environment Canada and the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada), through representation at Commission meetings, have exerted pressure on the US at the federal level to seek action. In addition, in 2013, former Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Honourable Keith Ashfield, wrote to State of Maine Governor Paul LePage advocating DFO's view that barriers impeding alewife passage in the basin be removed. These efforts, in addition to pressure from stakeholders, like yourself, and the threat of legal action in the US collectively were successful in the effort to reopen the fishways.

The Department's position is to ensure that the St. Croix ecosystem is maintained in its natural state. In July 2014, DFO officials met with US State Department counterparts to discuss a number of issues, including the St. Croix River system. State Department representatives indicated that they, too, wished to see the waterways remain unrestricted. To date, a proposal for closure of the fishways has not been received by the State of Maine. US officials committed to keep DFO apprised of any future developments. We will continue to communicate our position on the importance of permanent open fish passage on the St. Croix River.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and your continued interest in the St. Croix River system.

Sincerely,



Harvey Millar
Area Director, Southwest New Brunswick
Maritimes Region
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

cc Bill Appleby, Environment Canada