

# Memorandum of Understanding

## **Blocking access of sea-run alewives into the Grand Falls Flowage at the Grand Falls Dam fishway; A joint agreement of the State of Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, The State of Maine Department of Marine Resources Bureau of Sea-Run Fisheries and Habitats, and DOMTAR.**

**Whereas** the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MEIFW) and the Department of Marine Resources (DMR-BSRFH) are the state agencies charged with management of inland and marine fisheries resources;

**Whereas** DOMTAR is responsible for operation and maintenance of the Grand Falls hydro-electric facility and operation and maintenance of the fishway adjacent to the facility;

**Whereas** in 1995 a bill was passed to prevent passage of alewives through the Grand Falls Dam fishway (12MSRA §6134, 2007, 1995);

**Whereas** a protocol defining timing and methods for implementing alewife blockage had not been previously established;

### **Therefore, the following joint plan of action is proposed:**

The organizations will work together to establish a working protocol consistent with the intent of the law drafted in 1995 and revised in 2007.

Specific activities are as follows:

1. On April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, a stop log “fish jump” will be placed into the Grand Falls Dam fishway to a height of three feet. This will block alewife passage but allow passage of landlocked and sea-run Atlantic salmon.
2. Two baffles below and two baffles above the stop logs will be removed.
3. The walk way installed at the point of the jump will have the first two panels removed to prevent salmon from injuring themselves when jumping the stop logs to ascend the fishway.
4. The fishway shall remain open (water flowing) during this period of alewife blockage.
5. On or around July 5<sup>th</sup>, after consulting the IFW Regional Fisheries Biologist located in Jonesboro, the stop logs will be removed and the baffles replaced into the fishway.

This will be done through the following actions:

1. The Region C MEIFW regional fisheries biologist will contact the Grand Falls Dam operator on April 1<sup>st</sup> to verify that the fishway blockage has been installed and on or around July 5<sup>th</sup> to verify that the blockage has been removed.
2. The MEIFW regional biologist will inform the DMR-BSRFH senior biologist in Jonesboro when these activities have taken place.

This agreement may only be changed with the mutual agreement of all parties. All changes must be in writing and endorsed by the signatories or their successors.

By signature, all parties agree to the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director - Maine Department of Marine Resources Bureau of  
Sea-run fisheries and Habitats

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director – Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director – Maine DOMTAR LLC.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date