

International Joint Commission  
Canada and United States



Commission mixte internationale  
Canada et États-Unis

December 14, 2011

Governor Paul R. LePage  
Office of the Governor  
#1 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0001

Dear Governor LePage:

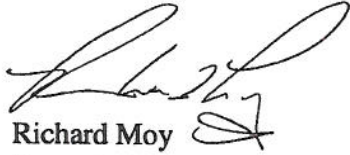
Thank you for taking time to meet with the International Joint Commission on December 6, 2011. We appreciated the frank exchange of views and your willingness to take under advisement the matter of changing Maine law to allow the passage of alewives through the Grand Falls Fishway and to implement the alewife Adaptive Management Plan and to make your decision based on sound science.

It is the International Joint Commission's (IJC) role to prevent potential conflict between the U.S. and Canada along our shared waterway boundary. With this in mind, in 2010 the IJC supported the development of an Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) by local fisheries experts, which included members from Maine, to develop a way forward. The resulting plan would support both the reintroduction of the alewife and at the same time provide safeguards to eliminate the risk for the bass fishery. The Plan foresees that the State of Maine would implement the plan in conjunction with other fishery experts. In this case the State of Maine would need to change its law and allow the gradual introduction of Alewives into the St. Croix through the alewife Adaptive Management Plan.

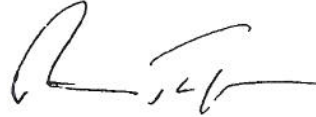
To support the development and implementation of the AMP, the IJC has funded scientific studies of the bass fishery in Spednic Lake and other studies of the watershed. The IJC would like to work with the State of Maine to move the discussion forward and take initial steps toward the gradual introduction of the alewife. We support the safeguards in the AMP as a necessary security mechanism for those with remaining concerns about the health of the bass fishery. This safety mechanism is supported by all the fishery experts involved in drafting the AMP – including those from Maine.

We regret that one of us, U.S. Commissioner Rich Moy, was unable to participate in the meeting with you, but we hope we will be able to meet you again as we work together to facilitate a solution for the Maine fisherman.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Moy  
Commissioner



Pierre Trépanier  
Commissioner



October 19, 2011

Governor Paul LePage  
Office of the Governor  
#1 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0001

Dear Governor LePage:

We would like to meet with you to discuss the reintroduction of alewives in the International St. Croix Watershed.

In 2009, responding to numerous public calls from Maine and elsewhere for action on the issue of alewife passage in the St. Croix River, the International Joint Commission's (IJC) International St. Croix River Watershed Board established a committee of fisheries experts from the St. Croix Fisheries Steering Committee, an informal grouping of State, Provincial and Federal fisheries management agencies from both sides of the border, to develop a proposed course of action. The committee was asked to draft an adaptive management plan (AMP) that would reopen the St. Croix River to the migration of the anadromous alewife while maintaining the St. Croix's economically important smallmouth bass fishery at current or higher levels.

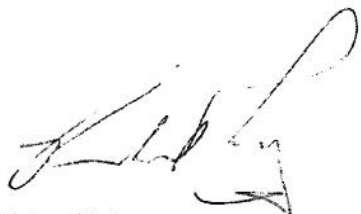
This AMP was presented to the public for comment over the summer of 2010. The responses from the public are posted on the IJC and Board websites. Since the development of the AMP, the IJC and its St. Croix Board have had several public meetings and spoken with both those who support the restoration of alewives and those who oppose it. IJC Commissioners and staff also met with your Commissioners for Marine Resources and Inland Fish and Wildlife on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to discuss the AMP and other possible options to reintroduce alewives in the international St. Croix Watershed.

The IJC is committed to facilitating the reintroduction of this important species into the St. Croix River. We acknowledge that there are strong views on this matter that need to be addressed, but we are also convinced that by working together a solution can be achieved that supports both the reintroduction of alewives and the protection of smallmouth bass.

[www.ijc.org](http://www.ijc.org)

We would welcome the opportunity discuss with you this important matter and to coordinate efforts to reach consensus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Moy', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Richard Moy  
Commissioner  
U.S. Section

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pierre Trépanier', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Pierre Trépanier  
Commissioner  
Canadian Section