

International Joint Commission
Canada and United States



Commission mixte internationale
Canada et États-Unis

February 21, 2012

Jeff Bellmore
President
Maine Professional Guides Association
55 Morrison Hill Road
Wilton, Maine 04294

Dear Mr. Bellmore,

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

The IJC is committed to facilitating the opening of the fishway at the Great Falls Dam for this important native species in 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.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or with the Association's Board and members to discuss the alewife issue.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Richard Moy in black ink.

Richard Moy
Commissioner
U.S. Section

Handwritten signature of Pierre Trépanier in black ink.

Pierre Trépanier
Commissioner
Canadian Section

Cc: Norman Trask, Maine Professional Guides Association
International St. Croix River Watershed Board