



Building a future for fishing in eastern Maine requires the coordinated effort of many groups. Downeast Fisheries Partnership is open to any group or individual with an interest in restoring eastern Maine's fisheries.

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Downeast Fisheries Partnership



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For more information, or to be a part of our effort, go to [downeastfisheries.org](http://downeastfisheries.org) or contact:

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Thank you!

Restoring eastern Maine's river and marine fisheries to sustain thriving communities

Fishing matters in eastern Maine. But it's a livelihood that has changed dramatically in recent decades.



Lobster fishing has prospered and sustains the coastal economy. But fisheries for cod, haddock, flounder, Atlantic salmon and river herring have declined dramatically – due to overharvesting and a long history of damming rivers and streams. Recent efforts to reverse these impacts are showing promise and have kindled an ambitious effort to restore the abundance and diversity of eastern Maine's fisheries.



### Our vision is that the communities of eastern Maine can sustain themselves forever by fishing.

Downeast Fisheries Partnership is an unprecedented effort to restore one of the world's great ecosystems by reconnecting the rivers of eastern Maine to its coastal waters.

Where fish passage has been restored, on the Penobscot River and other waterways, river herring runs have grown dramatically, inspiring plans for restoration on rivers and streams throughout the region.

Scallop stocks have recovered and are managed cooperatively by fishermen and Maine Department of Marine Resources. Harvests are sustainable and fetch a premium price. High value halibut are once again being landed in a small-scale fishery. These fisheries are beginning to broaden fishermen's opportunities beyond lobster.

Most exciting, cod are turning up for the first time in nearshore fish surveys. While it is too early to tell if such observations are the beginning of a trend or if they are related to the increasing abundance of river herring, a favored prey, they are a positive sign.

These developments are the beginnings of broad-scale recovery. They inspire hope that fisheries considered lost can once again drive economic activity and community well-being.

## Our Initiatives

### RESTORING SEA-RUN FISHERIES

Our efforts to restore river herring and other sea-run fish are tailored to the ecological characteristics and restoration potential of individual watersheds. Actions include removing dams, replacing culverts, rebuilding freshwater habitat, and using state-of-the-art techniques to restore endangered Atlantic salmon.

### PROMOTING ECOSYSTEM-BASED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

We are pioneering a new approach to fisheries management where fishermen and government managers share responsibility for sustaining a diverse harvest. Incorporating fishermen's knowledge of local ecological conditions and incentives for stewardship, it will allow for adaptation to climate impacts.



### PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FISHERIES STEWARDS

Through fisheries-related K-12 educational programming we are reconnecting students to local freshwater and marine ecosystems and to fisheries as a way of life. Rebuilding eastern Maine's identity as a fishing culture through experiential learning and leadership training is the key to a sustainable future.

### CAPTURING THE BENEFITS OF FISHERIES FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Landing harvests locally requires boat services, ice machines, fish processing and transportation to markets. We are identifying opportunities to create these connections between harvesters and regional markets while expanding options for communities to enjoy locally caught seafood.

