



## **Endangered Species Act Alert 2000-16**

**RE: Atlantic Salmon Make Endangered Species List**  
**DATE: November 27, 2000**

The wild Atlantic salmon was added to the Endangered Species Act list last week after federal agencies concluded the numbers of the once-abundant fish had declined below minimum levels for survival in the rivers where they still spawn. The listing covers the wild population of Atlantic salmon found in rivers and streams in Maine from the lower Kennebec River north to the U.S.-Canada border.

The fish that travels from Maine to Greenland and back has disappeared in eight Maine rivers in the past ten years due to pollution, dams, overfishing, habitat destruction, and possibly interbreeding with farmed salmon. Despite \$100 million and decades of recovery efforts, most of these rivers are at an all time low in returning fish. Less than 10 fish come back each year to some of these rivers.

The listing has been met with concern by the state of Maine, where officials fear the new protections will destroy the \$65 million salmon industry that has grown on the Maine coast over the past 15 years. Agriculture, which is located near the rivers, as well as the blueberry industry, which withdraws river water for irrigation, and upstream paper mills may all be affected by increasing regulations to protect Atlantic salmon. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service found the State of Maine's plan to recover salmon to be insufficient to prevent the extinction of the species.

For more information:

<http://washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A13031-2000Nov13.html>

<http://seattlep-i.nwsourc.com/national/wild14.shtml>

### **Help Spread the Word**

Parametrix project managers are encouraged to share this information with clients who may be interested in, or affected by, ESA listings and issues. Additional questions should be addressed to Megan Callahan Grant ([mcallahan@parametrix.com](mailto:mcallahan@parametrix.com)), ESA Program Policy Analyst, who can direct them to the appropriate specialist.