

# Lower Kennebec River:

The dry conditions continue here in central Maine except for a rain event that occurred last Thursday. Daily high temperatures remain to be fairly warm, but lows dip down into the 40's (°F) at night. This temperature fluctuation has kept the water temperatures stable at around 18.5°C. Since the last report, flow conditions in the lower Kennebec River ranged between 2,800 cfs and 5,030 cfs. The current flow conditions of 3,870 cfs falls between the 25<sup>th</sup>% (3,550 cfs) and the median (5,230 cfs) (<https://waterdata.usgs.gov>, based on 38 years of data).

Lockwood fish lift, located in Waterville, ME at the first dam on the mainstem Kennebec River, opened on May 1<sup>st</sup> for the 2024 season. The first Atlantic salmon of the season showed up on 5/23. Forty-seven new Atlantic salmon have been captured to date this season; one new salmon has arrived since the last report. The fish lift shut down for maintenance since 8/6-8/19.

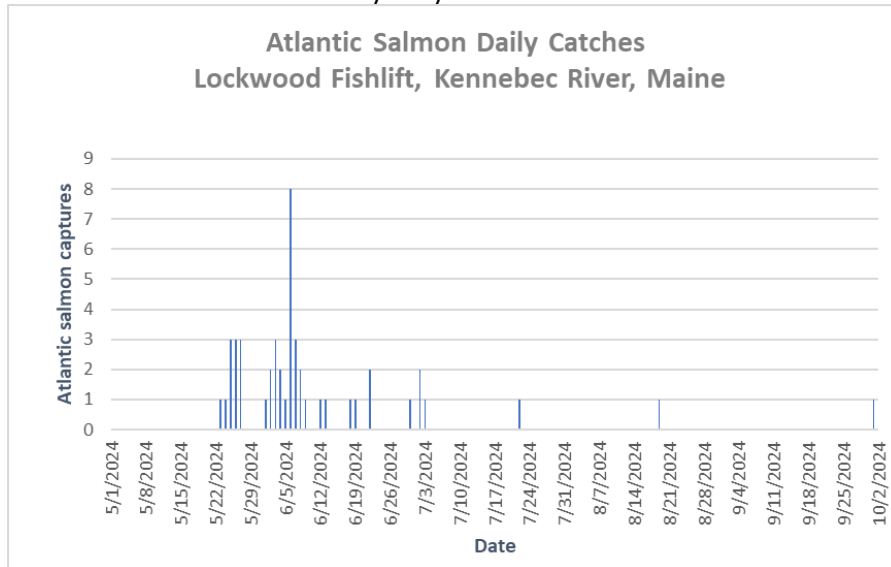


Figure 1: Daily Atlantic salmon catch at Lockwood fish lift, Waterville, ME. Daily catches for 9/18 - 10/2 is averaging 0.07 salmon/day. The trap opened on 5/1 and has been operating daily until 8/6 when it was shut down for maintenance for two weeks. The trap re-opened on 8/19.

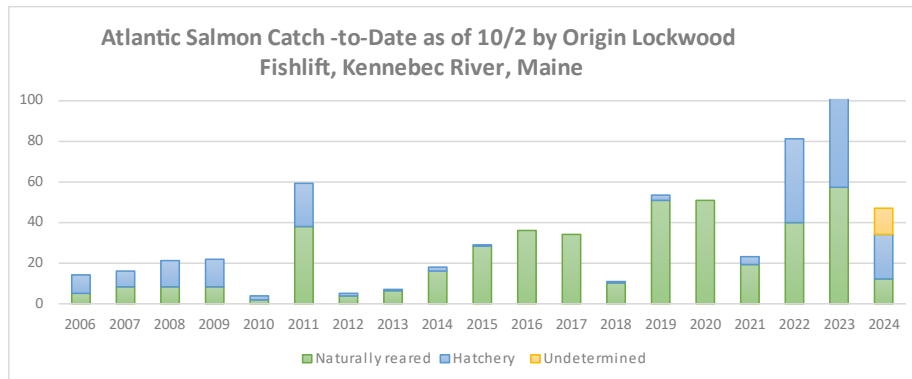


Figure 2: Atlantic salmon catch-to-date for each year by origin since Lockwood fish lift (Waterville, ME) has been operational (2006)

**Lockwood fish lift total catches for 2024:**

- River herring: 86,467 captures\*
- American shad: 23\*
- Sea lamprey: 15\*
- Striped bass: 60\*
- Atlantic salmon: 47

*\*Reported by Brookfield 8/5*

Benton Falls fishway, the first fishway located on the Sebasticook River, a tributary to the Kennebec River, has been open since May 1<sup>st</sup> this year. Two Atlantic salmon have been caught to date. In addition, 3.2 million river herring passed into China Lake this season! The fishway is currently temporarily shut down for repairs.

**Benton Falls fishway total catches for 2024 as of 6/24:**

- River herring: 6,551,356
- American shad: 5
- Atlantic salmon: 2
- Sea lamprey: 172
- Striped bass: 0

## Lower Mainstem Androscoggin River:

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Brunswick fishway, located in Brunswick, ME on the mainstem Androscoggin River, has been open since May 1st this year. The river discharge level in the lower Androscoggin River ranged between 1,830 cfs and 4,240 cfs since the last report on 9/17. Currently, the river discharge is at 2,060 cfs, which falls between the low (500 cfs) and the 25<sup>th</sup>% (2,260 cfs) discharge level recorded (<https://waterdata.usgs.gov>, based on 95 years of data). Eighteen Atlantic salmon have been captured to date this season; one new salmon was captured this week. The first two salmon passed on 5/23.

### **Brunswick fish lift total catches for 2024:**

- River herring: 112,563
- American shad: 91
- Sea lamprey: 734
- Atlantic salmon: 18
- Striped bass: 3

*\*Reported by Brookfield 8/5*

*\*All data is preliminary until final auditing is complete.*