

Water quality surveys of the Penobscot by Maine's Water Improvement Commission have placed the main stem in Class D (nuisance or waste-carrying) category. Pollution is particularly bad at the junction of the East and West Branches of the river and in its estuary, where an oxygen-deficient "block" could reduce the numbers of fish entering the river. This condition usually results from decomposing waste materials that use up the oxygen.

Construction of fishways around the dams and possibly other features of the plan will be financed in part through the federal Anadromous Fish Act of 1965, which authorizes appropriations up to \$25 million through June 1970 for coastal and Great Lakes states. Under this Act, the Department of the Interior can finance 50 percent of costs for projects to conserve anadromous fish. In fiscal 1967, Maine was apportioned \$130,000, with \$120,000 of this earmarked for fishway construction. The Inland Fisheries and Game Department has completed engineering designs for Great Works and Milford fishways and owners of these dams have agreed to share half the construction cost.

With suitable fishways in operation and pollution abated, young salmon from Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery, released in the Penobscot as downstream migrants, will help reestablish regular runs because salmon normally return to their "home" stream for spawning.

The Penobscot salmon restoration plan will be reviewed annually. Completion of fishways at all six dams is scheduled for 1970.

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