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Environmental groups sue Androscoggin and Kennebec dam owners over Atlantic salmon

By [Associated Press](#)

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PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Two environmental groups in Maine are suing multiple dam owners and operators, accusing them of stalling in their efforts to protect endangered wild Atlantic salmon.

The lawsuits by Friends of Merrymeeting Bay and Environment Maine target dams on the Kennebec and Androscoggin rivers, where salmon were declared endangered in 2009.

Ed Friedman from the Merrymeeting Bay group says "the clock will strike midnight" for remaining salmon if something isn't done by dam owners. The federal government says only five adult salmon returned to the Kennebec and 10 returned to the Androscoggin last year.

The Endangered Species Act authorizes citizens to sue those who're harming an endangered species. The lawsuit says salmon are being killed by spinning turbines.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MAINE

FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY and
ENVIRONMENT MAINE,

Plaintiffs,

Civil Action No.

v.

NEXTERA ENERGY RESOURCES, INC.;
NEXTERA ENERGY MAINE OPERATING
SERVICES, LLC; and THE MERIMIL
LIMITED PARTNERSHIP,

Defendants.

COMPLAINT

INTRODUCTION

1. Defendants NextEra Energy Resources, Inc., NextEra Energy Maine Operating Services, LLC, and The Merimil Limited Partnership are violating the federal Endangered Species Act ("ESA"), 16 U.S.C. § 1531 *et seq.*, by killing, harming, and harassing endangered Atlantic salmon at hydroelectric dams they own and operate on the Kennebec and Androscoggin Rivers. Defendants are, in ESA parlance, illegally "taking" this endangered species. More specifically, Defendants' dams: kill and injure salmon

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