

Salmon protection groups target Maine dam owners

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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.