

Maine Environmental Notes

MAINE FOCUS

By Exception Staff | April 23, 2011



Here is the *Exception Magazine* round-up of environmental news in Maine.

Do Seals Need to Be Saved?

NOAA is launching a full study of harbor seals off the New England coast, with a focus on Cape Cod and mid-coast Maine. Teams will capture about 60 seals and put radio tags on them for tracking.

"It is much more intense, both in terms of the number and types of aerial surveys, the live-capture of harbor seals, the increased

biological sampling efforts, and because we can tag up to 60 animals, which is the total number of radio tags we have available," said Gordon Waring, the head of seal research. "Harbor seals are small and fairly easy to handle during live-capture efforts, are generally not aggressive, and they will shed the small radio tags when they molt in a few months."

It's the first comprehensive study in a decade.

Alewives in the St. Croix

A group of environmentalists are challenging a 2008 Maine law that directs state officials to block alewives and river herring from entering the St. Croix River Basin.

Attorney Roger Fleming with the public interest law firm Earthjustice and Attorney David Nicholas are representing Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, Douglas H. Watts, Captain Edward "Ted" Ames, and Kathleen McGee in the suit.

"What the Maine legislature did in response to a few shrill voices is absolutely unconscionable as well as in total violation of the Clean Water Act," said Ed Friedman, Chairman of Friends of Merrymeeting Bay. "Neither other fish species dependant on river herring nor the endangered Gulf of Maine groundfishing industry can afford the continued collapse of St. Croix alewives. We need healthy rivers to maintain a healthy Gulf and alewives make that connection."

The law was created because local fishermen believe the alewives hurt native bass stocks.

First Wind, Second Ride

First Wind, the Boston-based company that developed the Stetson Wind project near Danforth, Maine, held its Second Annual First Wind Snowmobile Ride-in with the Quad City Snowmobile Club recently. Snowmobile riders got a close-up look at the wind turbines in winter. Proceeds went to House in the Woods, a charity that provides retreats in Maine for military veterans. Catch a clip of the ride below, which was produced by First Wind.



Society Vocations Moxie Beliefs



Environmentalists have a new tool in the fight to save the forests.

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