

WGME Online-EPA Alewives AP brief.

EPA: Maine should restore alewives run

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RICHMOND, Maine (AP) -- The Environmental Protection Agency says Maine needs to restore alewives on the St. Croix River.

The EPA notified Attorney General William Schneider after Friends of Merrymeeting Bay and two individuals put the agency on notice that it could be sued for failing to strike down a 2008 state law that eliminated access to spawning habitat.

The law was intended to end a dispute over plans to reintroduce alewives to the upper portions of the St. Croix River in eastern Maine. It opened only the Woodland dam on the lower part of the river. The original plan also called for opening the Grand Falls dam upstream.

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay said the decision prevented restoration of alewives because the fish couldn't reach their natural spawning area.