

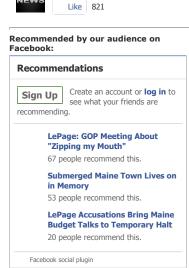
A conservation group is going to court in an effort to restore alewives to Maine's St. Croix River. The lawsuit, filed by the **Conservation Law Foundation**, alleges that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency failed to review changes in a Maine law that blocks passage to spawning habitat for the anadromous fish.

CLF Director Sean Mahoney says the Maine law kept the Grand Falls Dam fishway on the eastern Maine river closed, changing the water quality standards for that section of the St. Croix from Class A to Class B, or lower.

Maine guides and other sporting interests lobbied to keep the fishway closed to preserve the lucrative small mouth bass fishery. But CLF maintains that alewives don't pose a threat to the bass.

Alewives, which are native to the St. Croix, are an anadromous species, meaning they spawn in fresh water and grow and mature in the ocean. Conservationists say the fish are a crucial food source for other fish and a variety of birds.

Another environmental group in Maine, Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, announced earlier this month that it also intends to sue the EPA over the effect of the alewive blockades on water quality in the St. Croix.



**♣** Return!

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