



Schoodic River Statement of Cooperation
Between Wabanaki Tribal Leaders and four Federal Agencies:
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs

It is on this great day, June 5th, 2013, that the Wabanaki Tribes of Maine and their Federal Trustees celebrate the restoration of fish passage for alewives and other sea-run fish in the St. Croix River here at the Grand Falls Dam. For close to two decades, passage for alewives and other sea-run fish has been blocked on the St. Croix River, resulting in significant declines in abundance. Of equal importance, closure of the fishway has diminished a food source and negatively impacted the cultural sustenance of the Passamaquoddy people. Their strong connection to the river serves as the foundation for many tribal traditions, and today, with the opening of the fishway on Grand Falls Dam, the Passamaquoddy celebrate the homecoming of the *Siqonomeq*.

Through an extraordinary partnership of the Wabanaki Tribal Leaders, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, one important component of the Passamaquoddy Bay ecosystem will now have the opportunity to recover.

This incredible accomplishment would not have been achieved without the unique government to government relationship that exists between Indian Tribes and the Federal government. This is embodied in Executive Order 13175 (Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments). On November 5, 2009, President Barack Obama released a memo for the heads of all executive departments and agencies reaffirming the continued implementation of E.O. 13175. The government-to-government relationship has been

the cornerstone in the government's work to safeguard the rights and interests of Indian tribes. The United States recognizes the political rights of Indian tribes to self-government and to exercise sovereign powers over their members and territory, and protects those rights by working with Indian tribes on a government to government basis.

The Wabanaki Tribal Leaders, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, believe that through continued cooperation and coordination our strong government-to-government relationship can continue into the future and benefit restoration of the St. Croix River, the Passamaquoddy Bay ecosystem, and the critical cultural and economic relationship of the Passamaquoddy people to this unique river.

Simply put, cultural sustenance is not possible without sustainability. The Wabanaki people and the Federal Trustees pledge to continue to work together toward the common goal of restoration of this magnificent river, all its native inhabitants, and the return of the critical cultural connection between the Passamaquoddy people and the Passamaquoddy Bay ecosystem.

June 5, 2013

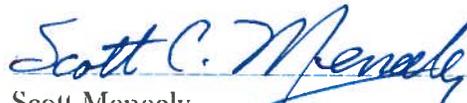
Date


Chief Joseph Socobasin
Passamaquoddy Tribe
Indian Township Reservation


John K. Bullard
Regional Administrator
NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service,
Northeast Region


Wendi Weber
Regional Director, Northeast Region
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service


Chief Reubin Cleaves
Passamaquoddy Tribe
Pleasant Point Reservation


Scott Meneely
Acting Deputy Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Eastern Region


H. Curtis Spalding
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 1