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 Sigonomeq.

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 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

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 Reuben 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