

Feb-23-07 04:01pm From-

T-104 P.002/002 F-472

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 23, 2007

Mr. Dale Hall, Director
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

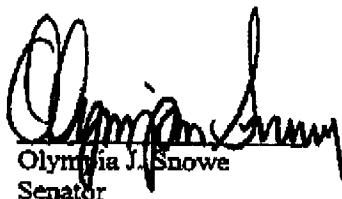
RE: FY07 Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund

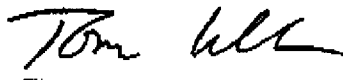
Dear Dale:

We respectfully request continued funding for the Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund (MASCFC) at a level of \$1 million in FY2007. Since 2000, funds for this program have been derived from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Resource Management Account, Recovery Program. Traditionally, these funds have been administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, but under fiscal year 2007 Senate Appropriations Committee-approved language, funds would have been directed to the USFWS Gulf of Maine Coastal Program Office to be administered jointly with the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission. These funds are vital to implementation of the 2005 Atlantic Salmon Recovery Plan and the 2004 National Academy of Sciences Report on Maine's Atlantic salmon.

The Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund was established through a special appropriation in October 2000. Since then, the Fund has provided \$9.7 million to promote the recovery of Atlantic salmon. Grants made through the program have helped stimulate collaboration among state and federal agencies, local industry, community watershed councils, and conservation groups, and have also helped to leverage an additional \$14 million for salmon conservation. The Fund is a critical source of support for more than 30 NGO's working on Atlantic salmon conservation in the State of Maine. In the past five years, the fund has protected more than 80% of the Ducktrap River watershed and 20 miles of the Machias River corridor, along with providing funding assistance for the landmark Penobscot River Restoration Project.

The Fund is one of the few sources of funds for Maine's federally endangered salmon and has helped foster public-private partnerships that are producing tangible results. We urge you to continue funding this program in FY2007.


Olympia J. Snowe
Senator


Thomas H. Allen
Member of Congress

With warmest regards,


Susan M. Collins
Senator


Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R5/ES/029912

APR 06 2007

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

Thank you for your letter of February 23, 2007, also signed by Senator Olympia J. Snowe and Congressmen Thomas H. Allen and Michael H. Michaud, regarding funding for the Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund (MASCF). We have also sent a response to these Members.

As in prior years, funding for the MASCF was not included in the President's budget for fiscal year (FY) 2007. The FY 2007 joint funding resolution signed by the President indicates that report language specifying earmarks in FY 2006 bills and reports do not have legal effect with respect to the funds appropriated in FY 2007. Also, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) FY 2007 Operations Plan for the Resource Management Account eliminates all FY 2006 earmarks per Administration policy. The Service is working to prioritize remaining funding as much as possible and is considering the MASCF in this process.

We appreciate your continued support of the MASCF, 2005 Atlantic Salmon Recovery Plan, and the 2004 National Academy of Sciences Report on Maine's Atlantic salmon. If you would like additional information, please contact me or Marvin Moriarty, the Service's Northeast Regional Director, at 413-253-8300

Sincerely,

Deputy

DIRECTOR





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R5/AES/029912

APR 06 2007

The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Snowe:

Thank you for your letter of February 23, 2007, also signed by Senator Susan M. Collins and Congressmen Thomas H. Allen and Michael H. Michaud, regarding funding for the Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund (MASCF). We have also sent a response to these Members.

As in prior years, funding for the MASCF was not included in the President's budget for fiscal year (FY) 2007. The FY 2007 joint funding resolution signed by the President indicates that report language specifying earmarks in FY 2006 bills and reports do not have legal effect with respect to the funds appropriated in FY 2007. Also, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) FY 2007 Operations Plan for the Resource Management Account eliminates all FY 2006 earmarks per Administration policy. The Service is working to prioritize remaining funding as much as possible and is considering the MASCF in this process.

We appreciate your continued support of the MASCF, 2005 Atlantic Salmon Recovery Plan, and the 2004 National Academy of Sciences Report on Maine's Atlantic salmon. If you would like additional information, please contact me or Marvin Moriarty, the Service's Northeast Regional Director, at 413-253-8300.

Sincerely,

Deputy

DIRECTOR

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IN AMERICA 