

**2011 ~ A Banner Year for
Atlantic Salmon Returns**



Penobscot return:

3,125

At left, Mitch Simpson of the Maine Bureau of Sea-run Fisheries and Habitat closes the Veazie dam trap on the Penobscot River after a very successful Atlantic salmon spawning migration. At right, a male Atlantic salmon is prepared for spawning at Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery in East Orland. This year's return on the Penobscot doubles that

The Trap Count*

Aroostook		51
Dennys		9
East Machias	*	
Machias		*
Pleasant		*
Narraguagus		194
Sheepscot		*
Penobscot		3,125
Union		0
Saco		49
Androscoggin		47
Kennebec		63

* Counts for the rivers with an asterisk (*) must wait for the redd (nest) count, which provides us a fairly accurate estimate of return.

~ How Do Biologists Count Fish? ~

Ever wonder how fisheries biologists count live Atlantic salmon returning from the ocean? One way is to count them one by one as they pass a dam. But to accomplish this, the dam has to have a counting gate or trap as part of a fish "ladder" (the Veazie trap has this type, pictured above). They can also count the fish as they're lifted by elevator over a dam (the Saco River dam uses this method). One, or a combination of these methods, was used to arrive at the return data you see at left. It's an accurate method.



Health and disease screening

Dams are important for electricity production, but some dams that lack adequate fish passage can present a barrier for migrating as well as resident fish. Dams can slow, hinder or potentially halt migrations altogether— for migrating fish, but also for a variety of other species as well. A dam can also slow water flow, which allows predators longer hunt time, and can lower oxygen levels through warming.

A second method gives us a fairly accurate estimate of the numbers of returning salmon. This method involves counting the redds (nests) of returning salmon. Females usually build a test pit, and a second active redd in which they release their eggs. Conditions permitting, staff walk the riverbank or canoe the river to count the redds. Shown at right is an active redd on the Narraguagus River.



The Friends of Craig Brook Museum
Construction fund address is:

Friends of Craig Brook, Inc.
306 Hatchery Road
East Orland, ME 04416

FCB is a 501 (C)(3) non-profit
organization.



Salmon Fishing at the Bangor Pool, Circa 1920s

FCB

A busy day at the Bangor Pool. Photo taken from in front of the Penobscot Salmon Club sometime in the 1920s. Anyone know for sure? Water Company building (1875) is seen on the western shore of the Penobscot. How many people in the photo? And what's that metal framework located directly in front of the large boulder for? A bar-B-que? Give us a call if you can provide any information: Friends of Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery, 469-7300 x 215.



Present Day Penobscot Salmon Club

The present home of the Penobscot Salmon Club still overlooks the Bangor Salmon Pool. The Bangor dam is now gone, which now allows easier passage of Atlantic salmon, and in the next few years two more dams, Great Works and the Veazie dam, will be removed as well. The salmon will be back.



Additions to the FCB Museum

Perl Farrington of Lakeville, Illinois presents Friends of Craig Brook Past President Richard Hero with a display of Atlantic salmon memorabilia for the new museum. Perl also donated a huge campfire fry pan which belonged to Perl's Uncle William Gern of Orland, who fished Maine waters extensively. What stories that that pan could tell.