

**DRAFT**

## MEMORANDUM

Date: September 16, 2019

To: Greater East Grand Planning Region File

Re: Fisheries Meeting – Rideouts September 10, 2019

By: Elbridge

Attending:

Colin Brown – SCEC, Bob Wood – SCEC, DFP, Bob Lorigan, Buck Plummer, Peter Chase – CLIC, Mike Cowger, John Ribe, Kevin Dunham – MDIF&W Region F Fisheries, E. Cleaves

Purpose: Meeting requested by Colin Brown, Natural Resources Program Manager and Bob Wood, Director of DFP at Sunrise County Economic Council, a member of Downeast Fisheries Partnership to learn/hear about area fisheries, in particular East Grand Lake.

Items Discussed:

- Gradual but sure demise of landlocked salmon by destruction of native smelt apparently from early 90's illegal introduction of landlocked alewives. (Landlocked salmon cannot survive on alewives)
- Smallmouth bass becoming mainstay of fishing – alewife impact on young bass and heavily diminished food sources after migration
- Sport fishing very important economically including many seasonal jobs
- Loss of dam and drop in water levels would destroy native smelt, bass and lake trout spawning habitat
- Much conversation about sea run alewives and dam removals
- Discussed funding and governance of DFP almost exclusively coastal
- Mention of previous meetings in Danforth about the Baskahegan/Penobscot watershed—particularly lack of a public forum for people most affected in the UT including Brookton
- Concerns for the survival of native smelts from alewives
- Similar concerns raised by IF&W about alewife impact on headwater cold water fisheries (Not a settled matter)
- Much discussion about the “alewife feel-good movement” getting ahead of science and common sense
- Some acknowledgment the overfishing of cod had much to do with decline
- General acknowledgement of the need to slow down the train, study impact of alewives on both bass and native fisheries including smelts

Other meetings held & scheduled: Forest City- August 28<sup>th</sup>, Princeton - upcoming including meeting with Steve Whitman

Follow-up: Brown and Wood to inform DFP of findings. The group recommended a slow-down, study alewife impacts. Both agreed to keep “Rideouts Group” informed of progress.