

*RIVER HERRING  
POPULATION IN THE  
ST. CROIX RIVER:*

*FISH COUNTS AT  
MILLTOWN DAM*

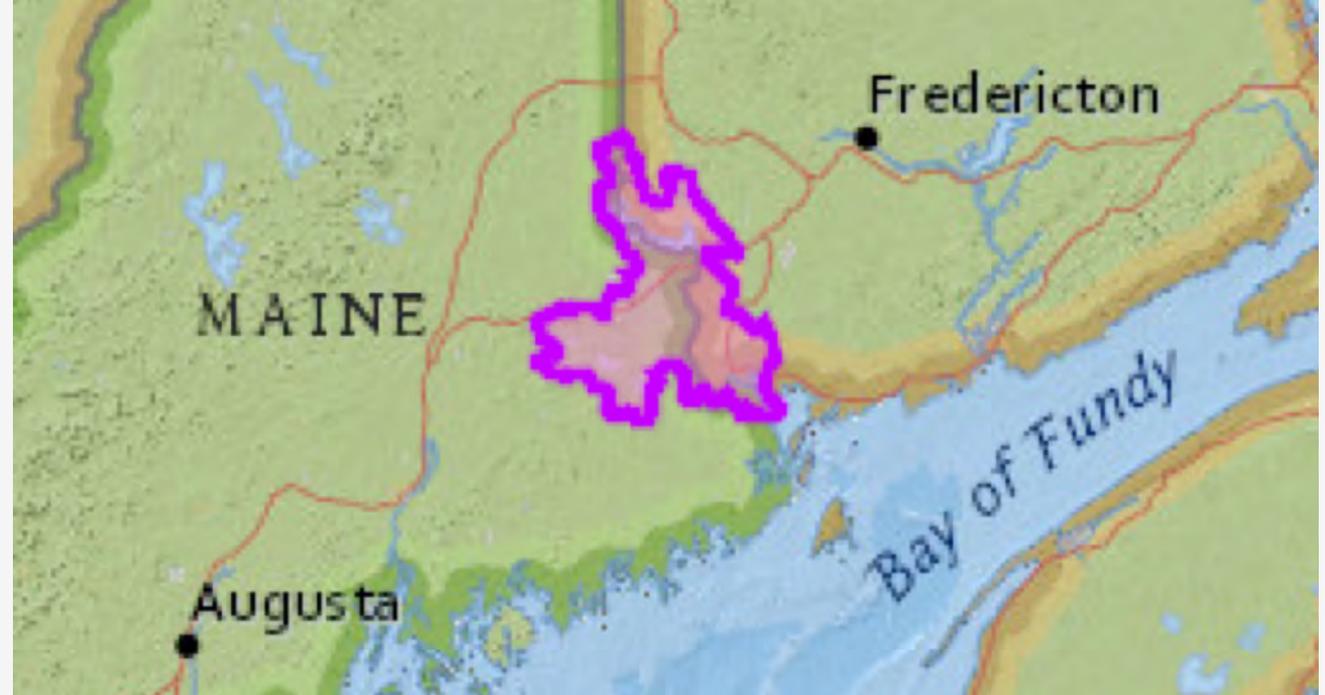
*[Photo](#) by Bruce Richardson*

**The St. Croix International Waterway Commission is an international non-profit partnership that protects and enhances the health, heritage and beauty the St. Croix waterway.**

**Established in 1986 by the State of Maine and the Province of New Brunswick to develop and facilitate the implementation of an international management plan for the St. Croix Watershed.**

**Extends the full length of the St. Croix boundary waters, from their origin at Monument Brook to their confluence Passamaquoddy Bay (185km/110mi).**

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## *History of the SCIWC*



# *St. Croix River*

**Basin area:** 1,505.79 sq miles (3,900 km<sup>2</sup>)

**Length:** 71 miles (114 km)

**Towns/Cities:** Calais, St. Stephen

**Mouth:** Passamaquoddy Bay

**Source:** Chiputneticook Lakes

**Location:** International boundary between Canada and the United States between New Brunswick and Maine

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# *Projects of the SCIWC*

**Recreation – Operate campsites in the St. Croix watershed**

**Fish tagging – Tag river herring at Moosehorn NWR**

**Water quality – Monitoring ~30 sites in the St Croix**

**Fish count – Monitoring fish passage at Milltown Dam**

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# *History of the St. Croix River*

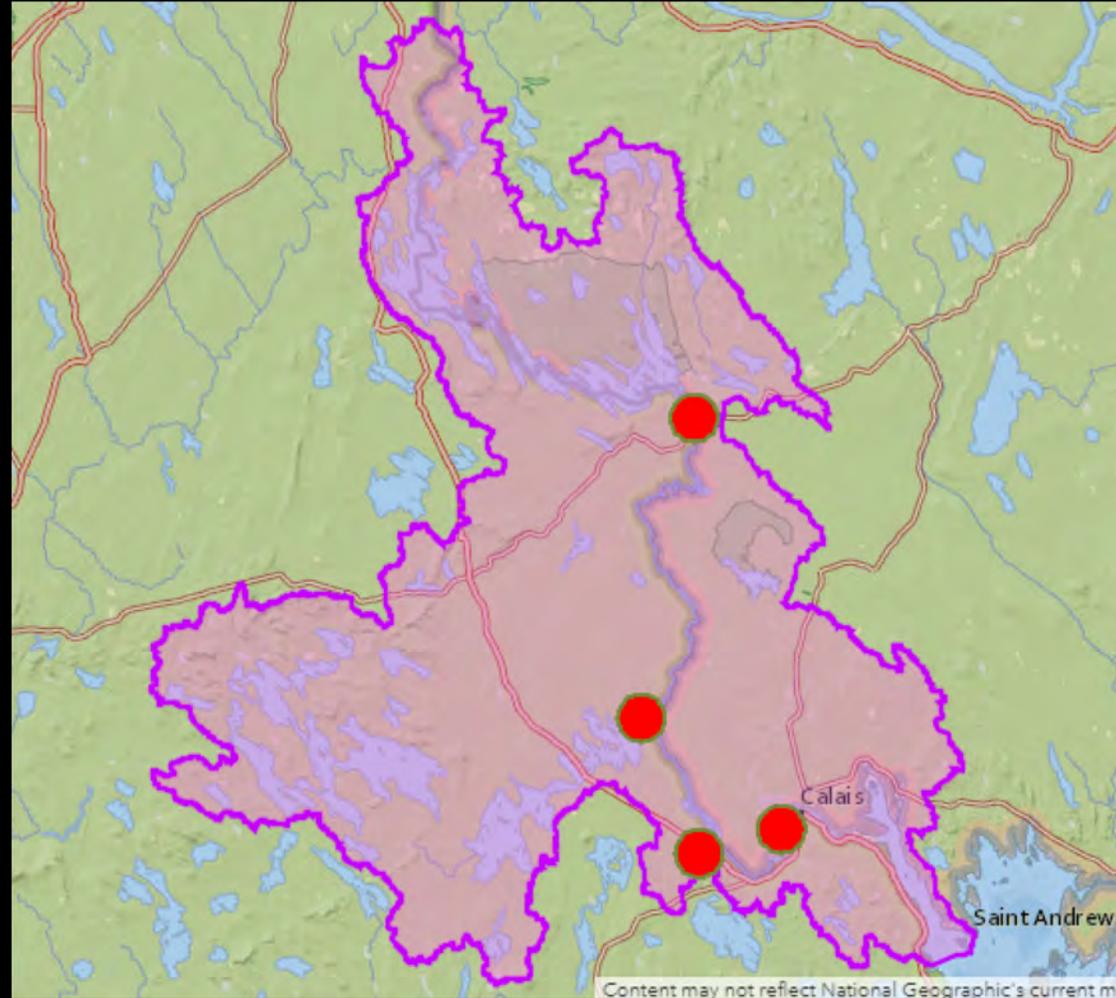
- A river that boundaries three nations
    - Passamaquoddy Tribe and Peskotomuhkati Nation, United States, Canada
  - Passamaquoddy name for the river is Schoodic/Skutik
  - St. Croix Island was location of early French settlement in 1604
  - River wasn't charted clearly until 1794, and the boundary was under dispute until 1842.
  - Trade corridor to Maine and NB. Important corridor for industries including log driving, tanneries, and mills
  - St Croix is a Canadian and American Heritage River
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*RIVER HERRING OF THE ST CROIX RIVER*

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# Locations of Dams on the St. Croix River





*AERIAL VIEW  
OF  
MILLTOWN  
GENERATING  
STATION*



# *Milltown Dam Fish Passage*

Since 1981 river herring have been counted as they pass through the fishway at Milltown Dam in St. Stephen NB

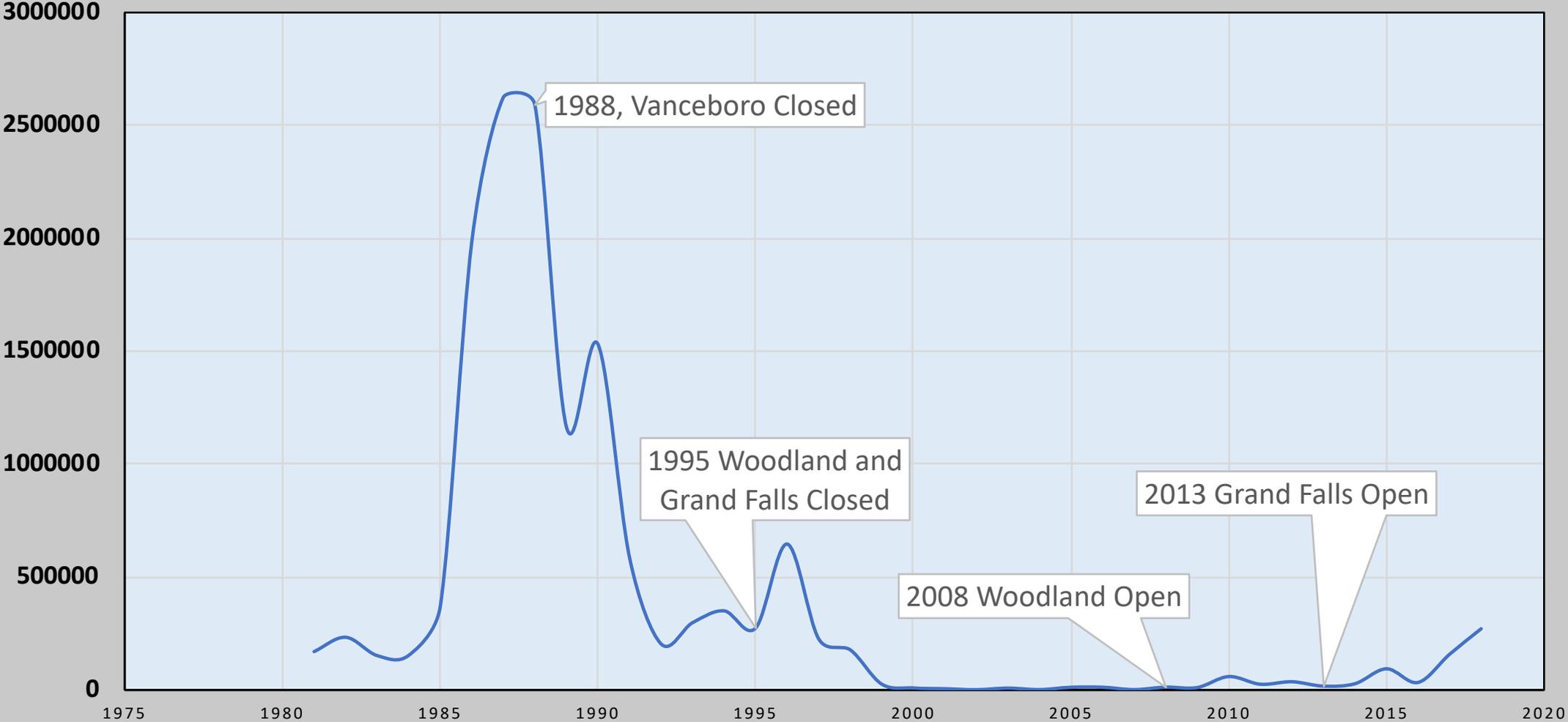
Guides on upper part of the watershed blamed a decline in smallmouth bass populations on alewife

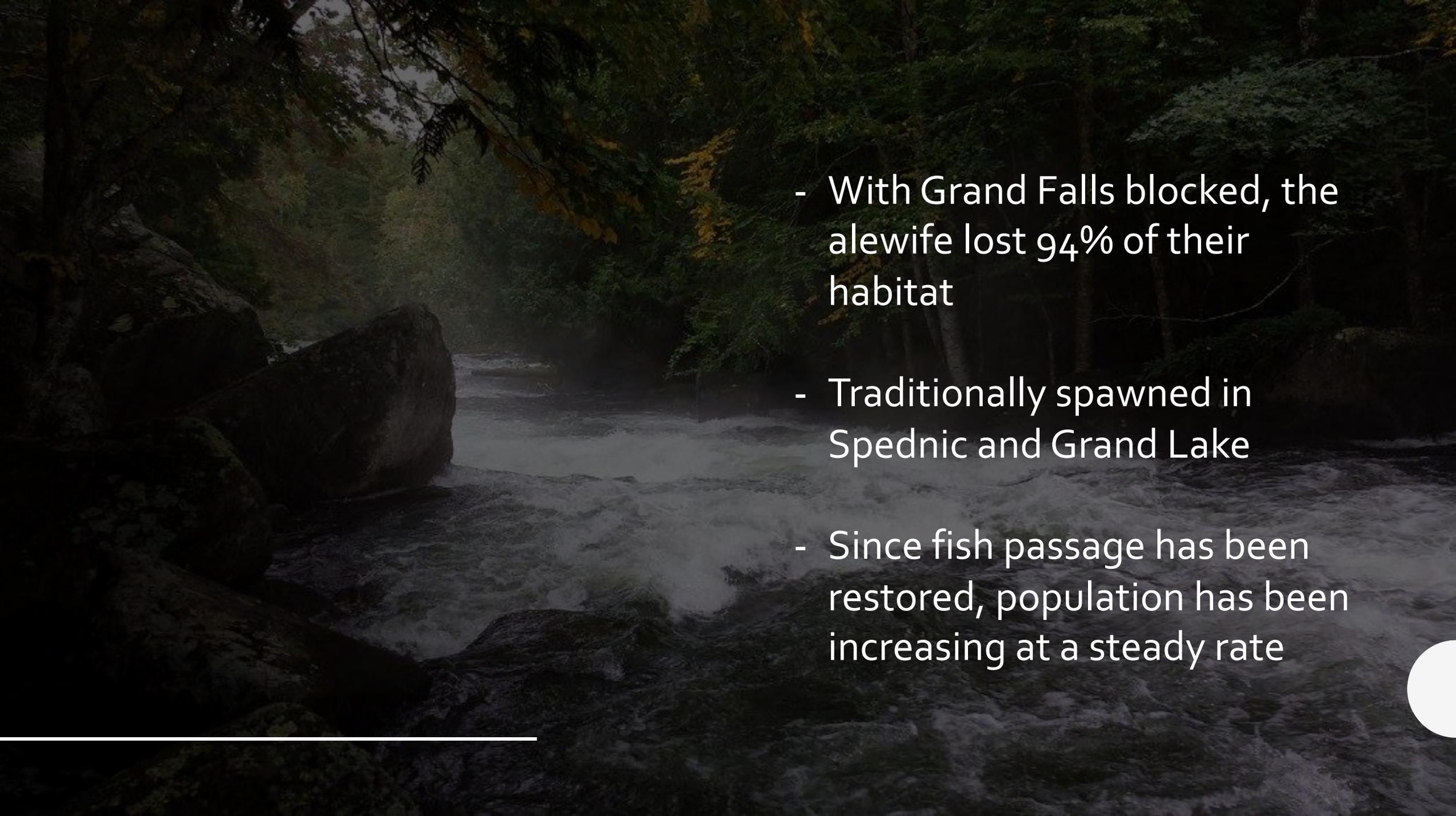
1988 – Passage was blocked at Vanceboro Dam

1995 – Alewife passage blocked at Grand Falls and Woodland fishway

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# RIVER HERRING POPULATION IN THE ST. CROIX



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- With Grand Falls blocked, the alewife lost 94% of their habitat
  - Traditionally spawned in Spednic and Grand Lake
  - Since fish passage has been restored, population has been increasing at a steady rate
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## Reintroduction of river herring benefits the watershed

St Croix estimated to be able to hold 20 million alewife

Food chain – provides food for many organisms from zooplankton to eagles

Alewife floaters help filter the water

Increased herring population is also beneficial to the marine environment



Ian Murray 2014



# *Thank you*

St. Croix International Waterway Commission

[www.stcroix.org](http://www.stcroix.org)

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