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To: Bertocci, Cynthia S
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I am a forty one year veteran of the Penobscot Bay lobster fishery. We have something going on our bay that a lot of people do not know about. We are used to thinking about the river and the bay as two, separate and different ecosystems. For almost two centuries they were separated by a series of dams. Today the dams are almost gone and eleven species of fish have access to almost one thousand miles of watershed. We also have Codfish, a lot of cod. I caught dozens of juvenile codfish in my lobster traps this year. I now see as many cod in one day as I used to see all year. The presence of so many young fish indicates that they are still spawning nearby. Historical cod and haddock spawning grounds have been mapped all the way up the bay as far as Sears Island and Fort Point. We now know the the young saltwater fish depend on the young river fish for their for their food supply. When the young fish leave the river they become to food for the young saltwater fish. When the river was dammed the salt water fish lost their food supply. Our bay is recovering rapidly from the removal of the dams. We are seeing very strong alewife runs in countless streams and increasing amounts of codfish in my lobster traps. Our river and bay system is a vital and special thing that is still full of life. People from all over the state came together for the Penobscot River Dam Removal Project, the results of which are just beginning to appear. It it worth risking this vital recovery for an gigantic indoor fish farm?