**Tribal Coordination and Collaboration**

In Maine, the Wabanaki people represent four Tribes: the Passamaquoddy Tribe in Washington County; the Penobscot Indian Nation based at Indian Island on the Penobscot River; the Houlton Band of Maliseets in Northern Maine, and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs also in Northern Maine. Atlantic salmon and the suite of diadromous fish indigenous to Maine’s rivers, streams, lakes and ponds are of great cultural importance to the Tribes throughout the region. Diadromous fish, including Atlantic salmon have been used by Maine Tribes for religious/cultural ceremonies, subsistence and commerce. The decline of Atlantic salmon, specifically, has had negative impacts on the cultural sustenance of the tribes in Maine. Up until 1989 (i.e., two salmon were harvested for ceremonial purposes in 1988 by tribal members 50 CFR 29344) the Penobscot Indian Nation harvested Atlantic salmon for sustenance purposes. However, due to the dire conservation status of Atlantic salmon, the Penobscot Indian Nation has voluntarily abstained from harvesting Atlantic salmon out of concern for the health of the species. Both the Passamaquoddy Tribe and Penobscot Indian Nation also hold lands containing habitat that is critical to the survival and recovery of Atlantic salmon. As a result, the working relationship between the Services, the State of Maine, and the Tribe’s is crucial to the recovery of Atlantic salmon.

The Penobscot Nation along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and Maine’s Department of Marine Resource are co-participants in the management of Atlantic salmon. The Tribe has member participation on Atlantic salmon recovery action teams, on the Atlantic salmon Policy Board, and on the Atlantic salmon Management Board. The Atlantic salmon Policy Board guides broad policy direction, annually reaffirms program priorities, and commits resources for recovery implementation. The Atlantic salmon Management Board provides updates on potential and real changes to resource commitments and resolves disagreement among Atlantic salmon recovery action teams. The Action Teams develop implementation plans, review and approve project proposals, identify and resolve areas of policy or scientific disagreement, and coordinate among actions teams to implement and monitor recovery actions (*see* [Recovery Plan Governance Description](http://atlanticsalmonrestoration.org/resources/documents/atlantic-salmon-recovery-plan-2015/recovery-plan-pages/recovery-plan-governance-description)).

Given the importance of tribal fisheries for cultural and sustenance purposes, the Services are committed to working with the tribes in the management of Atlantic salmon and finding ways to best achieve the fisheries needs of the Tribes that meet these purposes. This recovery plan will identify strategies and actions necessary for salmon recovery that is a necessary to help the tribes within reach of this plan achieve their fisheries goals for sustenance purposes.