Photos Below

MASSIVE FISH KILL ON ANDROCOGGIN RIVER

Critical Downstream Fish Migration Dramatically Impacted at Brunswick Dam

Free the Andro Calls on Dam Owner Brookfield and Regulatory Agencies to Improve River Passage, Restore Natural Ecosystem

BRUNSWICK, ME – October 12, 2026 – Mutilated fish carcasses line the shores of the Androscoggin River below the Brunswick dam today after a massive weekend fish kill.

Photos (below) show river banks littered with young-of-the-year river herring sliced up by Brunswick dam turbines as these fish attempted to move downriver to the ocean as part of their natural cycle.

"This fish kill has destroyed thousands, maybe tens of thousands, of river herring," said Charles "Chip" Spies, founder of *Free The Andro*, the Maine non-profit, community-based group driving the effort to create free swimming fish passage between the Androscoggin River and the ocean after more than a century of neglect and blockage at the Brunswick dam. *FTA's* work is in response to required relicensing of the Brunswick dam by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) currently underway.

"This fish kill is, unfortunately, not a surprise. These occurrences are the reason we founded *Free the Andro* and are working to create safe and effective upstream and downstream fish passage requirements for the Brunswick dam by FERC. This is one more, very obvious, example of what is wrong with the existing facility and how it impacts migratory species that rely on the Androscoggin to complete their life cycles," said Spies.

The fish kill can easily be seen by walking along the river from Water Street in Brunswick.

“Today’s Androscoggin River is broken and needs to be and can be fixed to benefit Mainers, our economy, and the marine environment that we all love,” said Spies.

About *Free the Andro*

Free The Andro (FTA) fights to create free swimming native fish passage at the Brunswick dam. *FTA* seeks solutions supported by solid data from objective research and accepted best practices to create abundant and sustainable fish passage.

FTA is comprised of citizen and professional volunteers and founding member groups American Rivers, Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, Maine Rivers, Merrymeeting Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and RESTORE: The Northwoods.

“Allowing Fish Back into the Androscoggin River: What To Do with a 50 Year Old Dam” is an *FTA* video examining the rich history, decades old challenges, and future opportunities for the Androscoggin River watershed and the gateway to that watershed at the Brunswick dam.

Find and follow “*Free The Andro” on Facebook* and at https://freetheandro.org/

Further information about the dam and relicensing is available at the Brunswick-Topsham Dam Resource Library hosted by Bowdoin College as an information clearing house. It provides scientific articles, data, regulatory reports, historical perspective, videos, instructions for stakeholder commenting, and more. Anyone can subscribe for periodic updates.

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***Free the Andro* Contact**
Chip Spies
chipspies@gmail.com
207-837-3929

Media Contact:
Tom Walek
tom@walekllc.com
917-353-7575





