

A Self-Guided Nature Tour of Merrymeeting Bay

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Today's Topics

- Great Bays
- More on eBird
- Maine Paper Mills
- Archaic Wabanaki Peoples
- Dresden Walks
- Fish



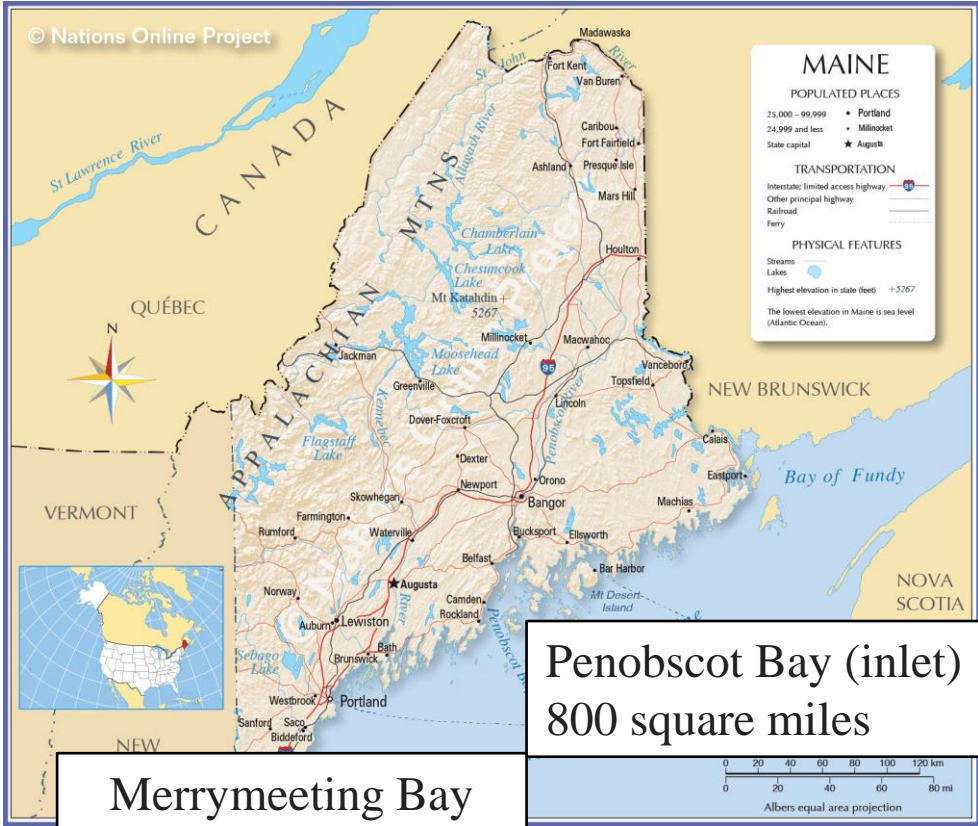
Maine's Four Great Bays



**Great Bay – Fore River
(Portland)**
9.4 square miles



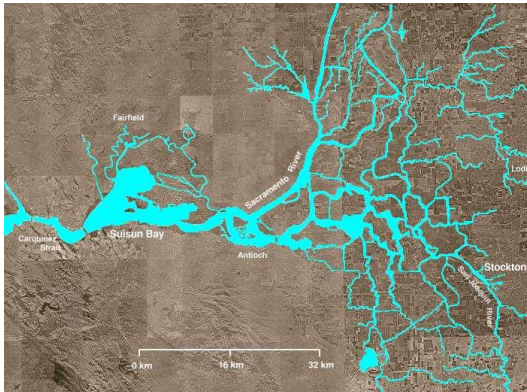
**Passamaquoddy Bay -
St. Croix River - Bay of Fundy inlet
(US-Canada)**
3,600 square miles



Merrymeeting Bay
15 square miles

Penobscot Bay (inlet)
800 square miles

The World's Four Great Inland Bays



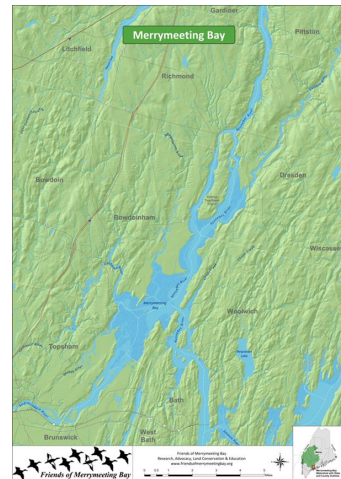
Sacramento–San Joaquin
River Delta, California



Tigris and Euphrates Rivers,
Iraq



Ganges—Brahmaputra-
Meghna Delta, Bangladesh



Merrymeeting Bay, Maine

Merrymeeting Bay Salinity

- Surface waters in the Gulf of Maine are 34 parts per thousand salt.
- In the Atlantic Ocean beyond Georges Banks the salinity is 36 parts per thousand salt.
- Freshwater from rivers has a salinity value of 0.5 ppt or less.

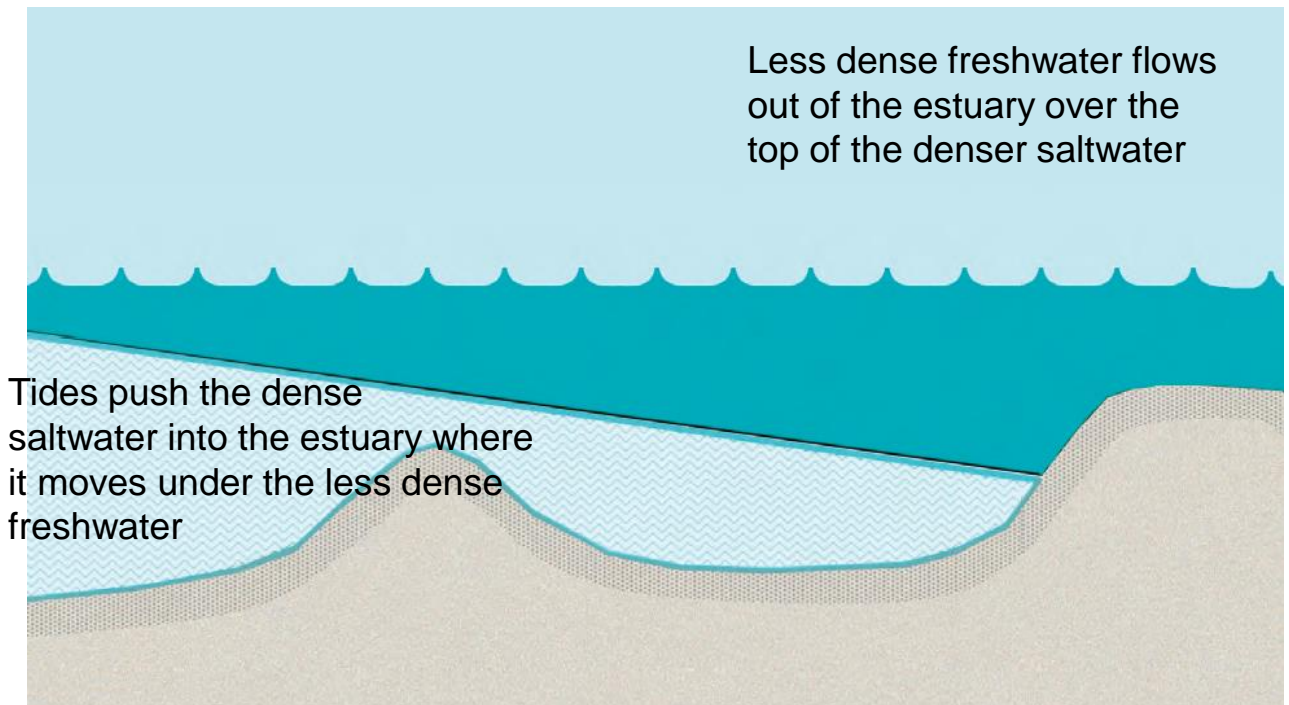


Merrymeeting Bay average overall water salinity does not exceed .5 parts per thousand, about the same as river water.

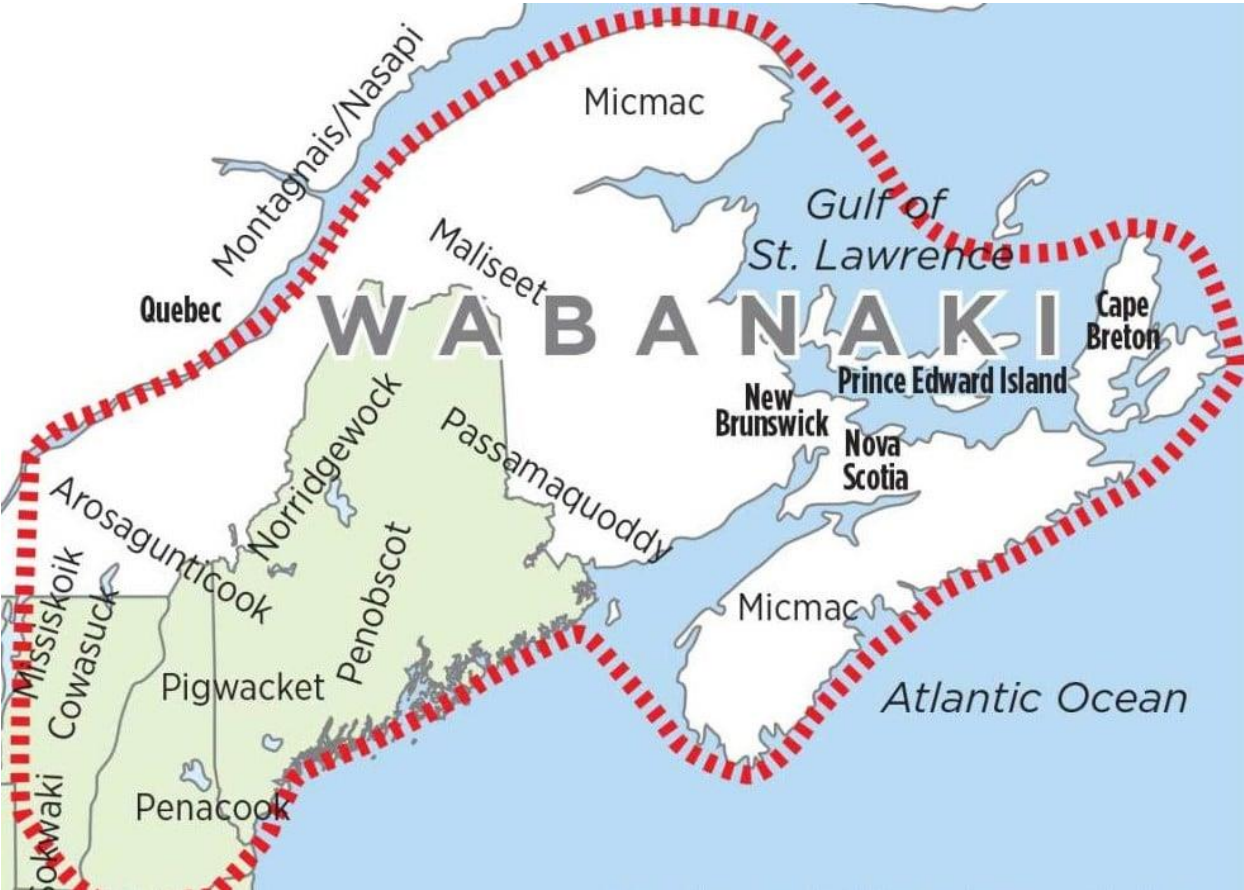
Composition of Merrymeeting Bay

- Rivers contribute ~95% of water in the Bay.
- The Kennebec River contributes the most water.
- The Androscoggin River contributes the most sediment.
- Salinity in the Bay is highly variable, by season, location, tides, river volumes, etc.

The Chops Create a Classic “Salt Wedge”



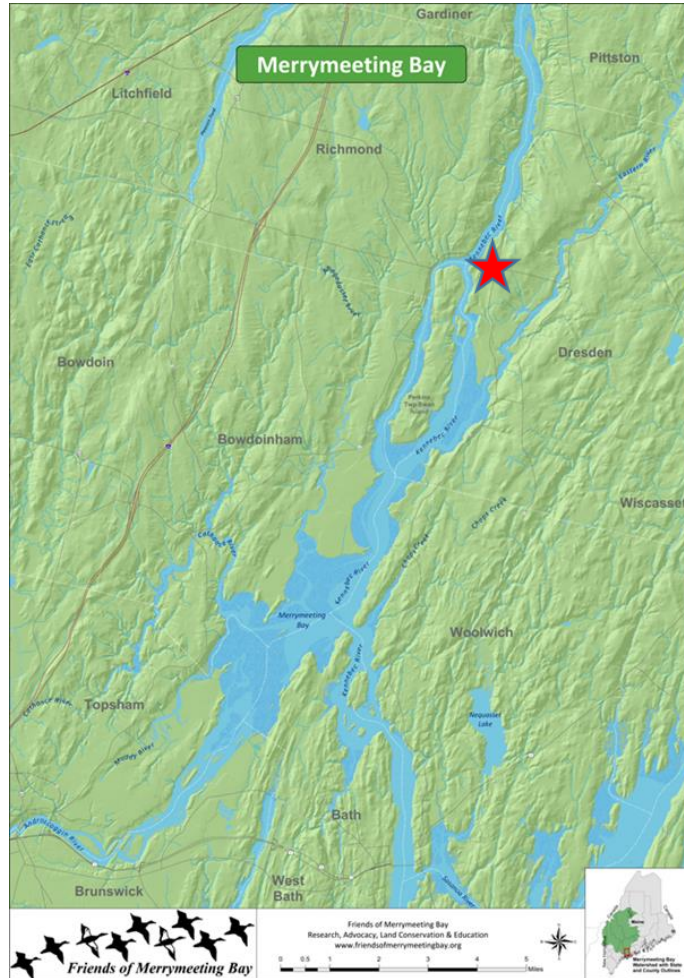
Northeastern Wabanaki Peoples



eBird – Cornell Lab of Ornithology

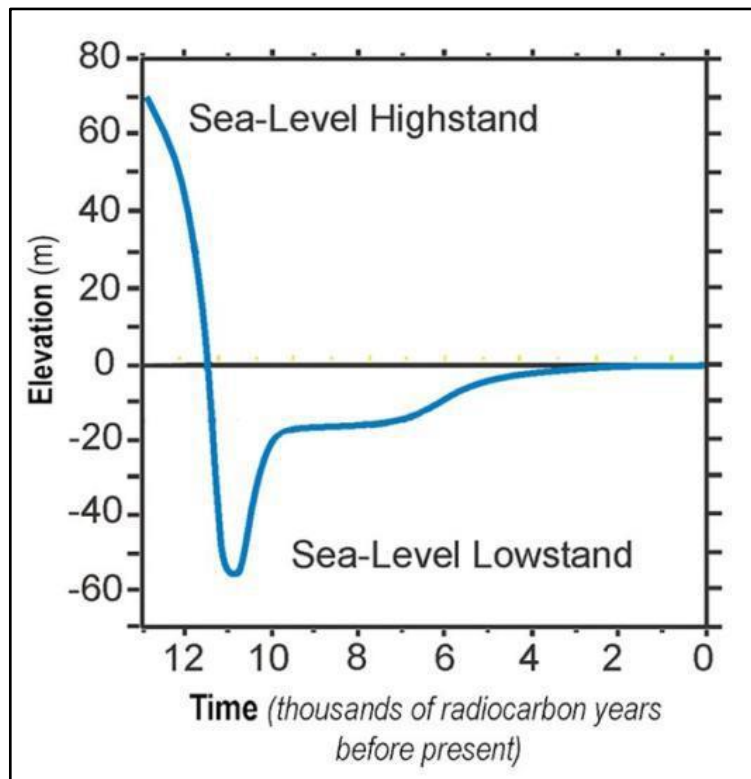


Early Peoples in Dresden



9000 Years Ago in Dresden

Evolving Geology in Archaic Period



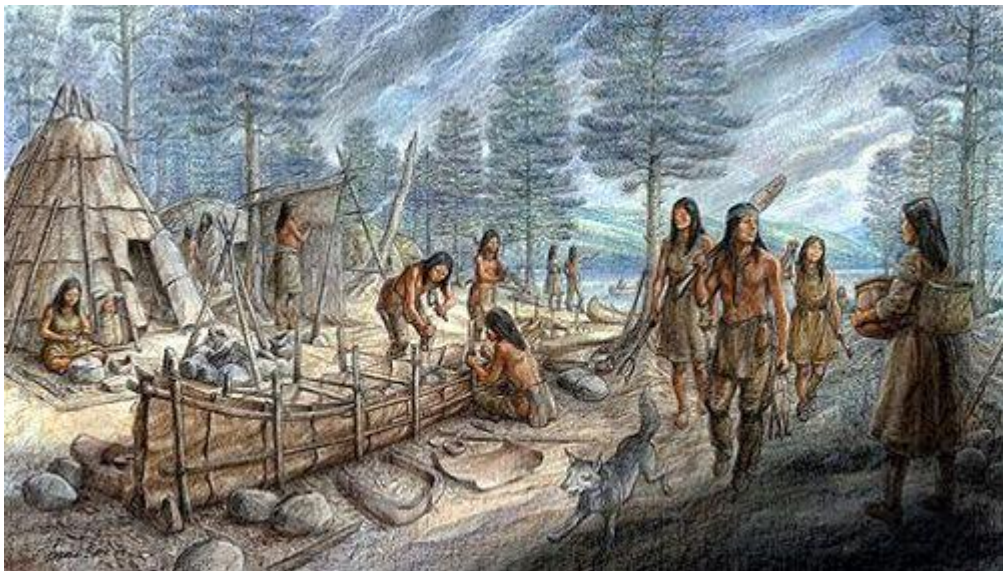
Dresden Falls Archaic Preserve



Archeological Dig at Dresden Upper Field



Archaic Period Peoples in Maine



Fish Weir Designs

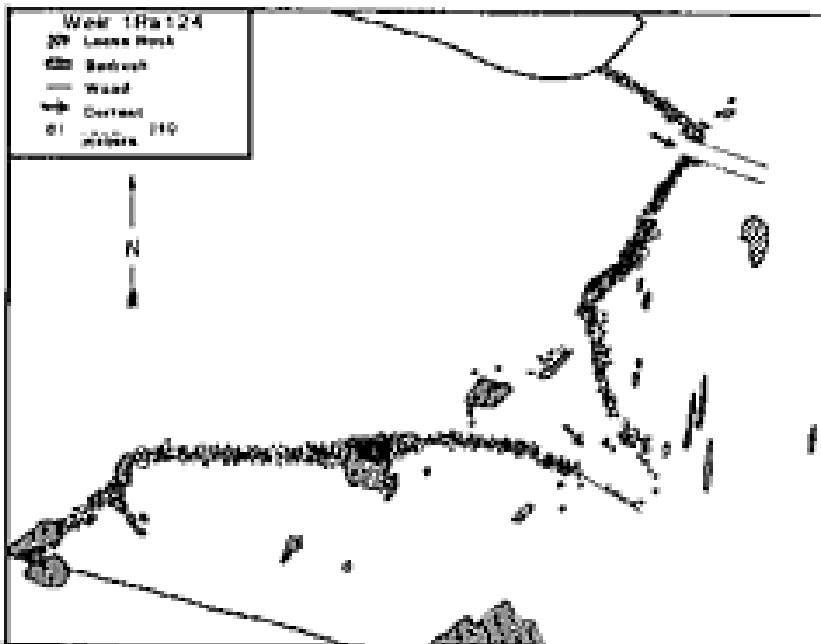
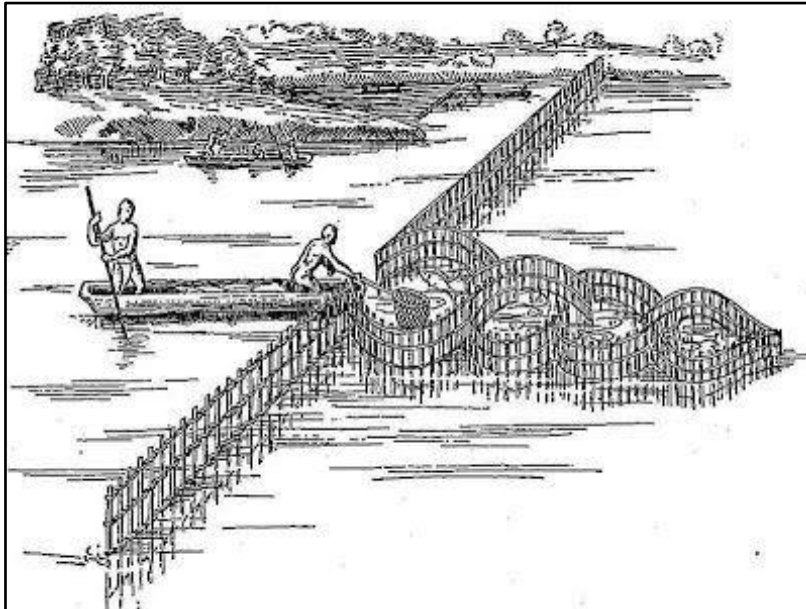


Figure 7

Remnants of a Fish Weir on the Sebastacook River

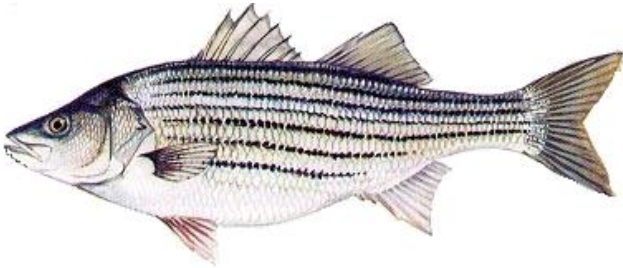


Archeology of Wabanaki Sites

- [Maine State Museum](#), Augusta (closed for renovations)
 - [Arthur Speiss lecture on 13,000 years of Maine Native American Life](#)
- Abbe Museum, Bar Harbor
 - The Abbe Museum's collections focus on contemporary and historic Native American art, artifacts, and objects from Maine and the Northeast, totaling over 70,000 items.
 - [People of the First Light Core Exhibit](#)
 - 2021 Hours
Open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
10 am - 5 pm



Some Anadromous Fish of MMB



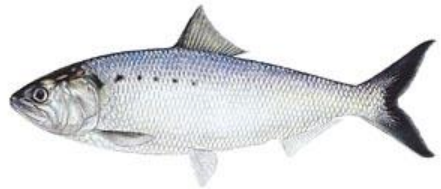
Striped bass *Morone saxatilis*



Alewife *Alosa pseudoharengus*



Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*



American shad *Alosa sapidissima*

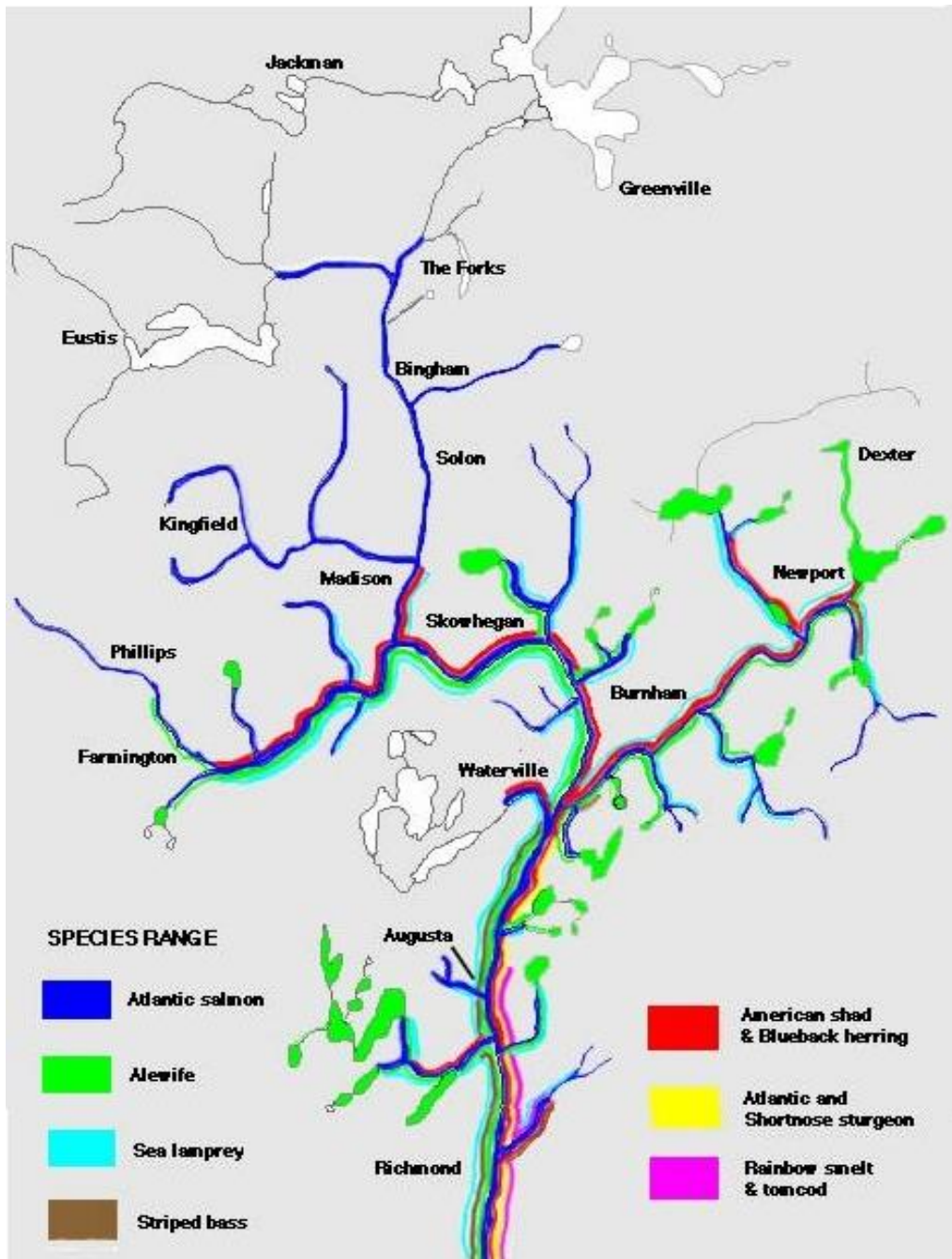


Sea run brook trout
Salvelinus fontinalis



American eel *Anguilla rostrata*

Anadromous Fish of the Kennebec River



[Alewife migration - 2017 YouTube](#)

Optional Walk 1: Pownalborough Court House Trails

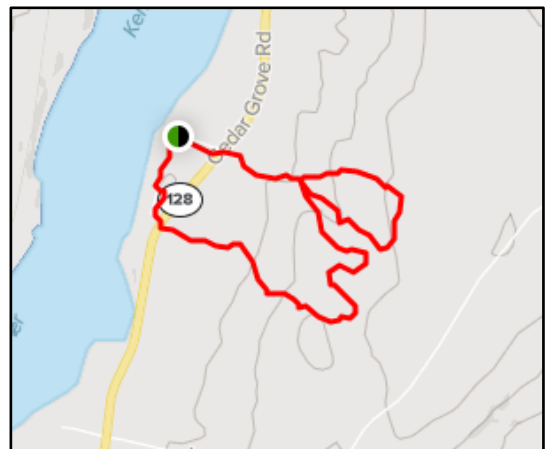


[MUSEUM](#)
[23 Court House Rd](#)
[Dresden, ME 04342](#)

HOURS
•Sat, Sun, & Mon:
10:00 am – 4:00 pm



Trails



Bonus Walk 2: Green Point Wildlife Mgmt Area



- A flat, easy walk through old fields and an orchard. Approx. 1 mile.
- Brings you to a pine grove at the upper reaches of Merrymeeting Bay.
- Excellent walking, birding, wildlife viewing.