

[“Everything 2B-2 for 2016”](#) web posting for 2.19.2016:

2.19.2016: [Bangor Daily News article](#). NOAA-National Marine Fisheries Services—one of the many cooperating agencies to this study—shares jurisdiction of Atlantic salmon with the USFWS. You won’t find any comments to the DEIS from NOAA, they opted to let the USFWS work the issue. According to this article, NOAA will be spending \$5 million per year over the next five years on projects to stop the decline of Atlantic salmon, while seeking applications for \$9 million in community-based habitat restoration. How does NOAA reconcile spending millions to “stop the decline of the species...at risk of extinction in the near future” at the same time that this study has selected an alternative that will cross 2 streams with Atlantic salmon and critical habitat with 12,000+ vehicles per day by 2040? The previous preferred alternative did not impact anadromous fish. Why did frogs and salamanders living in vernal pools—temporary non-spring-fed pools that may not even exist from one year to the next—seem to have more criticality in this study than Atlantic salmon? Frogs and salamanders aided the removal of the 3EIK-2/preferred alternative and the replacement of same with 2B-2, an alternative that only met 20% of purpose and needs in April 2009. Atlantic salmon—let’s drive 12,000 vehicles over their habitat every single day—shouldn’t be an issue!! Once again, best practices seem to have been thrown out the window...

[2B-2 crosses 2 streams containing anadromous fish](#)—YET—this study’s first preferred alternative (3EIK-2) did not impact anadromous fish at all and was dismissed in Sept2010: “other alternatives less environmentally damaging.”



Salmon in the spotlight: NOAA devoting resources to Maine fish

“Atlantic salmon are anadromous fish, spending the first half of their lives in freshwater rivers and streams and the second half maturing and feeding in the ocean. They then return to their natal river to spawn, completing their life cycles.” BDN 2.19.2016

[Excerpt of BDN 2.19.2016 article by Aislinn Sarnacki:](#)

Efforts to save Maine’s wild Atlantic salmon from extinction will be ramped up in the coming years thanks to the new “Species in Spotlight” initiative launched by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The campaign’s [five-year plan](#) includes an estimated \$25 million in federal funding for projects aimed at stopping the decline of the species and moving them toward recovery...[NOAA is seeking applications for \\$9 million in community-based habitat restoration.](#)

The “[Species in the Spotlight](#)” initiative is a concerted agencywide effort to save and bring public attention to species of the United States that are among the most at risk of extinction in the near future. The Atlantic salmon of the Gulf of Maine was among eight species selected for the initiative.

Alternatives Considered and Dismissed from Further Study • C

Alternatives	Description	Meets Purpose		Meets Needs			Practicable	Results
		Study Purpose	USACE Purpose	System Linkage	Safety Concerns	Traffic Congestion		
Alternative 2B-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satisfies design criteria Length: 6.1 mi. of new alignment, 4.2 mi. of Route 9 without additional improvements Bridge length: 2,232 ft. Earthwork: 2.2 mcy (1.2 mcy cut, 1.0 mcy fill) 	Yes	Yes	In the near-term (Year 2035)	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retained for detailed study Wetlands impacts: 34 ac. Stream crossings: 3 (2 with anadromous fish) Floodplain impacts: 15 ac. Notable wildlife habitat: 11.0 Undeveloped habitat: 784 ac. Prime farmland: 20.0 ac. Residential displacements: 8
Alternative 3EIK-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satisfies design criteria Length: 10.6 mi. of new alignment Bridge length: 1,948 ft. Earthwork: 4.2 mcy (2.1 mcy cut, 2.1 mcy fill) 	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dismissed - other alternatives less environmentally damaging Wetlands impacts: 42 ac. Stream crossings: 6 Floodplain impacts: 7.5 ac. Notable wildlife habitat: 0.7 ac. Undeveloped habitat: 1,437 ac. Prime farmland: 11 ac. Residential displacements: 3

2B-2 crosses two streams containing anadromous fish—the study’s first preferred alternative (3EIK-2) had no such impact. This study was turned on its head by frogs, salamanders and vernal pools—yet 2B-2 will cross 2 streams containing Atlantic salmon and their critical habitat with an [AADT between 11,560 and 13,000 vehicles/day](#) by 2040. One of the eight “[Species in the Spotlight](#)” most at risk of extinction is the Atlantic Salmon Gulf of Maine DPS. When you hear that 2B-2 is the least environmentally damaging alternative—ask why Atlantic salmon are seemingly treated as less endangered than frogs and salamanders living in vernal pools that may no longer even exist.

[NOAA is a Cooperating Agency](#) on this I-395/Route 9 Transportation Study—yet [NOAA did not make comments to the DEIS](#). NOAA-National Marine Fisheries Service shares joint jurisdiction over the Atlantic salmon with the USFWS, the USFWS took the lead on this study. Now NOAA’s five year plan is to spend \$25 million on “projects aimed at stopping the decline of the species” and “seeking applications for \$9 million in community-based habitat restoration”. NOAA should exercise their joint jurisdiction and weigh in on 2B-2’s impacts if this issue is suddenly so important as to spend \$25 million!

- How better to restore critical habitat than not to construct 2B-2...