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After 18 years, Maine alewives can finally swim freely into their ancestral habitat on the St. Croix River. Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) is proud to be part of the coalition that achieved this victory. For the past two years, CLF advocates focused on using the legal tools under the Clean Water Act and the US Constitution's Supremacy Clause to force the US EPA to take the position that the Maine law that first banned alewives from the St. Croix in 1995 changed the water quality standard of the St. Croix and then to challenge law itself in a suit against the State. Those efforts, as well as the efforts of our partner organizations and the Passamaquoddy Tribe in the Maine Legislature, led to the April 2013 repeal of that 1995 Maine law. While this is a huge step forward for the ecosystem, we recognize that other challenges lie ahead.

- Building on this year's legal and legislative successes, CLF will continue our collaboration with the Passamaquoddy Tribe to ensure even greater access for alewives and other anadromous fish through habitat protection on the St. Croix by ensuring efficient and effective fish passage at the next two dams along the river – the Vanceboro and West Grand Lake dams – that are due for federal re-licensing.
- At the state level, CLF will focus on rivers that have similar capacity for forage fish habitat as the St. Croix, particularly where dams that are not subject to federal licensing do not have adequate or operating fish passage facilities.
- CLF was deeply involved in a similar recovery effort for river herring in the Presumpscot River. In 2009, CLF and the Friends of the Presumpscot River initiated and prosecuted a proceeding for installation of a fish passage through the Cumberland Mills Dam – the first dam in the series along the river. The installed fish passage has now been completed and was opened on May 1, 2013, in time for the spring migration of river herring and setting up the required installation of a fishway of the next dam up river.

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Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) protects New England's environment for the benefit of all people. Using the law, science and the market, CLF creates solutions that preserve natural resources, build healthy communities, and sustain a vibrant economy region-wide. Founded in 1966, CLF is a nonprofit, member-supported organization with offices in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.