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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
MARINE RESOURCES
Sea-Run Fisheries Division
172 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0172

Patrick Keliher
COMMISSIONER

Participating Volunteers,

Thanks for your interest in the sea-run rainbow smelt spring spawning inventory! The enclosed material will help you identify historical spawning sites, give some background about rainbow smelt as a species of concern, and to help you collect data in the field. The aim of the project is to confirm the current status of streams historically used by rainbow smelt for spawning. We are interested in the annual activity of the runs, so please visit streams that were observed as "Not Active" as well as those that you know support strong runs. Please also concentrate on the streams marked as "Historical." We have no data from these streams since 1971, and would like to have a current record of their activity.

The idea of the project is to visit streams close to the night high tide, when the smelt run up the streams to spawn, and fill out the handout that is included in the packet. This should be done a couple of nights a week, from about March 15th to June 15th, depending on your location along the coast – west of Penobscot Bay, most runs last from March – early May, while east of Penobscot Bay, runs last from late April until mid-June. The height of the run may last only a few nights and depends on many factors, so it is important to visit the stream regularly until the run is complete.

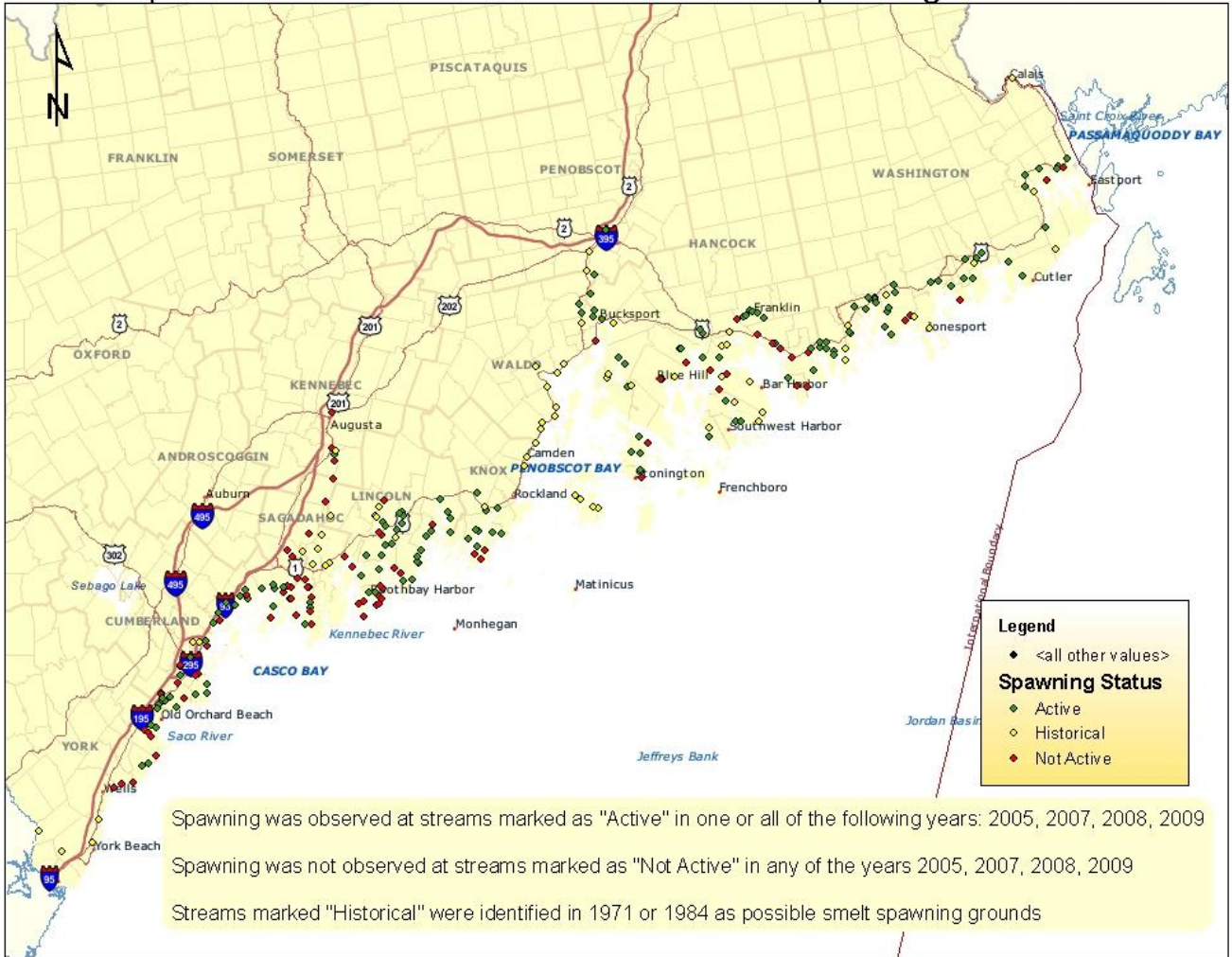
All the materials you will need to complete the enclosed forms are a tape measure and a GPS unit (if available). If you have a digital camera available, we would greatly appreciate any pictures of the site and the egg beds. Note that live eggs are clear in color and dead are white in color. It may be necessary to visit the stream during the day to confirm the presence and size of the egg beds. *If you are not sure that the eggs you observe are rainbow smelt eggs, please note that on the form.*

The data form asks for GPS coordinates of the site location. If you have a GPS available, please record the measurements with as much accuracy as possible, and note the units you are using. Also note if you have a poor signal. If you do not have a GPS available, fill out the form as completely as possible, and mark the site on the enclosed maps. When you return the forms at the end of sampling, please include all the maps with the marked sites.

If you have any questions before or during the sampling season, feel free to give me a call or an email. Thanks for your participation!

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2009 Updated Status of Historical Rainbow Smelt Spawning Sites in Maine



CE Edit 2/9/2010

Live Eggs – CLEAR and TRANSLUCENT



Dead Eggs – WHITE and OPAQUE

