

Doug Watts sent the following email explanation for including the Connectivity Report:

“As background and supplement to our Automatic comments is this paper by the Maine Interagency Stream Connectivity Work Group 2009-2010 (Year One) Summary and Recommendations July 2010. It states, in pertinent part:

‘A principal concern is that impaired connectivity hinders the migration, reproductive potential and ultimately, recovery and survival of diadromous species whose migratory habits require uninhibited access to marine and freshwater habitats alike. To various extent, these species, which include Atlantic salmon, American shad, and the river herring (alewife and blueback herring), formerly provided considerable economic, cultural and ecological benefit to this region. Today, impaired connectivity continues to suppress populations of these once key species, most of which persist at abundances sufficiently low to be considered extirpated or functionally irrelevant in large portions (or all) of their historic range in Maine. The highly prized eastern brook trout and other freshwater aquatic organisms, including salamanders and reptiles, also require unimpeded access to a variety of habitats to complete their life cycles. The conservation of these species is also hindered by habitat degradation that inhibits or prevents normal movements within and among aquatic systems.’

Thanks, Doug Watts”