



**Gulf of Maine
Council on the
Marine Environment**

**GOM River Restoration
Monitoring Steering
Committee**

Members:

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Lee Swanson,
NB Dept. of Env. and Local
Gov't

February 20, 2006

RE: Please Save the Date—June 20-21, 2006—River Monitoring Standards

Dear Colleague:

Watershed assessments that include identification and assessment of riverine barriers is an important topic of discussion throughout the Gulf of Maine region. As restoration interests promote the removal of dams, replacement of undersized culverts, and provide improved fish passage for native species, it is critically important to monitor the impacts of removals so that ecological successes can be measured. Currently in the Gulf, not all barrier removal projects are monitored and what monitoring is undertaken is not implemented consistently across projects in terms of parameters evaluated and data collection and reporting standards. This situation makes it difficult to evaluate the success of individual projects and make comparisons between projects. Comparisons between projects are particularly important for improving restoration methods.

The Gulf of Maine Council's Habitat Restoration Subcommittee is hosting a workshop to develop river restoration monitoring standards specific to barrier removal projects within the region. The workshop will focus on the following topics: wetland/riparian habitats, in-stream habitat, hydraulics and hydrology, sediment, and fish passage. The objective of the workshop is to develop a barrier removal project monitoring framework. The framework will include monitoring metrics and standards in a concise working document that will be available for use by restoration practitioners in the region. It is anticipated that standardized monitoring of barrier removal projects will improve our ability to assess the long-term benefits of restoration efforts, develop more effective restoration techniques, and communicate results to stakeholders and the public.

You are invited to participate in the workshop based on your knowledge and expertise in river assessment and restoration topics. The workshop will be held at the **University of Maine campus in Orono on June 20-21, 2006**. There will be a nominal registration fee to cover refreshments and administrative costs. Additional information regarding online registration and options for lodging will follow.

Please contact Lorraine Lessard at the Maine Coastal Program to confirm your availability for this workshop (lorraine.lessard@maine.gov or 207-287-1486) by **March 30th**. We look forward to your assistance to develop river monitoring standards for the Gulf of Maine.

If you have questions regarding this effort to develop river monitoring protocols, contact Jon Kachmar at jon.kachmar@maine.gov or 207-287-1913.

Sincerely,

Lee Swanson / John Catena
GOMC Habitat Restoration Subcommittee Co-chairs