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To: [Paye, Laura](#)
Subject: trip event on the West Branch on July 27
Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 5:50:36 PM

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Hi Laura,

I submitted the following as a e-comment to FERC. I'd like to make you aware of the event, too.

I live and work on the West Branch of the Penobscot River and on Monday afternoon, July 27th, at 4:30pm I looked out at the river and noticed the flow had drastically decreased. I came inside and looked at the Safe Waters website and saw a flow of 450 cfs. From previous incidents, I know this happens when Mckay Hydro Station loses power, resulting in the turbines to shut down. I walked the shore for about 20 minutes, also because in the past this trip event resulted in dead fish, and I saw 2 baby salmon on the rocks, with the river 15 feet away. Numerous crayfish and other bugs were crawling around on the rocks, too. I then got distracted by a report of a powerline that came down, so I went to investigate that further, and this resulted in needing to call the Maine Forest Rangers to report a small fire at the base of the powerline pole.

My husband and a friend were down river at Little A and found 39 baby fish that were deceased due to being stranded because of the low flow. This event warrants immediate action and investigation.

I live and work on this river for nearly 6 months of the year, and this type of trip event happens on an annual basis. These events result in significant stress on aquatic habitats throughout the West Branch; resulting in reduced available habitat, increased water temperature, decrease dissolved oxygen levels, and create detrimental conditions to fish and other aquatic species.

Action needs to take place to prevent this from happening in the future. Please ensure that river flows are maintained at levels sufficient to protect fish populations and aquatic habitat.

Thank you for your time,
Sarah Sindo