



Maine Stream Habitat Viewer

[FIN - An information sharing network for Maine forest landowners, fisheries agencies and NGO's](#)

The Issue:

Recent surveys indicate that about 45% of Maine's culvert crossings over streams are perched above the stream, blocked, or both. These conditions block or impair fish and wildlife passage and interfere with the transport of materials that create and sustain stream habitat, like sediment and woody debris. Some of the species blocked are those that have traditionally been prized as sportfish or commercially harvested by the people of Maine, like Atlantic salmon, eastern brook trout, river herring and sea-run rainbow smelt.

Up until recently it's been difficult for people in Maine to know which crossings are most likely to block important habitats. With limited budgets for upgrades, that made it difficult to know how best to invest in restoring fish and wildlife passage on streams.

The Stream Habitat Viewer:

The Maine Stream Connectivity Work Group recently announced the launch of the Maine Stream Habitat Viewer. The Connectivity Work Group is a partnership of state, federal, non-government, and industry organizations working to enhance Maine's stream restoration efforts. The Connectivity Work Group developed the Stream Habitat Viewer through the Maine Office of GIS. This online tool displays fish habitat and other stream features important to Maine's economy, ecology, and way of life. It also displays locations of dams and public road crossings surveyed to determine if they're likely to block the movements of fish and stream-dependent wildlife. The Viewer provides a starting point for private landowners, towns, and others to learn more about stream habitats across the state. For a link to the Stream Habitat Viewer, search for "stream habitat viewer home" in your internet browser or use the following link:

<http://mapserver.maine.gov/streamviewer/streamdocHome.html>

What it Does:

The Stream Habitat Viewer allows you to:

- Display habitats of conservation and restoration interest, like alewife, Atlantic salmon, sea-run rainbow smelt, wild eastern brook trout and tidal marshes statewide.
- Display locations and information about dams and surveyed public road crossings that are barriers.
- Click on habitats and barriers to learn about their characteristics.
- Ask queries based on the geographic area and habitats of your choosing.
- Contact experts for technical assistance and funding information.

For More Information:

If you'd like more information about how to use the Viewer, the Viewer project or the Connectivity Work Group contact Project Manager Slade Moore at smoore@bioconserve.net.

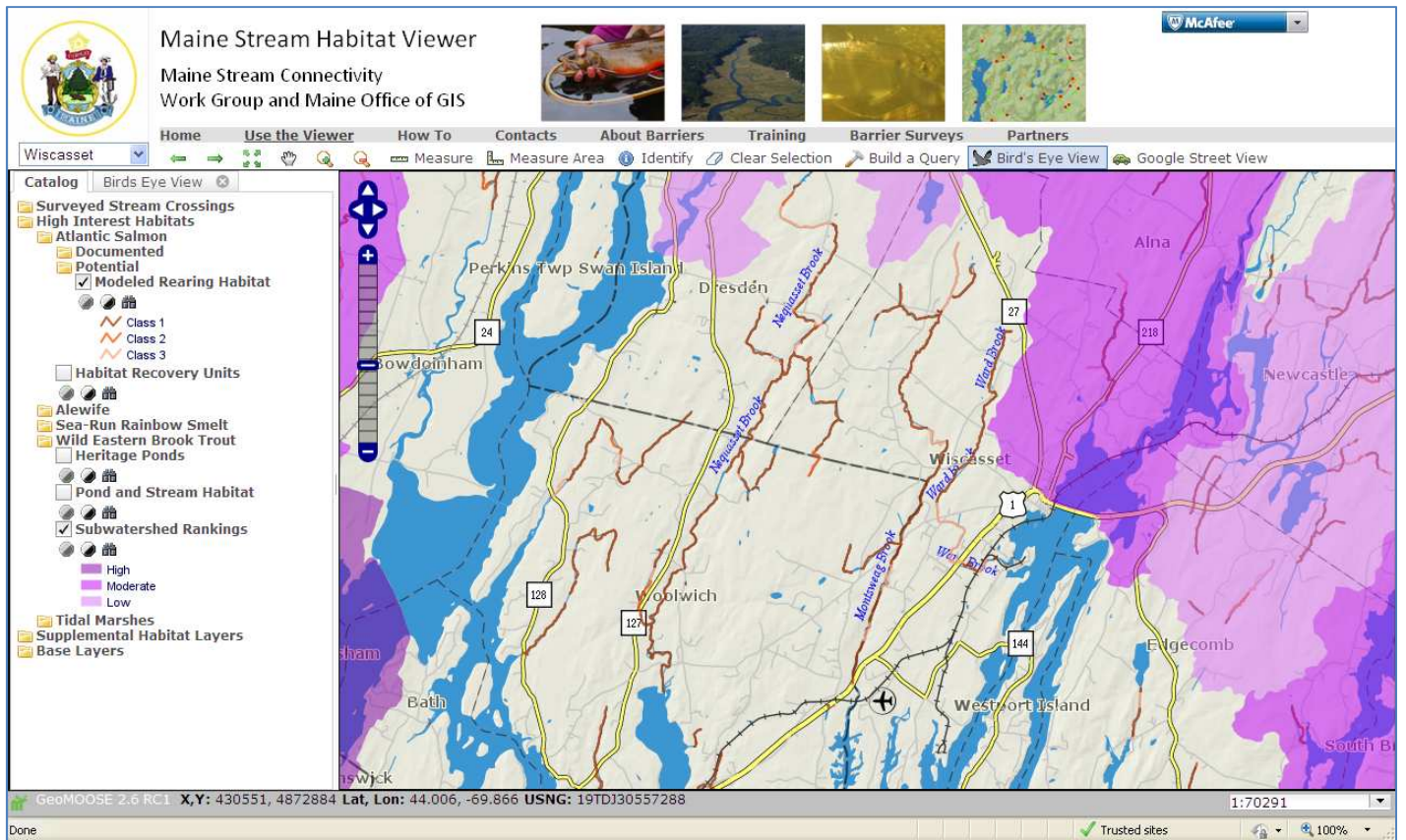


Figure 1 Screen shot of the stream habitat viewer display showing potential Atlantic salmon rearing habitat and brook trout watershed quality rankings in Midcoast Maine.

The Fisheries Improvement Network is a cooperative effort of the Maine Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Maine Forest Service, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Department of Marine Resources and the US Fish and Wildlife Service

