

# **Alewife Restoration Initiative celebration!**

## **Join us for the Ribbon-cutting Ceremony**

### **Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 2022**



This will be an outdoor event, rain or shine! You're welcome to arrive at 3:00 PM to check out the fishway and the alewife migration, and snap a selfie with the Happy Fish.

The ribbon cutting ceremony will start at 4:00 PM

**Welcome from Landis Hudson, Maine Rivers**  
**Mary Sabins, Vassalboro Town Manager**  
**Rick Jacobson, Assistant Regional Director for Fish and Aquatic Conservation in the**  
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Northeast Region**  
**Commissioner Patrick Keliher, Department of Marine Resources**  
**Ribbon cutting by Governor Janet T. Mills**

Thank you to our funders and supporters! Project partners include: China Lake Association, China Region Lakes Alliance, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Maine Rivers, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Sebasticook Regional Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy in Maine, and US Fish and Wildlife Service

Maine



Rivers

**Olde Mill Place, 934 Main Street, Vassalboro 04989**

Native alewives are returning to China Lake for the first time since at least 1783. Over the past five years, the China Lake Alewife Restoration Initiative has removed or built fishways at six dams on Outlet Stream in Vassalboro, reconnecting China Lake to the Sebasticook River and the ocean. Eventually the restored alewife run is expected to total close to a million returning adult alewives. Come join us as we celebrate this momentous return!

**FMI Landis Hudson, Maine Rivers: [landis@mainerivers.org](mailto:landis@mainerivers.org)**

**[www.mainerivers.org](http://www.mainerivers.org)**

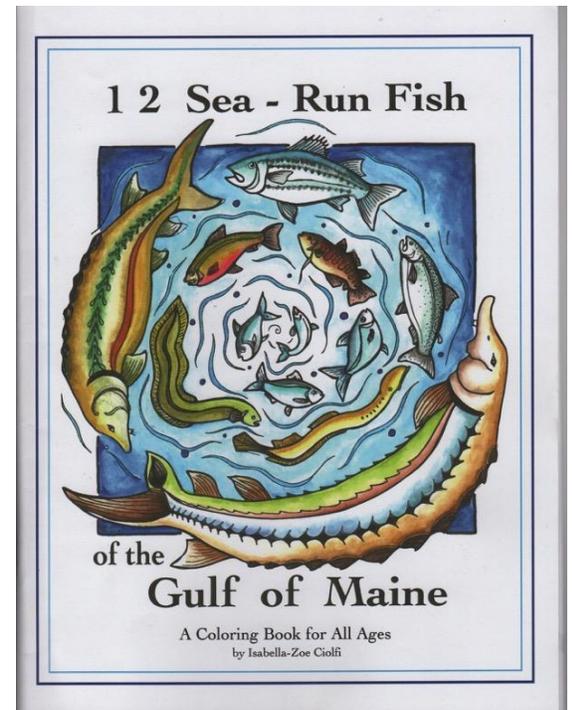
## About China Lake Alewife Restoration Initiative

On May 19 at 4:00 PM we'll salute the work, vision and partnerships that brought this complex project to the finish line. We're pleased to join with community members, partners and friends to celebrate. Our event will be held at the Box Mill fishway, next to the American Woolen Mill, Olde Mill Place, 934 Main Street, Vassalboro, ME. However, it's only one of six sites where we worked! We welcome you to take a short walk up to see the Ladd dam fishway. The site of the Masse dam removal and the new fishway at the China Lake Outlet are also worth a visit, a short drive away. Two others sites where dams were removed are on private property.

- A short walk upstream from the Box Mill fishway, the Ladd dam fishway was installed in 2019. The dam was kept in place because of the importance of the impoundment for swimming and recreation.

- Masse site: 373 Main Street, Vassalboro. The collapsing Masse sawmill was taken apart the year before the old dam was removed in 2016. After being inundated by a mill pond for centuries, the stream banks are lush with newly emerging life. We've been working to remove invasive plants and bring back native pollinators.

-New fishway at the China Lake Outlet dam: Located directly behind the Vassalboro Historical Society, 327 Main Street, East Vassalboro. Parking is easy here and you can see the last push that the fish make to get into the lake, but please do not climb onto the fishway or dam.



**“12 Sea-Run Fish of the Gulf of Maine” Bring home a copy of the gorgeous and new coloring book! Donations will be accepted on May 19<sup>th</sup> to benefit the “Save the Mill” fund to fix the mill roof that was severely damaged in 2016.**

Funding and support for the work at the six restoration sites came from many, many sources. In addition to the significant pro bono support and funding we received from our project partners, we received funding from the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, the Davis Conservation Foundation, Maine Community Foundation, Kennebec Water District, Kennebec Savings Bank, Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, two Anonymous Foundations, Town of Vassalboro, Town of China, Town of Benton, Patagonia, MNRCP, Sarah K. de Coizart Article TENTH Perpetual Charitable Trust as well and many generous individuals. We're grateful for your support!

**[www.mainerivers.org](http://www.mainerivers.org)**