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The hydroelectric dam on the Union River in Ellsworth, ME is currently open for public comment during the scheduled federal relicensing period. My comments are as follows:

Recent Union River fish kills can definitely be attributed to the dam and hydroelectric turbines. Science and technology have come a long way since the dam was built. There is no good reason why we shouldn't require installation of a state of the art fish elevator and/or adequate fish way to provide safe access of Atlantic salmon, herring, eels and other native fish to the river's upper reaches and tributaries for spawning, species survival, and recreation purposes. We can do better and create a healthy and more attractive river that provides an opportunity for recreational fishing and boating and more food for local offshore commercially harvested species.

Maine State Law (Laws of the State of Maine 1823) also requires a functioning fish way or passage around human built obstructions and dams on the Union River.

The Union River has been a productive breeding ground for native fish and a source of food to local inhabitants for thousands of years. It is short sighted to think that we must have a future where this is no longer possible.

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