

Jennifer Shack, Kennebunk, ME.

I am writing to urge FERC to deny Kennebunk Light and Power's request to surrender its three dams but keep them in place. My husband and I live on the Mousam, upriver from the Kessler Dam. We love the wildness that surrounds the river, but know that it's not healthy. Our section of river runs through woods, floodplain and a freshwater wetlands that should abound with waterfowl and wading birds. But year after year, we see very little life on the river. We would love to see the river returned to what it once was.

For a few years, I was a volunteer for the state's river monitoring program, sampling water upstream and downstream of the dams. In the summer, the impoundments behind the dams were too warm and at times too devoid of oxygen to support fish. My water sampling partner and I once met two anglers from Massachusetts trying their luck behind Twine Mill Dam. It's a peaceful place with access to the river, perfect for fishing. They told us that they'd been there for a couple of hours with no luck. We had to tell them they needed to go somewhere else – that site couldn't support fish because of the high temperature. It's likely that removing the dams will increase recreational fishing in a large swathe of the river

Below the Kessler Dam, the river is teeming with life. Bald eagles, osprey, herons and egrets are easy to spot. In May, the alewives bring a bounty to that part of the river that's awesome to experience. It would be wonderful to have them reach upstream, bringing the birds with them.

On a purely selfish level, removing the dams should narrow the river behind our home. This would likely improve the stability of our bank. We live on a high, steep bank that gets scoured from below when the river runs high, bringing down trees from time to time and eating into the bank. With a narrower river, that scouring should be less likely to occur, leading to less of a threat of erosion.

Please deny Kennebunk Light and Power's surrender application.

Thank you.