



Jared Golden
Congress of the United States
2nd District of Maine

September 7, 2022

Mr. Dan Tierney
Gulf of Maine Salmon Recovery Coordinator
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Mr. Matt Buyhoff
Merrymeeting Bay Salmon Recovery Coordinator
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mr. Tierney and Mr. Buyhoff:

I am writing regarding the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) ongoing formal consultation under the Endangered Species Act for the Shawmut Hydroelectric Project. Given the significance of the Shawmut Hydroelectric Project to my constituents, including the more than 700 workers employed at the Sappi Paper Mill in Skowhegan that would be impacted by the loss of the dam, I have been closely monitoring agency review for several months.

As you are aware, the extension of time granted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, dated August 8, 2022, allows NMFS to extend its review of the Shawmut Hydroelectric Project until October 13, 2022. While I appreciate the need for a thorough and comprehensive review, I am urging the completion of the formal consultation process without additional extension beyond the current period. The completion of formal consultation is especially urgent following the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Draft Order, issued July 29, 2022, denying the Shawmut Hydroelectric Project's application for Water Quality Certification because of your agency's requested extension of time and the potential "that the NMFS review could require changes to proposed fish passage measures." DEP suggests the updated timeline for NMFS' review will not allow issuance of a timely decision on certification prior to their one-year waiver deadline.

Because future DEP decision-making for the Shawmut Hydroelectric Project will be informed by federal agency action, prompt completion of NMFS' formal consultation is necessary to advance this process to final resolution and avoid continued uncertainty for the mill, its workers, and their families.

I appreciate your attention to this important matter, and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jared F. Golden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "G".

Jared Golden
Member of Congress