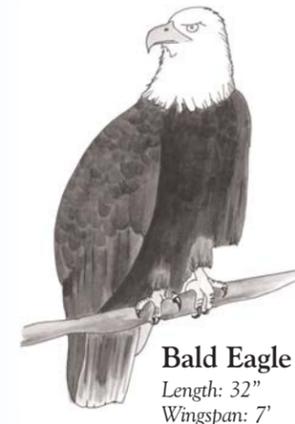
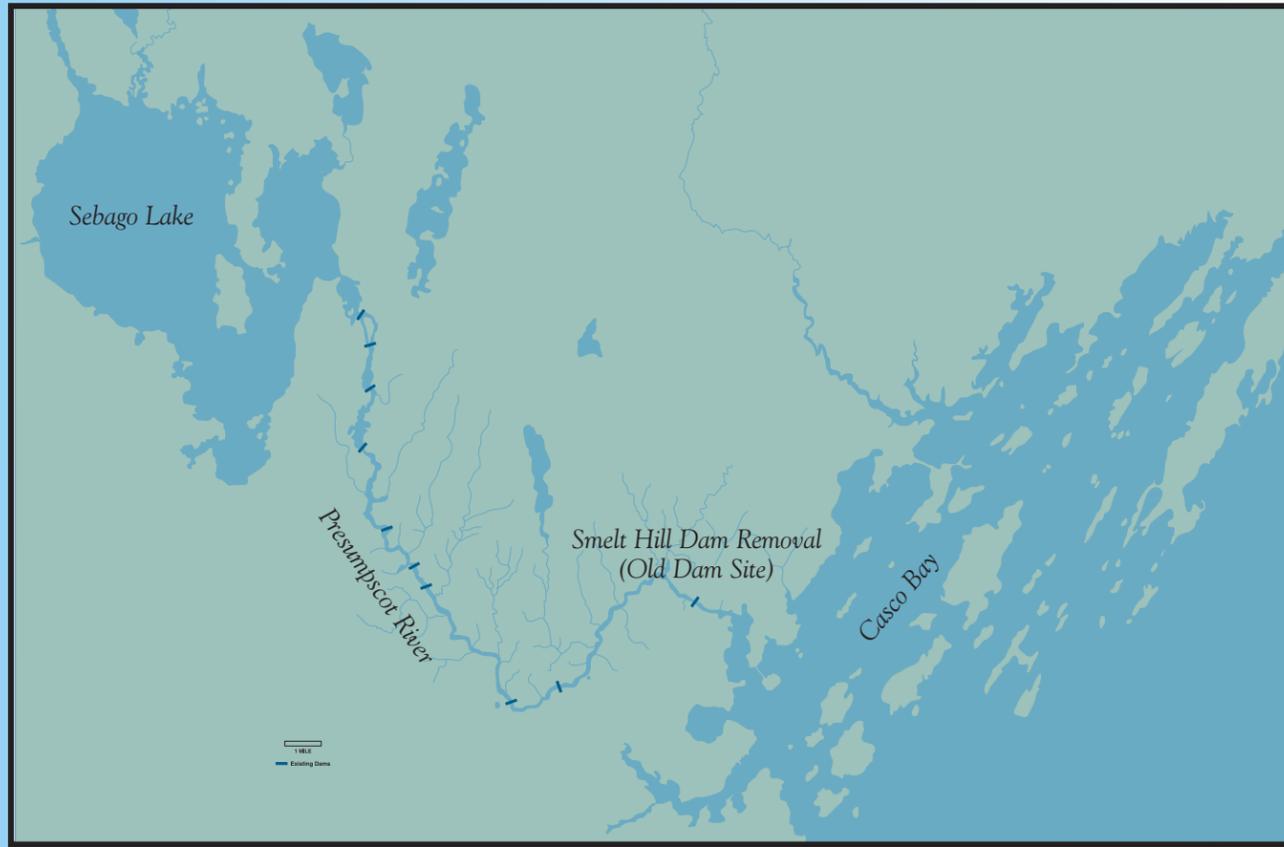
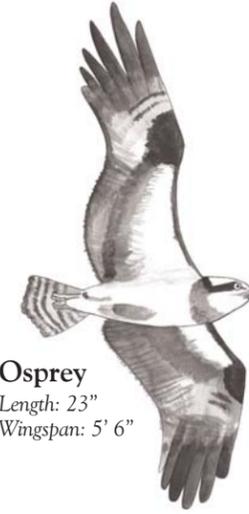


# Presumpscot: "River of Many Falls"

The Presumpscot River flows a distance of 25 miles from Sebago Lake to Casco Bay. Historically, the river provided critical habitat for diadromous (sea-run) fish such as shad, salmon, and alewife that utilized the river system for spawning purposes. The removal of the Smelt Hill Dam has allowed free-flowing water and access to riverine habitat for a distance of 7 miles upstream of the head of tide.



**Bald Eagle**  
Length: 32"  
Wingspan: 7'



**Osprey**  
Length: 23"  
Wingspan: 5' 6"



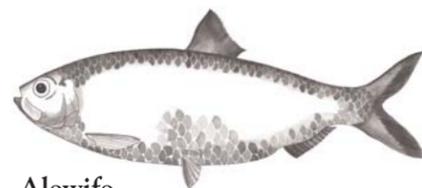
**Belted Kingfisher**  
Length: 13"  
Wingspan: 20"



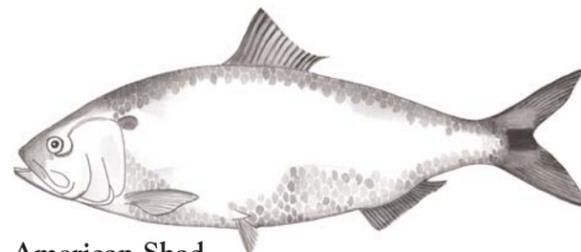
**Great Blue Heron**  
Length: 4'  
Wingspan: 6'



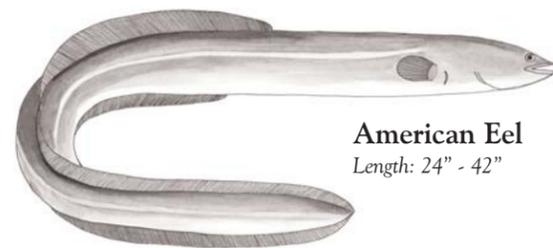
**Beaver**  
Length: 30"  
Height: 12"



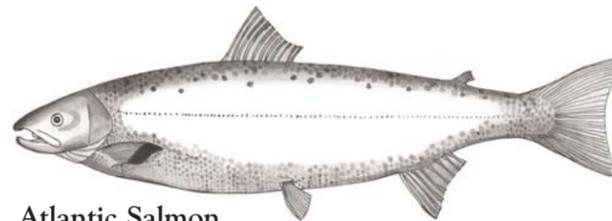
**Alewife**  
Length: 10" - 12"



**American Shad**  
Length: 20" - 23"



**American Eel**  
Length: 24" - 42"



**Atlantic Salmon**  
Length: 30"

## Smelt Hill Dam Site Then and Now...

The Smelt Hill Dam was located one half mile upstream of where you are standing until it was removed in 2002. The dam that was removed was 151 ft. long, 31 ft. wide and 15 ft. high. The original dam was constructed in 1734 to harness hydroelectric power from the Presumpscot River, being modified several times over the decades. However, the dam had been non-functioning since floods in 1996 damaged the structure beyond repair. The removal of the dam has once again allowed water to flow freely and revealed Presumpscot Falls, a natural ledge falls immediately upstream of the old dam.



Before dam removal



During dam removal

## Why dam removal?

Known Native American settlements in the vicinity of the dam site confirm that prior to the placement of the dam, this stretch of the Presumpscot River was productive fish habitat supplying a variety of fish species for local consumption. Removal of the dam, helps restore free-flowing conditions and the associated environmental benefits. Dams present obstacles to fish that move up and down the river either as residents or seasonally for spawning purposes. Additionally, unimpeded rivers allow sediment flow to occur at a natural rate based upon the constraints of the riverine system, which in turn can improve water quality and creates habitat for fish and other wildlife.



After dam removal

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Casco Bay Estuary Project · National Fish and Wildlife Foundation · National Marine Fisheries Service · U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service · Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Maine Department of Transportation · Town of Falmouth · Central Maine Power Company · Miller Friends of the Field · ACT Abatement · Costello Dismantling Company

Individuals:

Bob Patten, Karl Kelley, and David and Bunny Polanski