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September 16, 2010

Greg Burr
Regional Fishery Biologist
MDIFW
317 Whitneyville Rd
Jonesboro, ME 04648

Mr. Burr:

I am writing you in support of a project entitled '**Marshall Brook, ME Culvert Replacements: A NFHAP project for the EBTJV**'. By replacing both culverts on the East and West Branches of Marshall Brook in the Town of Southwest Harbor, we have the unique opportunity to return a coastal stream system to a natural flow regime from its headwaters to the estuary at Bass Harbor. Marshall Brook is a historical sea run brook trout stream and anglers continue to report catching 'salters' in Marshall Brook below the crossings identified in this project. By addressing the fish passage issues in this system, the local fishery should improve in both brook trout abundance and size quality. By returning this system to its natural flow regime, we should increase both habitat availability and overall quality for both resident and migratory trout that inhabit this system.

Small coastal streams, like Marshall Brook, are the primary habitat for Maine's sea run brook trout. I applaud cooperative efforts like this project that recognize the value of small 'gems' that are all too often overlooked in the efforts to restore diadromous species. Salter trout often prefer smaller scale systems that are generally not the focus of other coastal habitat conservation efforts. This project is certainly consistent with our goals for coastal brook trout conservation outlined in our Management Plan for Brook Trout and Maine's Goals for the EBTJV.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Bourque".

Peter Bourque
Director of Program Development
Division of Fisheries and Hatcheries



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