

Implementing Eco-Logical in a World of Schedules and Salmon

Judy Gates, Environmental Office



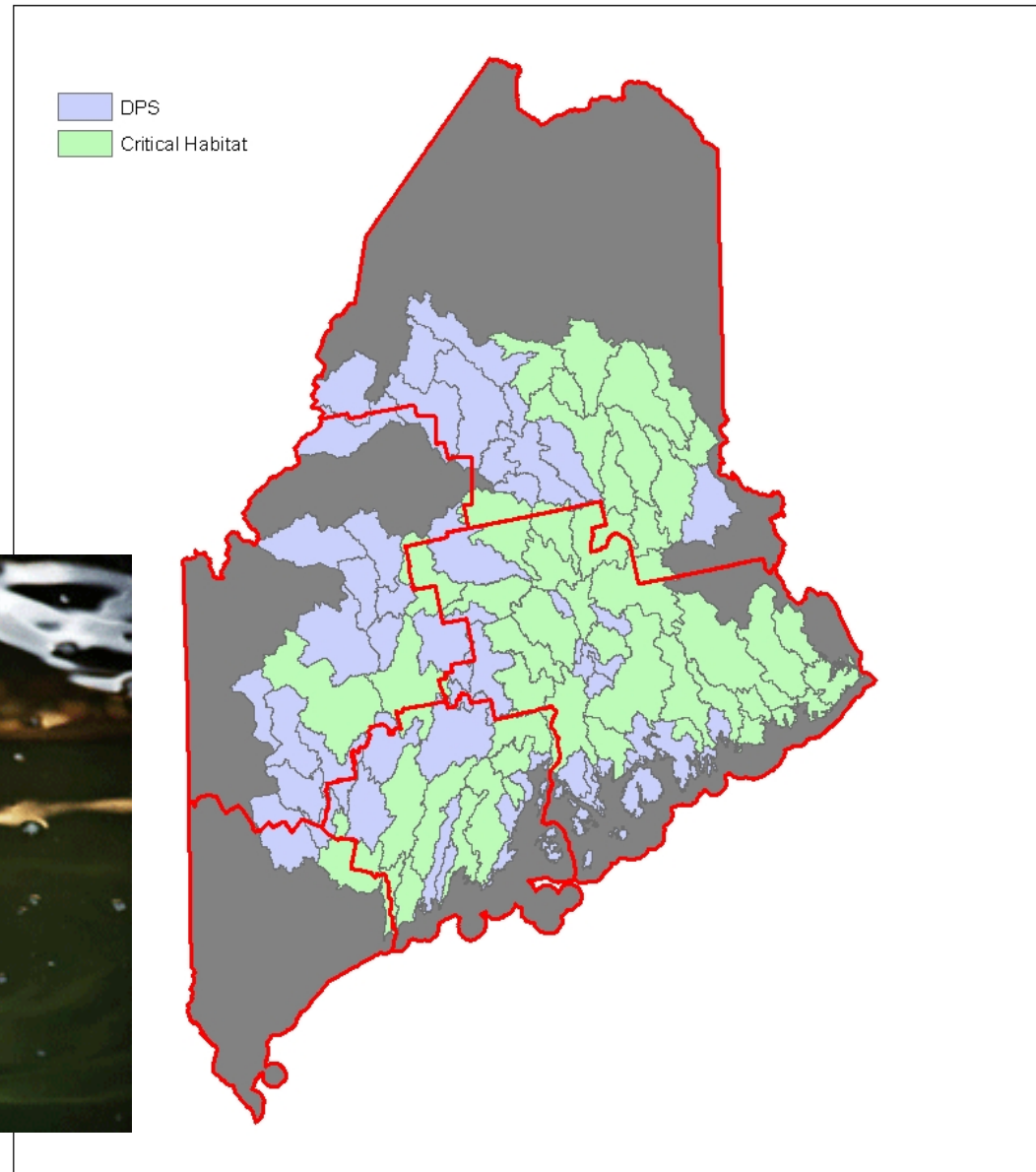
Integrity ~ Competence ~ Service



Atlantic salmon

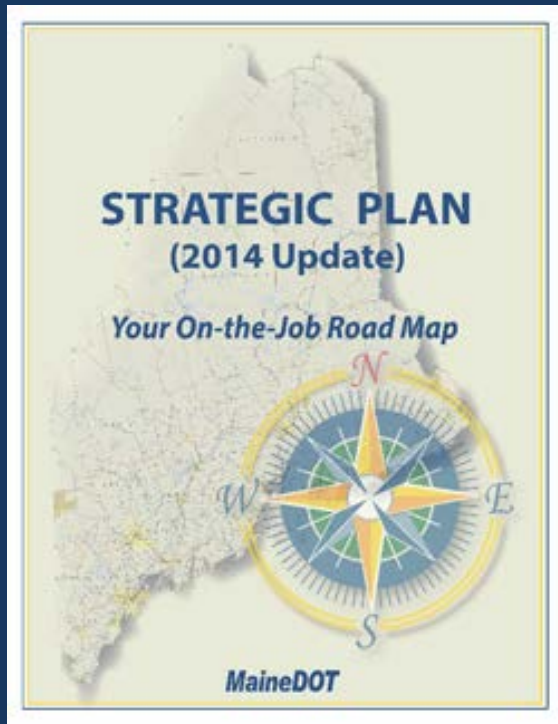


Atlantic Salmon DPS and Critical Habitat



0 12.5 25 50 75 100 Miles

The Facts...



- Schedule ($\geq 85\%$ on time) & budget ($\leq 20\%$ vs. award) are two of MaineDOT's "Capstone" performance measures.
- Approximately 25% of stream projects per work plan year (~50) require consultation for Atlantic salmon.
- Of those 50, about 10 require formal consultation.
- Section 7 is critical path on 100% of projects intersecting with Atlantic salmon.
- Expectations vary widely ; design & construction methods do not.
- ~98% of projects qualify for Categorical Exclusions
- Where salmon are an issue, 100% of projects have missed their original target date for completing consultation

More Fun Facts...



- Time estimated for completion of a Biological Opinion assumes ONE person working full time on ONE project
- Restoration priorities are hard to come by
- “Nimble” is not in the regulations
- No take of adult Atlantic salmon allowed
- Document requirements are fluid: if it looks like a BA and talks like a BA, do BA timeframes apply?
- Our performance measures bounce

АHHHHHH!!!!





Implementing Ecological Funding Assistance Program

\$250,000

18 months



By Julie Minamata



Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.

Henry Ford










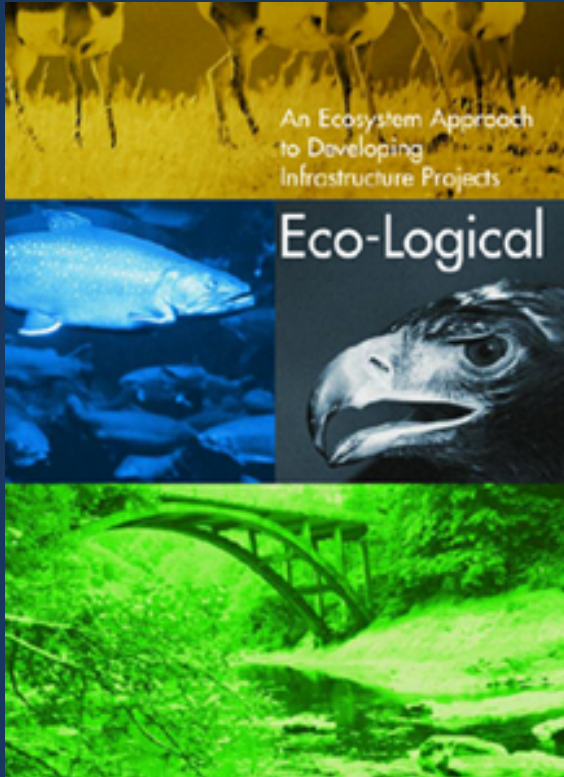
**If there is no struggle,
there is no progress.**

Frederick Douglass

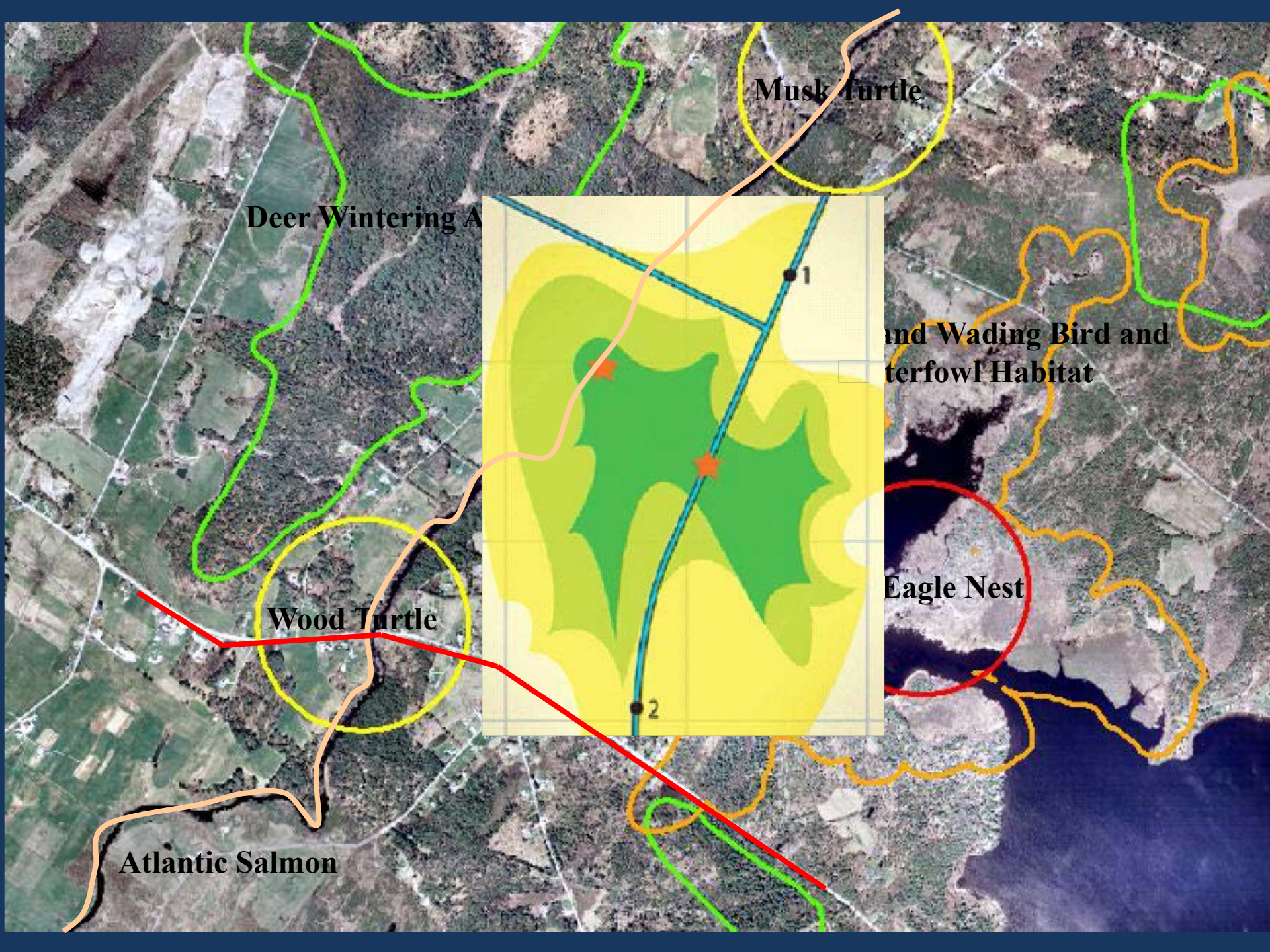


So how are we doing?

	Deliverable/Activity	Timeframe
	Gap analysis	June 2013 - Aug. 2013
	Draft modified IEF	Aug. 2013 - Sept. 2013
	Draft work flow map	Sept. 2013 - Oct. 2013
	Design and construction BMPs	July 2013 - Jan. 2014
	Programmatic Agreement	Jan. 2014 - Sept. 2014
	Draft ecosystem crediting strategy	Oct. 2013 - June 2014
	Final work flow map	Sept. 2014 - Dec. 2014
	Documented benefits/efficiencies	Sept. 2014 - Nov. 2014
	Implementation schedule for full work plan	Nov. 2014 - Dec. 2014



- 1. Build/strengthen collaborative partnerships**
- 2. Integrate natural resource, transportation, and land use plans**
- 3. Create a regional ecosystem framework**
- 4. Assess effects on conservation priorities**
- 5. Establish and prioritize ecological actions**
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- 8. Implement agreements and deliver projects**



Musk Turtle

Deer Wintering Area

**and Wading Bird and
Waterfowl Habitat**

Wood Turtle

Eagle Nest

Atlantic Salmon

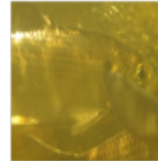


Maine Stream Habitat Viewer



Maine Stream Habitat Viewer

Maine Stream Connectivity
Work Group and Maine Office of GIS

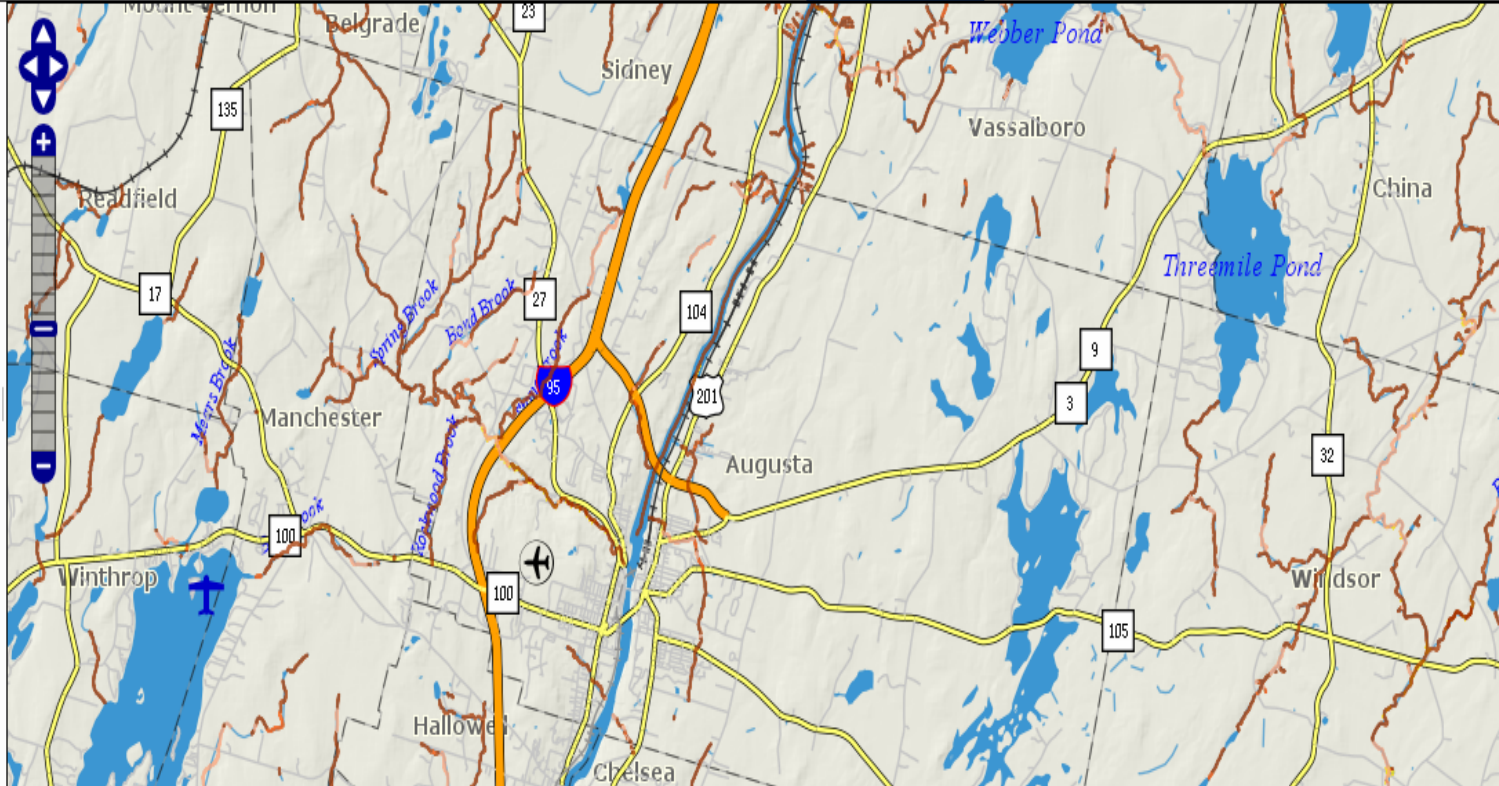


Home Use the Viewer How To Contacts About Barriers Training Barrier Surveys Partners

Augusta Measure Measure Area Identify Clear Selection Build a Query Bird's Eye View Google Street View

Catalog Birds Eye View

- Rearing
- Potential
 - Modeled Rearing Habitat
 - Class 1
 - Class 2
 - Class 3
- Habitat Recovery Units
- Alewife
- Sea-Run Rainbow Smelt
- Wild Eastern Brook Trout
- Tidal Marshes
- Supplemental Habitat Layers
- Base Layers
 - State and County Boundaries
 - State Lines
 - County Lines
 - Town Boundaries and Names
 - County Names
- Transportation
- Water Features
- Watersheds





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“Priority” Crossings

Maine Stream Habitat Viewer
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Augusta Measure Measure Area Identify Clear Selection Build a Query Bird's Eye View Google Street View

Catalog Birds Eye View

- Surveyed Stream Crossings**
 - Stream Crossings**
 - Barrier
 - Potential Barrier
 - No Barrier
 - Dams
 - Natural Barriers
 - Impassable Waterfalls
- High Interest Habitats**
 - Atlantic Salmon**
 - Documented**
 - Surveyed Spawning Habitat**
 - Limited Spawning
 - Spawning
 - Surveyed Rearing Habitat**
 - Rearing
 - Potential**
 - Modeled Rearing Habitat**

The map displays a network of streams and roads in the Augusta region. Key features include:

- Streams:** Meigs Brook, Spring Brook, Bold Brook, Rockwood Brook, and others.
- Lakes/Ponds:** Webber Pond, Threemile Pond.
- Cities/Towns:** Readfield, Manchester, Winthrop, Hallowell, Chelsea, Augusta, Sidney, Belgrade, Vassalboro, China, Windsor.
- Roads:** 135, 17, 100, 27, 95, 104, 201, 3, 105, 32.
- Map Indicators:** Red dots (Barriers), Orange dots (Potential Barriers), Green dots (No Barrier), Blue lines (Streams), Yellow lines (Roads).

Maine Conservation Priorities



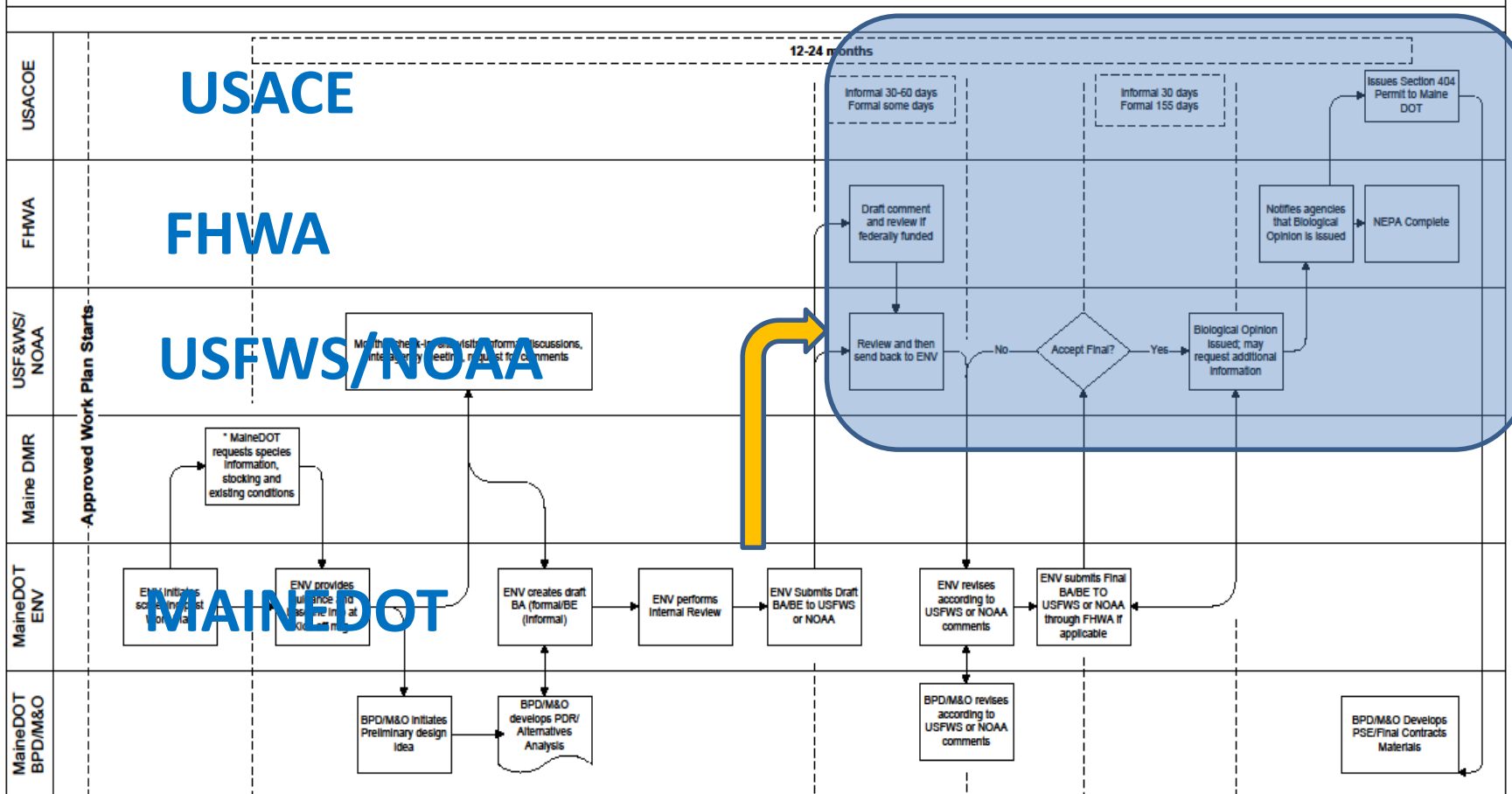


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Multi-agency Implementation for Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act – Current process



* Not regulatory at Federal level – advisory on local habitat, quality, presence of species, etc.



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Things we've learned from the wise (or not so wise) salmon...



- The stream less traveled is that way for a reason
- And we don't always get to know why
- Once you're in the turbulence, it's hard to see where you're going
- Some people focus on the lipstick, some focus on the pig
- Sometimes throwing money at a problem is helpful, if distasteful
- Even a village can get discouraged
- A step in any direction is progress