



## MariCal works to save endangered Maine salmon

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On Wednesday, 25,000 young salmon that were raised using MariCal's patented fish-rearing method were released into the Pleasant River in Milo, Maine. The release marked the second group of Atlantic salmon exposed to the MariCal process and released into the Penobscot tributary. The first release occurred in May, 2003.

While hundreds of thousands of salmon once returned to New England rivers, overfishing, pollution and dams have reduced the annual return of salmon to Maine rivers to fewer than 1,000.

In hopes of restoring the fish to Maine rivers, federal hatcheries release over 4 million young salmon in Maine every year.

MariCal's technology, which has been used successfully in the salmon farming industry to improve the survival rates of young salmon as they are transferred from freshwater hatcheries to ocean growout pens, is designed to improve the fish's ability to make the successful transition to saltwater, the company said in a press statement.

Tim Linley, MariCal's research scientist overseeing the project with the USF&W Service, observed that initial results from last year's release showed that the salmon reared under the MariCal method, "migrated downstream more rapidly and were recaptured in higher numbers in Penobscot Bay" than fish not exposed to the process. "While the proof of the effectiveness of our technology will be gauged when mature fish from the first group return to spawn in the fall of 2005, we are encouraged by what we have seen so far," said Linley.

But potential budget cuts at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service could cut short the research. Draft budget reductions have the potential to cause a 50 percent reduction of future salmon releases.

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