



SuperSmolt used in wild Atlantic salmon recovery

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Editorial .com Seattle (WA), USA: A compound used to promote salmon aquaculture growth is being used to help wild Atlantic runs recover in Maine.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries division and the Atlantic Salmon Commission are experimenting with the use of SuperSmolt technology on wild Atlantic salmon juveniles to aid in recovery efforts.

SuperSmolt, produced by MariCal, a compound made up of select minerals found in sea water and an amino acid, has been used successfully in salmon aquaculture to improve growth rates. The compound is added to the feed and water of juvenile salmon to create optimum nutritional and aquatic conditions that expedite the salmon's smoltification process.

Twenty-five thousand wild Atlantic salmon reared with the SuperSmolt process were released into the Pleasant River in Milo, Maine yesterday.

Researchers hope the process can improve returns and survival rates of the salmon.

Atlantic salmon are extinct, endangered or threatened in many parts of North America and the world. Stocks are particularly threatened in Maine, where only eight rivers currently host wild populations.

MariCal is a privately-held company headquartered in Portland, Maine.

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