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Environmental group: Hundreds of fish killed in Androscoggin

The Associated Press



DEAD ALEWIVES discovered near the dam on the Androscoggin River in Brunswick, as seen last week. ED FRIEDMAN / FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY BRUNSWICK

A hydro power dam on the Androscoggin River in Brunswick is altering its schedule following reports of a fish kill.

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay says the “massive” fish kill constitutes a federal violation. The environmental group says it documented hundreds of dead alewives last weekend.

Brookfield Energy, operator of the dam, said it notified the state on Monday and altered its hours of operation for the turbines. It said it had not noticed any further dead fish on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Maine Department of Marine Resources says it’s not 100 percent sure who’s responsible.

The agency notes says it also observed a large fish kill a few days ago upstream the dam, meaning the fish could’ve been killed by another dam, not the one operated by Brookfield.