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# Maine conservation groups want salmon listed endangered species list

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by Associated Press

Tuesday, June 2nd 2020

Atlantic salmon leaping on waterfall on route to spawning grounds (Getty Images)

MACHIAS, Maine (AP) - A coalition of Maine conservation groups is calling on the state to add the Atlantic salmon to its list of endangered species.

Maine's rivers were once full of the salmon, but their population was decimated by overfishing, damming and environmental factors.

They return only to a few rivers and are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The environmental groups, including Downeast Salmon Federation, the Maine chapter of the Native Fish Coalition, Friends of Merrymeeting Bay and several others, sent their request to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife on Monday.