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Subject: Trip event disaster on WB Penobscot
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Trip event 7-27-26. At 430 pm staff at big eddy campground noticed the river dropped to about 400 cfs and noticed that smoke was rising from the troublemaker rapid area. Todd Mercer and others present at big eddy responded with water backpacks and were able to hold the fire from spreading, until the forest service arrived. Todd and crew confirmed a broken cross arm on a power pole had broken and caused a forest fire.

Noah Duncan and myself hit the river right side at Little Ambajack rapid. What we found was extremely sad and triggering. Pictured below are 39 dead baby fish. We saved just as many when we first arrived cause they were still alive and kicking or stranded in tiny pockets of water.

Brookfield needs to be held accountable, and as a stakeholder group, we must prevent this from happening in the future, events due to power line malfunctions like this are almost an annual occurrence and are preventable. The photo below only represents 100 yards of river bank that we searched for about 1.5 hours with 2 people.

To me this is more important than any recreation site upgrades, lake levels, boating/rafting releases, model runs etc etc. I believe this is the solid evidence we need to hold GLHA accountable.

Thanks for reading

Chris Howe

