



“Fishing for Innovation in the Natural Sciences”

Biography: Dr. Gayle Zydlewski, University of Maine

Dr. Gayle Zydlewski is an Associate Professor in the School of Marine Sciences at the University of Maine. She is the project leader of the Fish Assessment Study Team of the Maine Tidal Power Initiative and Maine’s Sustainability Solutions Initiative. For the last 20 years she has been studying how fish interact with their environment. For example, how they prepare for the challenge of moving from freshwater to saltwater. Most recently she has been studying how humans change the environments of fish, putting up or removing obstacles (for example dams), complicating their ability to interpret where they are or how they should react to enable their existence. Results from her research are used by natural resource managers to make decisions associated with environmental impacts on natural (or artificially-enhanced) populations of fishes. Striking a balance between our needs and theirs is one of Dr. Zydlewski’s passions.