

# The Catch

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## Impassable Dream (Surry, Maine)

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**Impassable Dream  
(Surry, Maine)**

This isn't love.

Desire, perhaps, alewives  
pushing against fresh water,

high tide lapping ledge  
at the mouth of Patten Stream;

we follow the tiny sails  
of dorsal fins inland,

tacking around mossy boulders  
to where alewives flip

into the froth of falls  
underneath Route 172,

the bridge impassable,  
the silver flash of struggle

wishful, like shiny quarters  
flicked into fountains.

Leaving the sadness we envy  
the lives of spent mayflies

drifting downstream towards granite  
cubes at the Union River wharf,

two harbor seals circling,  
blinking, whiskers twitching,

wondering why we visit  
romantic spots and don't speak,

language out with the ebbing tide.