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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.