



Restoring Migratory Fish Passage



Save the Sound's Gwen Macdonald explains how redesigning a culvert underneath I-95 in Stamford, CT has allowed fish to swim up the Noroton River for the first time since the highway was built 60 years ago.

REMOVING BARRIERS TO BRING BACK MIGRATORY FISH

Since colonial times, fish passing through the Sound have been blocked from their upstream habitats due to barriers such as dams and culverts. LISS helps to restore fish passage by supporting state and local efforts to remove dams, build fishways, and reconstruct impassable or undersized culverts. Once the barriers are removed, migratory fish such as river herring and American eel can return to their historic river habitats.

Program Achievements:

- ▶ Since 2014, reconnected 111 stream miles, 56% toward a 2035 goal to restore 200 miles for fish to swim upstream.
- ▶ Since 1998, reconnected 419 stream miles for fish passage.
- ▶ Provide technical support and grant assistance for fishway and dam removal projects.
- ▶ LISS staff works with volunteers to monitor the populations of river herring in New York rivers. Data is used to plan for future fish passage projects.

THE LONG ISLAND SOUND STUDY (LISS), through its partners, is working on restoring habitats that: help provide food and shelter for wildlife; protect our shorelines as a buffer to stormy seas and sea level rise; and ensure clean waters in our bays and harbors and Long Island Sound by filtering pollution.

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SPOTLIGHT: JEREMY RIVER PAPER MILL DAM REMOVAL

A privately-owned dam that once powered a paper mill was removed from the Jeremy River in Connecticut – and for the first time in over 300 years, migratory species of fish including Atlantic salmon, sea lamprey, and eastern brook trout are able to reach their historic spawning areas.

The 1.5-acre former mill property, including the dam, was sold to the Town of Colchester by a local family for a dollar. Since the building was already partially collapsed, the Town was awarded \$860,000 in state grants to demolish the structure, clean up the site, and convert the area to a riverfront park. The dam removal, which took place in 2016, was led by The Nature Conservancy, in consultation with the Connecticut



A dam no longer in use and former paper mill were removed. The restored stream bed has now opened up 17 miles of fish migratory habitat.

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. It received financial support from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Long Island Sound Futures Fund, a grant program that receives technical and financial support from LISS.

Now that the dam has been demolished, 17 stream miles in the Jeremy River, Meadow Brook, and other tributaries have been reconnected to the Salmon and Connecticut Rivers – opening up nearly the entire watershed to the Sound. But there are still many more dams in existence that prevent the passage of fish from reaching their historic spawning

areas, sometimes many miles upstream. It is estimated that there are between 4,000 and 5,000 dams in Connecticut alone, and the upper end of this range would translate to about one dam per square mile.

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2019 RESTORATION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Dolan Pond Fishway
Essex, CT
- ▶ Mill Pond Dam Fishway
Essex, CT
- ▶ Kensington Dam Fishway
Berlin, CT

CONNECT WITH US

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Updated: April 8, 2020