



ON-THE-GROUND PROJECTS

Spotlight on Oyster Reef and Estuarine Shoreline Restoration,
Bogue Sound, Newport, North Carolina

Project Partners

North Carolina
Coastal Federation

Camp Albemarle

Marine Corps
Camp Lejeune

US Fish and Wildlife
Service

Atlantic Coastal Fish
Habitat Partnership

The Head Tide and Coopers Mills dams supported numerous mills on the Sheepscot River, Lincoln County, Maine, from the early 1800s to 1940, and were instrumental in the settling of the Sheepscot Valley region. Currently, the Sheepscot River is the southernmost river supporting wild Atlantic salmon. It was designated critical habitat in 2009, with dams as the greatest threat to the continued existence of the species according to both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's draft recovery plan and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Species in the Spotlight Initiative.

The Atlantic Salmon Federation is working with partners to reconnect 71 miles on the river through the removal of the Coopers Mill Dam and partial removal of the Head Tide Dam. The project includes public safety, historic preservation, and increased recreational opportunities for the local communities.

Aerial view of the project location

As the two remaining mainstem dams on the Sheepscot River, the Coopers Mill and Head Tide dams are the sole barriers between salmon, alewives, blueback herring, American shad, and other migratory species and their spawning habitat. The Coopers Mill Dam will be removed and three new dry hydrants will be constructed to replace the loss of fire protection water from the impoundment. At the Head Tide Dam, a 23 foot section of the dam will be removed along with a concrete sill and ledge. A new viewing platform and canoe portage trail with safety railing will be constructed at each site along with historic interpretive signage.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership with conservation dollars to partially fund the design finalization and deconstruction and removal of the dams. Pre- and post-project monitoring will take place over a three year period to quantify fish presence, passability, and performance of the dry hydrants.



Project text and photos provided by the North Carolina Coastal Federation.

For more information on the Partnership visit us at: www.atlanticfishhabitat.org