



# ON-THE-GROUND PROJECTS

## Spotlight on Renewing Diadromous Fish Passage in Patten Stream

### Project Partners

Town of Surry

Blue Hill Heritage  
Trust

Maine  
Department of  
Transportation

Maine Coastal  
Program

Maine  
Department of  
Natural Resources

National Oceanic  
and Atmospheric  
Administration

Gulf of Maine  
Council

US Fish and Wildlife  
Service

Atlantic Coastal Fish  
Habitat Partnership

The Upper Patten Stream Watershed, located in Surry, Maine, historically supported a thriving commercial alewife fishery and was frequented by many diadromous fish species. While many factors have led to the decline of these populations, the physical barrier of the Route 172 road crossing has had a significant influence on fish movement in the area. Route 172 is the sole barrier between Patten Bay and the upper drainage and is located just upstream of tidewater. The crossing is only slightly undersized, but covers a channel in the bedrock that was historically used for migrations. As a result, Patten Stream's alewife are nearly extirpated, surviving mainly due to volunteers who carry fish over the barriers in nets so they may reach spawning habitat.



The Route 172 barrier on Patten Stream (facing upstream), with temporary fish ladder in place.

This project will restore access to 20 stream miles and 1,200 alewife spawning acres in Patten Stream through the installation

of a nature-like rock weir fishway. The spacing, orientation, elevations, and overall configuration of the rock weirs are designed to adequately dissipate energy associated with higher flows that maybe become more common with shifting climatic conditions. Primary and secondary notches are provided to facilitate passage under a range of flows, and the modular design of the weirs facilitates cost-effective adjustments in notch elevation if warranted.

Species such as blueback herring, American eel, sea run brook trout, and endangered Atlantic salmon will also benefit from this project, able to use the fishway to move up and downstream freely.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has provided the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership with conservation dollars to fund numerous components of the project, including supplies for construction materials, labor, and onsite engineering. Community events, school trips, and a volunteer alewife monitoring program are all planned during the course of this project as well.



Project text provided by the Town of Surry.

For more information on the Partnership visit us at: [www.atlanticfishhabitat.org](http://www.atlanticfishhabitat.org)