



ON-THE-GROUND PROJECTS

Spotlight on The Sheepscot River Barrier Removal, Whitefield and Alna, Maine

Project Partners

Atlantic Salmon Federation

Maine DMR/DEP

Farnsworth Foundation

NOAA Fisheries

Midcoast Conservancy

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Elmina B. Sewall Foundation

Davis Conservation Fund

The Nature Conservancy

Patagonia

Horizon Foundation

Trout and Salmon Federation

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 Mills Dam and partial removal of the Head Tide Dam. The project includes public safety, historic preservation, and increased recreational opportunities for the local communities.



Coopers Mills Dam, Sheepscot River

As the two remaining mainstem dams on the Sheepscot River, the Coopers Mills 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 Mills 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 Atlantic Salmon Federation.

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