



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Connecticut River Fisheries Program

Restoring Migratory Fish and Aquatic Habitat

Mission

Conserve, manage and restore Atlantic salmon, American shad and other migratory fish and their habitats in partnership with the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission and consistent with the USFWS mission.

Program Established: 1967

Stations & Contacts Within the Program

Connecticut River Coordinator's Office (Janice Rowan, Project Leader) – 2 FT employees

Sunderland Fishery Resources Office (Janice Rowan, Acting Project Leader) – 1 FT employee

Richard Cronin National Salmon Station (Mickey Novak, Hatchery Manager) – 1 FT employee & 1 FT Temporary

(All three in Sunderland, MA)

North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery, North Attleboro, MA (Larry Lofton, Hatchery Manager) – 4 FT employees

Pittsford National Fish Hatchery, North Chittenden, VT (Steve Jackson, Hatchery Manager) – 4 FT employees

White River National Fish Hatchery, Bethel, VT (Ken Gillette, Hatchery Manager) – 5 FT employees

Public Use

- Hatchery Tours
- Education Programs
- Special Needs Fishing Events
- Atlantic Salmon Brood Stock Fisheries
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Wildlife Viewing Opportunities



Connecticut River Coordinator's Office

- Coordinate interstate, multi-agency restoration program
- Conduct habitat restoration projects with partners

Sunderland Fishery Resources Office

- Release Atlantic salmon fry and smolts
- Evaluate fishery populations with basin partners
- Restore American eel, shad and herring runs

Richard Cronin National Salmon Station

- Capture, hold & spawn wild adult Atlantic salmon

North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery

- Recondition wild adult salmon for egg production

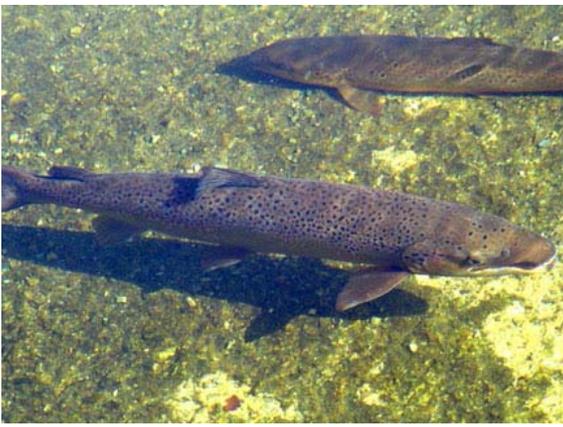
Pittsford National Fish Hatchery

- Produce Atlantic salmon smolts & fry for release

White River National Fish Hatchery

- Manage Atlantic salmon genetics program with partners
- Produce domestic brood stock & fry for release

2003 Accomplishments



- Removed the Silk Mill dam in Becket, Massachusetts benefiting salmon & resident trout
- Constructed two eelways in Connecticut
- Transferred blueback herring to vacant habitat in the Ashuelot River, New Hampshire

Challenges

- **Low adult Atlantic salmon returns**
- **Fish passage bottleneck for American shad at Turners Falls dam**
- **Declining blueback herring returns & increased striper returns**
- **Unanswered research questions**
- **Declining budgets**



- Assessed basin striper population with partners
- Produced and released over 7 million Atlantic salmon fry with partners
- Co-sponsored educational programs that reached over 2,500 students in over 100 schools in the basin
- Conducted 33 fishing events for over 1,000 veterans and special needs anglers

Future Plans

- Review the program for efficiency & effectiveness and make needed adjustments
- Address habitat restoration issues
- Modify hatcheries to meet new needs in conservation
- Conduct research to answer questions about declining migratory fish returns

