

Be a Friend to the River Come Stock a Salmon

You can help restore Atlantic salmon!

Each spring, hundreds of volunteers stock salmon fry throughout the Connecticut River basin. Stocking involves walking streams and releasing salmon fry as you go. It is not difficult, but it is not like walking on a path, either.

What's the best nursery habitat?

Look for fast-moving, ankle to knee-deep water with rocks the size of golf balls to grapefruits (not pools, fast rapids, or large areas of sand, silt, vegetation, or bedrock). Slowly pour out some fish, then gently add fresh water to the fish in the bucket. Your fry should swim right to the bottom.

What happens to the fry?

Soon the salmon will start to move about and look for food. In about 2 years (6" long), they migrate to the ocean. After 2 years at sea, the salmon return to the Connecticut River as adults. Most adults are trapped at dams and manually spawned to ensure successful reproduction. The eggs are carefully incubated at hatcheries, until they hatch in the early spring. Then they are stocked as fry into streams.

To volunteer, contact:

- CT: Steve Gephard, (860) 434-6043
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- MA: Caleb Slater, (508) 792-7270
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- NH: Gabe Gries, (603) 352-9669
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