

Lake Champlain Aquatic Habitat Connectivity

Fish Passage in the Lewis Creek Watershed

Scotts Pond Dam, Lewis Creek, Charlotte, Vermont
Longitude: -73.10381 Latitude: 44.16433



Before



After

Left: Scotts Pond Dam before. Right: After new plunge pool installed.

Site description: Lewis Creek has been recognized by Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Service as a potential salmonid fishery. Salmon have been stocked in the cool headwater reaches and preliminary results indicate that these fish are successfully smolting and leaving the system. However, spawning fish cannot access the prime nursery locations.

Problems / history: A self-sustaining salmonid fishery in Lewis Creek is not currently possible because of a barrier developed to limit the access of sea lamprey. A fish by-pass was developed at this structure for steelhead runs. However, the lower fall flows will not accommodate salmon spawning without modifications to the existing structure.

Objective and Method: The objective was to modify the existing fish by-pass to accommodate landlocked Atlantic salmon fall spawning runs to create a self-sustaining river fishery. The method was to modify the plunge pool and attraction waters to provide passage for spawning runs of landlocked Atlantic salmon.

Partners and Funding: Funding and support for this project came from the Friends of the Town of Pittsford, VT ANR and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

| <u>Cost:</u> | <u>USFWS</u> | <u>TU</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | \$55,000 | (IK-\$5,000) | \$60,000 |