

FY06 PFW Program Notable Accomplishment – New England Field Office

State: Rhode Island – Technical Assistance

Name: Pawcatuck Fish Passage

Location: Washington County, Rhode Island

Service Point-of-Contact: Melissa Grader
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HabITS number(s): 40038

Project Narrative: The Service is assisting the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association and other partners (the National Marine Fisheries Service, Town of Richmond, Town of Charlestown, Narragansett Bay Program, and Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management) in implementing fish passage at three barriers on the Pawcatuck River to restore access to spawning and rearing habitat for migratory fishes. A Feasibility Study is currently underway to evaluate a number of alternatives, including dam removal and constructed fishways, for providing fish passage at the lower Shannock, Upper Shannock, and Kenyon dams. As part of this effort, the Service collected sediment samples for a screening-level analysis of possible contaminants in the substrate of two impoundments on the river. Results from the sediment analysis, which is being funded through the Service's Contaminants Program, will be used in the Feasibility Study that is underway to identify appropriate fish passage measures at each barrier. The ultimate goal of the project is to restore access to over 1200 acres of spawning and/or rearing habitat for American eel, American shad, and river herring.

Restoration Technique: Dam Removal, Fish Passage Structures, Sediment Testing, Stream Channel Restoration, Education and Outreach, Partnership Development

Project Size: Fish Passage Restoration: 1200 acres

Project Benefits: The ultimate goal of the project is to restore access to over 1200 acres of spawning and/or rearing habitat for American eel, American shad, and river herring. The project also will contribute to interagency efforts to restore diadromous fish (American shad, river herring, and American eels) to the Wood-Pawcatuck watershed. Community involvement in the project is significant with participation by local watershed associations and sportsmen's groups.

Timeframe: August, 2006 – October, 2008