



NEW JERSEY FIELD OFFICE

FIELD NOTES

JULY 2016



Oyster Reef Building Effort

By Katie Conrad

On July 14, ten high school interns from The Nature Conservancy's LEAF (Leaders in Environmental Action for the Future) assisted The Nature Conservancy and USFWS in placing shellbags on a barge while enduring a heat index of 106 and an onslaught of greenhead flies. The barge will bring the bags to the Gandy's Beach Living Shoreline Restoration Project Site. The following day, the interns helped construct oyster reefs with the shellbags. Three cheers for their effort! Congressional District 2.



Photo by Katie Conrad, USFWS



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Strategic Conservation, Aquatic Connectivity, and NRDAR – Hughesville Dam Removal *By Cathy Marion & Katie Conrad*

Federal, State, and NGO partners celebrate the deconstruction of the Hughesville Dam on the Musconetcong River, a National Wild and Scenic River and a tributary of the Delaware River in northwestern New Jersey. Dredging began on June 30th, which is necessary to remove the sediment that has accumulated behind the dam so that water quality downstream is not impaired after removal. The dam is located 3.5 miles upstream of the confluence with the Delaware River, and its removal will permanently open up 9 river miles of fluvial aquatic and spawning habitat for diadromous (American eel, American shad, alewife, blueback herring) and resident fishes, as well as reduce flooding on surrounding properties during major storms. Primary funding for this dam removal was provided by the Combe Fill South Landfill Superfund Site NRDAR settlement as administered by USFWS and NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), and USFWS Hurricane Sandy Recovery Funds. Project partners included the Musconetcong Watershed Association (lead NGO), American Rivers, Trout Unlimited, USFWS, and NJDEP. Congressional Districts 5 and 7.



Hughesville Dam prior to deconstruction, Musconetcong River, NJ. Photo by Cathy Marion, USFWS.



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Dredge removing sediment in front of the dam. Behind the dredge is the Warren Mill, which was powered by the next impediment to fish passage upstream, the Warren Mill Dam. Photo by Katie Conrad, USFWS.