



NEW JERSEY FIELD OFFICE

FIELD NOTES

OCTOBER

2016



Fish Monitoring Prior to the Proposed Removal of the Weston Causeway Dam By Cathy Marion

NJFO staff are working with the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife (NJDFW) to monitor fish and stream habitat conditions before and after the proposed removal of the Weston Causeway Dam, located on the Millstone River, New Jersey. The Weston Causeway Dam is located 1.5 miles upstream of the confluence with the Raritan River. Dam removal is expected to facilitate passage of diadromous fishes that migrate through the lower Raritan River into smaller tributary rivers to spawn. The NJFO and the NJDFW plan to monitor the river for four years in order to quantify changes in fish assemblages and habitat associated with dam removal. Congressional District 12. Photo by Cathy Marion, USFWS.





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Horseshoe Crab Management **By Wendy Walsh**

On October 5, NJFO staff attended the horseshoe crab technical committee's (TC) meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). The TC recommended the 2017 horseshoe crab bait harvest quota in accordance with the Adaptive Resource Management (ARM) Framework. The ARM was developed by ASMFC, the Service, and other partners to link crab harvest with red knot populations using scientific modeling. The ARM has been used to set bait harvest quotas since 2013. The TC are now working to adjusting the ARM to include biomedical harvest – as well as bait harvest – and also supporting field testing of artificial bait to reduce demand for horseshoe crabs as bait. Federally listed red knots rely on superabundant horseshoe crab eggs as food during their key stopover in Delaware Bay each spring. Congressional District 2. Photo by Greg Breese, USFWS.





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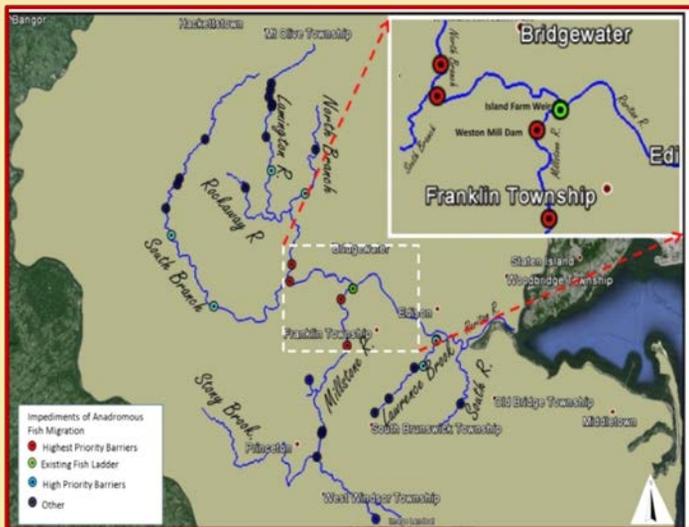
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Lodging of a Consent Decree for Recovery of Natural Resource Damages By Melissa Foster

The Environmental Response and Restoration Staff of the NJFO announce the October 17, 2016 lodging of a Consent Decree for recovery of natural resource damages resulting from releases of hazardous substances at the American Cyanamid Superfund Site in Bridgewater Township, New Jersey. Notice that the decree has been lodged will be published in the Federal Register, after which time the public will have 60 days to comment on the proposed settlement. The restoration projects being proposed under the decree to include removal of the Weston Mill Dam on the Millstone River and a feasibility analysis and design of fish passage at the Island Farm Weir on the Raritan River. The estimated value of the combined projects is over \$1.4 million. The decree also secures more than \$284,000 for past and future assessment and oversight costs. Congressional District 7.



Location of the Weston Mills Dam on the Millstone River and the Island Farm Weir on the Raritan River, Franklin Township, New Jersey.

Weston Mill Dam, which is proposed for removal under the Consent Decree for settlement of damages related to in-river injury from the American Cyanamid Superfund Site.





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