

For immediate release

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### **UMass Amherst, USFWS Establish Nation's First Fish Passage Curriculum**

AMHERST, Mass. – The University of Massachusetts Amherst and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced an upcoming graduate engineering degree option in ecohydrology – the first in the nation. This master's degree in civil engineering will prepare students for a career in the specialized field of fish passage engineering.

Through a cooperative agreement signed today, the Service will provide financial support to the university's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and will provide instructors to teach graduate-level courses in fish passage engineering. Students enrolled in this unique program will pursue course work in engineering, resource conservation and biology, plus hydraulics and hydrology.

Michael Malone, vice chancellor for research and engagement at UMass Amherst, said, "The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering is very excited to initiate this cross-disciplinary program with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Ecohydrology Program will provide graduate students with the engineering and science skills necessary to make our streams and rivers more sustainable in the future and provide for improved aquatic habitat."

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service here in the Northeast and throughout the country is seeking to restore the sustainability and resilience of our rivers," said Service Northeast Regional Director Marvin Moriarty. "We have a great need for engineers with this specialized training. A program like this, which marries the academic training of diverse professionals and their research to on-the-ground projects that we are implementing to address the needs of aquatic species, will help move forward aquatic conservation across the entire nation."

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit **[www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)**

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