

# Connecticut River Coordinator

## Fact Sheet



### Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D)  
Senator John F. Kerry (D)  
Rep. John W. Olver (D-1st)

### Contact

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### Purpose

The Connecticut River Coordinator's office maximizes the restoration efforts of state and federal resource agencies, industry and private organizations by administering a multi-state interagency restoration program for the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission, facilitating partnerships, managing and sharing information needed for fishery management decisions, advocating migratory fisheries restoration objectives, and uniting research, management and human interest activities for the successful restoration of migratory fish.

### Management Activities

- Successful reintroduction of the once-extirpated Atlantic salmon through cooperative efforts
- Increased salmon access to nursery habitat and spawning grounds through fishway construction, with spawning documented in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont
- Restoration of American shad and herring to their historic range in the mainstem Connecticut River

### Highlights

Partnered in removal of the Silk Mill dam in Becket, which improves resident trout and salmon habitat in the Westfield River basin in Massachusetts.

Participating in a cooperative environmental education program that reaches 37 schools in Massachusetts, over 50 schools in Connecticut, 22 schools in Vermont and 3 in New Hampshire.

Worked with Connecticut to construct eelways at Kinneytown and Lower Mill Pond.

Cooperatively funding breaching the Ballou dam in Massachusetts, removing the Pizzini dam in Connecticut and removing culverts in the basin.

### Issues

Low adult salmon returns skew the public's perception of the program's success.

Additional funding for the Connecticut River basin Atlantic salmon compact (CRASC) is needed to ensure interstate, multi-agency focus on salmon and its environment.

Inadequate funding and staffing limit the cooperative capability to restore anadromous fish to the Connecticut River.

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