

# Sunderland

## Fishery Resources Office

### Fact Sheet for Members of Congress



#### 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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#### Profile

Established :	1988
Staff:	1
FY 2003 budget:	\$72,000
2003 volunteer hours:	964
2003 visitation:	35 on-site 31,000 off-site

#### Purpose

The Sunderland Fishery Resources Office was established to restore anadromous fish to the Connecticut River basin through fisheries management studies, evaluation and technical assistance to state and federal program cooperators.

#### Management Activities

- Stock Atlantic salmon fry in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.
- Monitor Atlantic salmon adult returns and juvenile growth and survival.
- Conduct fisheries contaminant surveys.
- Restore American shad by transferring adults from lower to upper basin historical habitat.

- Assist the state of Connecticut with a striped bass population assessment in the mainstem Connecticut River.
- Restore blueback herring by transferring fish to the Westfield and Ashuelot rivers in cooperation with the states of Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

#### Highlights

Successful reintroduction of the once-extirpated Atlantic salmon through cooperative efforts

Salmon access to nursery habitat and spawning grounds increased through fishway construction with spawning documented in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont

Restoration of American shad to its historic range in the mainstem Connecticut River

#### Issues

Declining numbers of blueback herring threaten to disrupt the ecological balance of the river. Inadequate staff at the state and federal levels preclude scientific investigations. Actions have been taken to improve habitat through fishway construction and to restore populations through adult transfers to quality habitat.

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

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

*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.*

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