

NOAA Fisheries' FY2021 Atlantic Salmon Habitat Restoration Partnership Grants Recommended for Funding

Today, NOAA Fisheries is pleased to announce the recommendation of nearly \$900,000 in funding for four partners to implement projects that restore habitat for [Atlantic salmon](#) in Maine.

The Gulf of Maine distinct population segment (DPS) of Atlantic salmon is listed as endangered under the [Endangered Species Act](#) and is one of nine [NOAA Species in the Spotlight](#).

Proposed projects funded under these partnerships will improve [fish passage](#) by removing or modifying dams, culverts, and other barriers blocking Atlantic salmon from reaching their habitats.

We're recommending nearly \$900,000 to fund the first year for four multi-year efforts located in Maine's 2nd Congressional District:

- The [Atlantic Salmon Federation](#) will implement five projects to restore access to Atlantic salmon spawning and rearing habitats in the Kennebec River watershed. They will also conduct a fish passage feasibility study at the Chesterville Wildlife Management Area Dam on Little Norridgewock Stream. (\$213,854)
- [Project SHARE](#) will replace undersized culverts at 13 sites, connecting habitat for Atlantic salmon across the Dennys, Machias, Pleasant, Union, and Narraguagus River watersheds. They will also conduct fish passage feasibility studies at the Great Works Dam and at Marion Falls fishway. Funding will also support freshwater habitat restoration work in the Narraguagus River watershed. (\$303,225)
- [The Nature Conservancy](#) will complete the final designs to remove Guilford Dam and restore the adjacent floodplain, which will reconnect habitat for Atlantic salmon in the Piscataquis River watershed. They will also restore access to high-quality habitat by improving fish passage at three high-priority road crossings over streams. (\$250,000)
- The [Downeast Salmon Federation](#) will support fish passage feasibility studies at the Cherryfield Ice Control Dam on the Narraguagus River and the Gardner Lake Dam on the East Machias River, to support future habitat restoration in these watersheds. Funding will also support fish passage improvements at the Gardner Lake Dam. (\$131,000)

Degraded habitat is one of the largest obstacles to recovering protected species like Atlantic salmon, which is an iconic species of the Northeast. Proposed projects funded under these partnerships will target priority habitat restoration actions needed for Atlantic salmon recovery. These projects will also benefit other native species that contribute to the health of the Gulf of Maine, such as river herring, sea lamprey, American shad, and American eel.

At this point in the selection process, the application approval and obligation of funds is not final. Applications are being "recommended" for funding. This is not an authorization to start the project and is not a guarantee of funding.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or if you would like a briefing on this topic.

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