



# NOAA FISHERIES

# The Value of Opening Rivers for Fish

Millions of fish are blocked from reaching their native river habitat to reproduce each year. These fish are crucial to the economy and communities across the nation.



## Rivers Working for You

**1.7 million** jobs are supported by the U.S. commercial and recreational fishing industries, and require healthy habitat.



**60%**

of our drinking water is supplied by rivers, some held back by dams.

**3.5 million** rivers and tributaries connect the U.S. to the sea.

## Habitat at Risk



**2 million**

dams and other barriers block fish from migrating in the U.S.

**600,000 miles**

of rivers in the U.S. are blocked by dams.

Some fish swim thousands of miles only to have their paths blocked. When fish can't reach their habitat, they can't sustain and grow their populations.



## Our Work

NOAA helps migratory fish navigate dams, culverts, and other obstacles by adding options like fish lifts, fish ladders, bypasses, or by removing the barriers completely. We aim to have fish habitat and electricity from passable hydropower dams.



NOAA aids in the recovery of threatened and endangered species like Atlantic and Pacific salmon and sturgeon by improving fish passage.



NOAA's work includes more than **700 fish passage** projects. These projects have opened nearly **7,000 miles** of rivers and streams.

More information: <https://fisheries.noaa.gov/habitat-conservation>