

National Culvert Removal, Replacement & Restoration Grants



Applications are due on Monday, February 6, 2023, at 11:59 pm ET.

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=343962>

Program Overview

The National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program (Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Program) is an annual competitive grant program that awards grants to eligible entities for projects for the replacement, removal, and repair of culverts or weirs that meaningfully improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish (fish born in freshwater who spend most of their lives in saltwater and return to freshwater to spawn, such as salmon and some species of sturgeon. [Source: NMFS <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/node/8071>]. Species of anadromous fish include salmon, steelhead trout, shad, river herring, lamprey, and sturgeon, among others. These species may also be referred to as sea-run.

Aside from communicating technical project details, applications to the Culvert AOP program should:

- 1. define what anadromous fish specie(s) will be positively impacted*
- 2. communicate if the project site will benefit an economically disadvantaged community or an area of persistent poverty.*

I. What Anadromous Fish will be Positively Impacted

The primary goal of the Culvert AOP Program is to improve or restore anadromous fish passage through the replacement, removal, repair, or improvement of culverts or weirs. Fish passage is the ability of fish to move freely between habitats they rely on for food, growth, reproduction, and other needs. Fish passage projects improve the movement of fish within and between their spawning, rearing, and adult habitats by modifying or removing dams, culverts, and other barriers that restrict their migration.

The grant program prioritizes projects that would improve fish passage for:

- a. Anadromous fish stocks identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that could reasonably become listed as an endangered species or a threatened species under that section;
 1. For the purpose of the program, endangered species are those listed as endangered species under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1533. See [50 CFR § 17.11](#).
 2. For the purpose of the program, threatened species are those listed as threaten species under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1533. See [50 CFR § 17.11](#).

- b. Anadromous fish stocks identified by the NMFS or USFWS as prey for endangered species, threatened species, or protected species, including Southern resident orcas (*Orcinus orcas*); or
- c. Anadromous fish stocks identified by the NMFS or the USFWS as *climate resilient stocks*;
 - 1. Climate resilient stocks are capable of resisting, recovering, and adapting to climate change such as increases in stream temperature or changes in flow. This funding opportunity will consider fish barrier removal projects that improve the climate resilience (reduce climate vulnerability) of anadromous fish stocks and their ecosystems.

The program also prioritizes projects that would open up more than 200 meters of upstream anadromous habitat before the end of the natural habitat.

Interested applicants should define in clear terms which anadromous fish species will be positively impacted by the project.

Endangered or threatened anadromous fish found in NH:

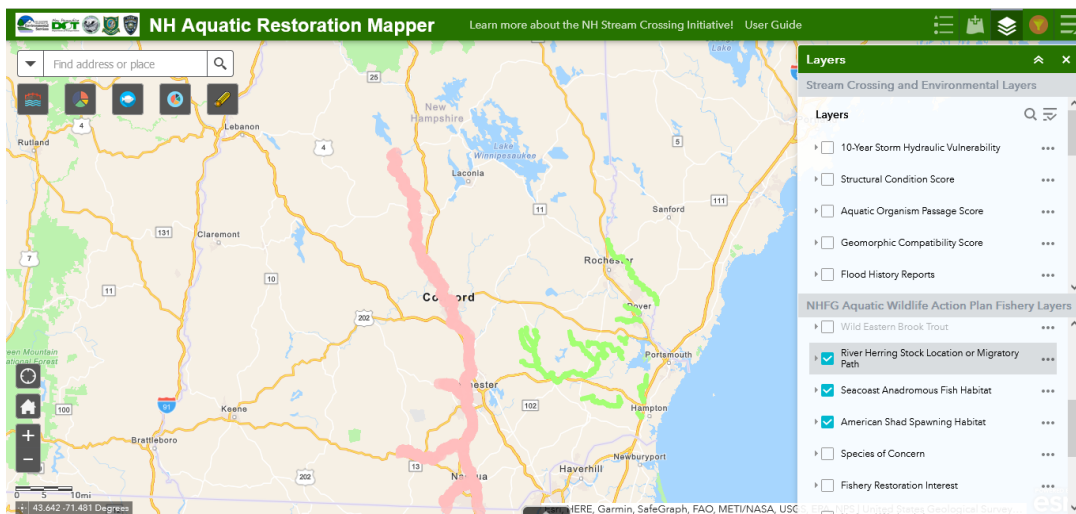
The are 3 species of anadromous fish known to inhabit NH that are presently on the threatened or endangered species list: *Atlantic sturgeon*, *Shortnose sturgeon*, and *Atlantic salmon*.

Anadromous fish found in NH:

The following fish are anadromous fish found in NH: Sea Lamprey; Alewife, Blueback Herring, American Shad, river herring, rainbow smelt, brown trout, stripped bass, white perch, rainbow smelt

NH Aquatic Restoration Mapper

<https://nhdes.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=21173c9556be4c52bc20ea706e1c9f5a>



To use the map tool:

1. At the top right, the third icon from the left is “layers”
2. Select the three layers “Seacoast Anadromous Fish Habitat, American Shad Spawning Habitat, and River Herring Stock Location or Migratory Path”

II. Benefitting an Economically Disadvantaged Community or an Area of Persistent Poverty

As part of the project description, applicants should identify whether the project is in a *Federally designated community development zone*, as well as whether the project achieves *environmental and/or social justice and equity goals*. Some resources to assist in reviewing whether a project will benefit an *Area of Persistent Poverty, Historically Disadvantaged Community, or Economically Disadvantage Community* and/or promote success of environmental and social justice and equity goals are listed below.

1. EPA Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping tool (<https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>), Socio-economic indicator for low income, block groups in the 80th percentile or above, compared to the state
2. Areas of Persistent Poverty table for the County or Census tract level.
 - a. The County in which the project is located consistently had greater than or equal to 20 percent of the population living in poverty in all three of the following datasets:
 - i. the 1990 decennial census;
 - ii. the 2000 decennial census; and
 - iii. the 2020 Small Area Income Poverty Estimates; **OR**
 - b. The Census Tract in which the project is located has a poverty rate of at least 20 percent as measured by the 2014-2018 5-year data series available from the American Community
 - c. USDOT published a table (<https://datahub.transportation.gov/stories/s/tsyd-k6ij>) to help applicants identify if a project meets the Area of Persistent Poverty definition for a County or Census Tract. To determine the State, County, and Census Tract Associated with your Project's Location, input your Project's Primary Address into the [U.S. Census Geocoder Tool](#). Instructions for using the tool are available at <https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/raise-areas-persistent-poverty-find-census-tract-instructions>
3. DOT's mapping tool for Historically Disadvantaged Communities (available at <https://datahub.transportation.gov/stories/s/tsyd-k6ij>).
4. One of the four Federally designated community development zones you should determine if your project is located (entirely or partially) in:
 - a. Opportunity Zones: (<https://opportunityzones.hud.gov/>)
 - b. Empowerment Zones: (<https://hudgis-hud.opendata.arcgis.com/maps/1101a6c1e2364302b70485ca99fc7e69>)
 - c. Promise Zones: (https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/field_policy_mgt/fieldpolicymgtpz)
 - d. Choice Neighborhoods: (https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/cn)

III. Project Selection Criteria

Criterion #1: Conservation Benefits to Anadromous Fish

This project contributes to the Conservation Benefits to Anadromous Fish criterion by...

Criterion #2: Regional and Watershed Context

This project contributes to the Regional Watershed Context criterion by...

Criterion #3: Ecosystem Benefits

This project contributes to the Ecosystem Benefits criterion by...

Criterion #4: Project Design and Delivery Methods

This project contributes to the Project Design and Delivery Methods criterion by...

Criterion #5: Project Monitoring and Evaluation

This project contributes to the Project Monitoring and Evaluation criterion by...

Criterion #6: Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resilience

This project contributes to the Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resilience criterion by...

Criterion #7: Equity and Barriers of Opportunity

This project contributes to the Equity and Barriers of Opportunity criterion by...

For additional information and details on the Culvert AOP program, including to access the Notice of Funding Opportunity, visit

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/engineering/hydraulics/culverthyd/aquatic/culvertaop.cfm>

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