



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Fisheries and Habitat Conservation

Making a Habit of Habitat Restoration



Congress has consistently directed the Fisheries Program to be more habitat based.



"...the National Fish Passage Program and the National Fish Habitat Action Plan... are vital to the future of the Nation's fish and aquatic communities...the Service [is encouraged] to continue to expand its partnerships with State, tribal, Federal, and private partners to coordinate a unified approach to fish habitat restoration nationwide."

"...the focus of the [Fisheries] program should be habitat based..."

"[Fisheries] budgets should be much more sensitive to habitat restoration..."

2000

2004

2008

1998

"...the Service should use its expertise...to help accomplish fisheries habitat restoration."

2002

"The Service should perform a through review of, and develop a long-term strategy for, the Fisheries program...The focus of the program should be habitat..."

2006

"...the National Fish Habitat Initiative...has the potential to be a very effective tool for reversing the declines of aquatic species caused largely by habitat degradation."

the Future

Here are the results:

Through the efforts of the Fisheries Program like the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and the National Fish Passage Program, **655** barriers, including culverts, dikes, water diversions, dams, and spillways have been removed. Access has been restored on **10,612** miles and **51,361** acres of habitat for trout, herring, striped bass, shad, sturgeon, salmon, minnows, and darters, among other species.

Recent successes include:

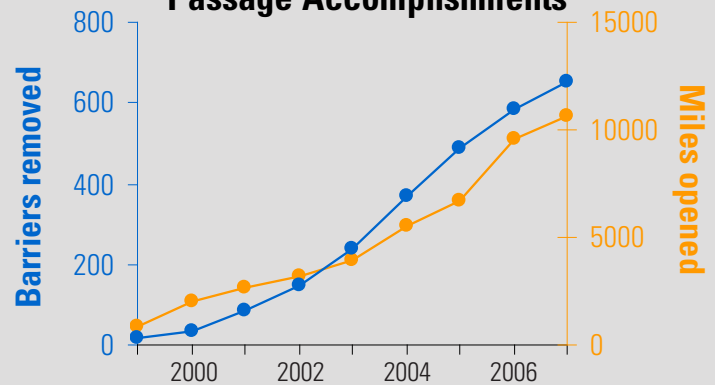
• *Removal of four fish passage barriers in Mill Creek, Florida.* 2,500 feet of stream channel have been restored. Mill Creek now fosters a self-sustaining population of the endangered Okaloosa darter.



• *Construction of a new creekbed following the historical meander on the upper Moose Creek, Alaska.* An unnatural 10-foot waterfall prevented salmon migration, but within days of the project completion, Chinook salmon had returned.



Passage Accomplishments



For more information, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Fisheries and Habitat Conservation at (202) 208-6394 or visit <http://www.fws.gov/fisheries>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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