



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Projects Recommended for Funding through the Second Round of Fish Passage Competitions under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act

NOAA Fisheries is recommending nearly \$240 million in funding this year and an additional \$38 million in future year funding for 46 fish passage projects under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. This historic level of funding will reopen migratory pathways and restore access to healthy habitat for fish across the country.

These projects were selected through two NOAA funding opportunities:

- 27 projects were selected through the national [Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants](#) funding opportunity
- 19 projects were selected through the tribal-specific [Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants](#) funding opportunity

Projects Selected through the National Fish Passage Funding Opportunity

Alaska

Pathways Home: Removing Barriers to Salmon Migration and Increasing Community Resilience in the Tongass National Forest

[Trout Unlimited](#) will address several stream crossing barriers in the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska, where thousands of streams support one of the world's greatest salmon-producing regions. Logging and road building activities in the forest have created barriers that affect salmon migration, spawning, and rearing. This project will restore access to nearly 20 miles of stream habitat and 52 acres of lake and wetland habitat for coho and other salmon species. (\$4.2 million)

West Coast

California

Sunol Valley Fish Passage Project

[California Trout](#) will address the last major fish passage barrier in Alameda Creek, opening nearly 22 miles of habitat for threatened Central California Coast steelhead and other migratory fish. Currently, a concrete erosion control structure blocks fish passage on the creek. This project will remove the barrier, working in conjunction with an already planned effort to move a utility pipeline. (\$4.3 million)

Fish Passage Construction at I-5 and Metrolink Bridges in Orange County, California

[California Trout](#) will construct two nature-like fishways at the Metrolink Railway and Interstate 5 crossings, restoring access to 15 miles of habitat in the Trabuco Creek tributary of San Juan Creek. In conjunction with other ongoing dam removal efforts in the watershed, this effort provides an opportunity to significantly contribute to the recovery of endangered Southern California steelhead. The project will also benefit the surrounding community by stabilizing an aging flood control channel. (\$14.6 million)

Napa River Watershed Fish Passage Restoration Project

[Napa County Resource Conservation District](#) will work towards improving fish passage at 7 sites in Napa County, collectively reopening 15 miles of river habitat for threatened Central California Coast steelhead. They will also develop an assessment document for the remaining dozens of barriers in the county, and begin design and permitting for the three highest ranking barriers from that assessment. (\$6.7 million)

Oregon

There and back again: A salmonid's tale to restored fish passage in the Mid-Willamette

[Marys River Watershed Council](#) will support threatened Upper Willamette River Chinook and steelhead by addressing 18 barriers across multiple watersheds in the Mid-Willamette region. Efforts include removing a dam and replacing several culverts to reopen access to more than 40 miles of habitat. This work will also support local communities by reducing the risk of flooding and helping improve response to wildfires. (\$8.7 million)

Beaver Creek Fish Passage Restoration at Troutdale Rd

[Multnomah County](#) will replace a culvert and failed fish ladder with a new bridge on Beaver Creek, the lowest tributary of the Sandy River. This will open up more than 6 miles of high-quality habitat for threatened coho and Chinook salmon and threatened steelhead. The new bridge will increase the climate resilience of the community by being able to accommodate increasingly larger storms. (Up to \$7.8 million total over three years)

Keno Dam Fish Passage Alternatives Analysis, Feasibility Study, and Initial Design

The [Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) will evaluate potential options for restoring fish passage at Keno Dam on the Klamath River. Nearly 350 miles of habitat lie upstream of the dam, and access to that habitat by salmon will be possible for the first time in a century following completion of the ongoing removal of the lower four dams on the river. This project will evaluate a range of options—from retaining the existing dam to full removal and replacement—that both provide fish passage and retain irrigation, flood control, and other functions for the surrounding community. (\$1.9 million)

Sitka Sedge Tidal Wetland Habitat Restoration

[Tillamook Estuaries Partnership](#) will support recovery of threatened Oregon Coast coho by restoring estuary and river habitat in Sand Lake Estuary. They will work toward breaching Beltz Dike, replacing three culverts behind the dike, and restoring tidal wetlands. The project will also repair the main road to Tierra del Mar, which is often closed due to flooding and is at risk of total failure. (\$1.6 million)

Salmon SuperHwy Priority Fish Passage Restoration

[Trout Unlimited](#) will remove 7 fish passage barriers as part of the ongoing Salmon Superhighway effort, contributing to the initiative's overall 180-mile goal. Collectively, the initiative will support salmon, steelhead, and other species by addressing priority fish passage concerns and improving access to a diversity of habitats. It will also provide transportation infrastructure and flood resilience benefits to local communities. (\$4 million)

Washington

Wenatchee Basin Fish Barrier Removal Project

[Chelan County](#) will work to address several fish passage barriers in the Wenatchee watershed, one of four major watersheds of the Upper Columbia River Basin. This work will reopen access to high-quality habitat for threatened Upper Columbia steelhead and endangered Upper Columbia Chinook salmon. (\$1.6 million)

Olympic Peninsula Coldwater Connection Campaign Fish Passage Project Phase 2

[Trout Unlimited](#) will restore access to high quality spawning and rearing habitat within the Olympic Peninsula by addressing 6 fish passage barriers in the Hoh, Queets-Quinault, and Quillayute watersheds. The barriers were identified as priorities under the Coldwater Connection Campaign, a partnership that aims to reconnect 125 river miles by removing 50 of the highest priority fish passage barriers on the Western Olympic Peninsula. (\$8.4 million)

Tulalip Fish Passage Collaborative I

The [Tulalip Tribes](#) will work with partners to plan and construct multiple barrier removals in several watersheds in the Stillaguamish and Snohomish Basins, part of the South Whidbey Basin in Puget Sound. This work will support several salmon and steelhead species that are of economic, recreational, and cultural importance to the Tulalip Tribes and other members of the local community. By removing or replacing undersized and aging culverts with structures designed to withstand climate change, these efforts will also help protect the community from flooding. (\$11.7 million)

Yakima River Fish Passage Improvement

The [Yakama Nation](#) will advance several efforts to improve fish passage and reduce the mortality of salmon and steelhead in the Yakima River basin. By addressing barriers at multiple sites, this work will help support tribally-important fisheries and restore access to traditional tribal fishing locations. It will also provide juvenile salmon with access to habitat with cooler water temperatures during summer months. (\$7 million in first year; up to \$14 million total over three years)

Gulf of Mexico

Alabama

Promoting Recovery and Resilience in Anadromous Gulf Sturgeon and Alabama Shad through Barrier Removal

The [Choctawhatchee, Pea, and Yellow Rivers Watershed Management Authority](#) will take initial planning and design steps toward removing the defunct Elba Hydroelectric Dam Project, which is the only fish passage barrier in the Choctawhatchee River watershed. Removal of the dam will support Alabama shad and threatened Gulf sturgeon by increasing access to 34 miles of habitat on the Pea River used for spawning, nursery, and refuge. (\$1.7 million)

South Atlantic

Georgia

Restoring access to historical habitats for migratory fishes of the Altamaha-Ocmulgee watershed

[The Nature Conservancy](#) will take initial planning and design steps to address fish passage at Juliette Dam and Snapping Shoal Dam, both within the Altamaha-Ocmulgee watershed. These efforts will work toward the restoration of fish passage to more than 700 miles of habitat for endangered Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon, as well as other migratory fish. Addressing the dams would also provide benefits to local communities—including nearby metro Atlanta—by removing two public safety hazards and improving opportunities for recreation. (\$1.5 million)

Northeast

Maine

Improving Fish Passage at Woodland Dam on the International St. Croix River, Maine

The [Maine Department of Marine Resources](#) will continue construction of structures to improve fish passage at Woodland Dam on the St. Croix River. When complete, this effort will provide access to 600 miles of habitat for migratory fish, and 60,000 acres of habitat for alewife. By benefitting species like alewife, American shad, and American eel, the project is expected to result in increased prey for whales, dolphins, groundfish, and saltwater sportfish. (\$7.5 million)

Restoring the Mainstem: Realizing Dam Removal in the Piscataquis River

[The Nature Conservancy](#) will work to improve fish passage on the Piscataquis River, a major tributary to the Penobscot River. This effort will reconnect a significant amount of stream habitat in the Penobscot Salmon Habitat Recovery Unit, one of three designated regions in Maine for restoring habitat for endangered Atlantic salmon, a NOAA [Species in the Spotlight](#). It will also support local communities by reducing the potential for flooding and addressing a public safety hazard. (\$19.9 million)

Littlefield Dam Removal and Little Androscoggin Watershed Improvements

The [City of Auburn](#) will remove the Littlefield Dam, a former hydropower project in the Little Androscoggin River, to reopen stream habitat and access to a pond for endangered Atlantic salmon (a NOAA [Species in the Spotlight](#)) and other migratory fish. They will also assess the feasibility of improving fish passage at three additional dams in the area. The project would support the local community by helping improve public safety, creating opportunities for recreation and tourism, and developing fish as an important food source. (\$3.5 million)

Barrier Removal in Merrymeeting Bay Tributaries: Restoring Critical Habitat for Maine Diadromous Fish Species

[Maine Rivers](#) will improve fish passage at numerous sites in the Merrymeeting Bay Salmon Habitat Recovery Unit, one of three designated regions in Maine for restoring habitat for endangered Atlantic salmon, a NOAA [Species in the Spotlight](#). Efforts will include multiple dam removals, culvert replacements, and construction of fish ladders and nature-like fishways. When completed, these efforts will improve access to significant stream habitat for Atlantic salmon and alewife. They will also support local communities by reducing flood risk and removing aging infrastructure. (\$13.5 million)

Replacing the Cherryfield Ice Control Dam with a Nature-Like Fishway

The [Downeast Salmon Federation](#) will remove the Cherryfield Ice Control Dam on the Narraguagus River and replace it with a nature-like fishway, allowing for endangered Atlantic salmon (a NOAA [Species in the Spotlight](#)) and other fish to migrate unimpeded up and downstream of the site. The Narraguagus River has some of the highest quality habitat for Atlantic salmon in the Downeast Salmon Habitat Recovery Unit, one of three designated regions in Maine for restoring habitat for Atlantic salmon. (\$9.1 million)

Maryland

Advancing Restoration on Maryland's Patapsco River: Daniels Dam Removal

[American Rivers](#) will complete design and permitting for the removal of Daniels Dam on the Patapsco River, which would open access to 30 miles of habitat for river herring and American eel. This effort is part of the larger Patapsco Restoration Project, which has included the NOAA-supported removals of Bloede Dam, Simkins Dam, and Union Dam. Daniels Dam is located upstream of the former site of Bloede Dam, and is the last remaining barrier on the mainstem river. (\$1.8 million)

Massachusetts

Agawam River Barrier Removals and Restoration

[Buzzards Bay Coalition](#) will work to improve fish passage and restore habitat on the Agawam River to support river herring and other migratory fish. Efforts will include one dam removal and assessments of restoration

needed throughout the watershed to restore fish passage through former cranberry boglands. The Agawam River is home to one of the most abundant river herring runs on Buzzards Bay, supporting a broad range of fish and wildlife in the estuary. (\$3.7 million)

The Creation of a Nature-like Fishway Bypass to Circumvent the Historic Jenney Pond Dam

The [Town of Plymouth](#) will construct a fishway around the historic Jenney Pond Dam, the last remaining passage barrier on Town Brook, to open access to habitat for river herring and American eel. They will also dredge and restore the pond behind the dam. The fishway is expected to address flooding concerns at Jenney Pond associated with 100-year storms. NOAA previously partnered with the Town of Plymouth to remove 5 other fish passage barriers on Town Brook. (\$10 million)

New Jersey

The Removal of the Upper and Lower E.R. Collins Dams on the Pequest River

[The Nature Conservancy](#) will remove the Upper and Lower E.R. Collins Dams—the first two dams on the Pequest River, a tributary to the Delaware River. Alongside the removal of two other upstream dams already underway, this project will open access to mainstem and tributary habitat for American shad, river herring, and other migratory fish. It will also help reduce flooding in the local community of Belvidere, New Jersey. (\$6.9 million)

Rockafellows Mill Dam Removal Project

[Raritan Headwaters Association](#) will remove Rockafellows Mill Dam on the South Branch Raritan River to open access to habitat for American shad, river herring, and other migratory fish. They will also restore nearby floodplain and streamside habitats. Removal of the dam will eliminate a significant public safety hazard, improve opportunities for recreation, and reduce the risk of flooding in the local community. (\$2.3 million)

Rhode Island

Restoring River Connectivity and Embracing Public Values at Potter Hill, Westerly, RI

The [Town of Westerly](#) will assess and implement a fish passage solution at Potter Hill Dam, the last fish passage barrier on the mainstem of the Pawcatuck River. The work will provide access to more than 3,000 acres of spawning habitat and 120 miles of stream habitat for river herring and other migratory fish. This project is part of a larger redevelopment of a former mill site, which will be converted into a public park. Addressing the dam and the old mill building will eliminate public safety hazards and significantly increase recreation for the community. (\$683,000 in first year; up to \$12.4 million total over three years)

Virginia

Rapidan Fish Passage Project

[American Climate Partners](#) will remove the Rapidan Mill Dam and restore habitat along the Rapidan River in the lower Chesapeake Bay. Removal of the dam will open more than 500 miles of habitat for American shad, river herring, and other migratory fish. The project will also benefit the local community by increasing recreational and subsistence fishing opportunities, improving public access to the river, reducing the risk of flooding, and removing aging infrastructure. (\$1.5 million in first year; up to \$7.9 million total over three years)

Projects Selected through the Tribal Priority Fish Passage Funding Opportunity

Alaska

Rivers of Resilience: Protecting Copper River's Vital Salmon Habitat

[Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission](#) will increase tribal capacity for fish passage by supporting a stream restoration biologist within the Ahtna Territory in southcentral Alaska, which includes a large majority of the Copper River watershed. AITRC is made up of representatives from the eight federally recognized tribes and two Alaska Native Corporations of the Ahtna Territory. The Copper River supports all five Pacific salmon species, which are key subsistence and cultural resources. (\$497,000)

Matanuska Watershed Fish Passage Restoration Phase II

[Chickaloon Native Village](#) will provide training to tribal staff in fish passage restoration planning, design, and implementation and support the coordination of the Alaska Tribal Fish Passage Working Group. This group includes tribal entities and federal, state, and local agencies which will work towards the implementation of future tribal fish passage projects. This project will also remove three culverts blocking fish passage in the Matanuska watershed and design a stream restoration project on Moose Creek. (\$6.2 million)

Kasaan to Goose Creek Road Project - Final Design, Permitting & Construction for Restoring Tribal Fish Passage through Barrier Removal

The [Organized Village of Kasaan](#) will replace multiple culverts at road stream crossings along the Kasaan to Goose Creek Road. This work is part of a larger effort to rehabilitate the former logging road and reopen habitat for salmon by replacing 4 bridges and 374 culverts. It will also help reduce flooding on the only road to the Organized Village of Kasaan. (\$5 million)

Unlocking Unalaska Lake: Qawalangin Tribe's Restoration of Fish Passage Through Barrier Removal and Culvert Replacement

The [Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska](#) will replace three undersized culverts blocking fish passage between two sides of Unalaska Lake with a single large structure. This will expand access to shoreline and spawning habitat for sockeye and pink salmon, which are important cultural and subsistence resources for the tribe. The project will also support a Tribal Fisheries Coordinator to oversee the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska's Fisheries Program, including this project and a detailed inventory of culverts along roadways. (\$342,000 in first year; up to \$2.7 million total over three years)

Sustaining Native Village of Tyonek's Subsistence Salmon through Fish Passage Barrier Removal in West Cook Inlet, Alaska

[Tyonek Tribal Conservation District](#), a tribally-governed non-profit with representation from the Native Village of Tyonek and the Tyonek Native Corporation, will restore spawning and rearing habitat for all five species of Pacific salmon by removing four fish passage barriers in West Cook Inlet. This work will benefit the endangered Cook Inlet Beluga Whale, a NOAA Species in the Spotlight, which preys on salmon. It will also help protect against climate change related flooding and subsequent road washouts. (\$3.8 million)

West Coast

Oregon

Waite Ranch Tidal Wetland Restoration Project

The [Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians](#) will restore more than 200 acres of habitat for migratory fish, including threatened Oregon Coast coho and Oregon Coast Chinook and steelhead. The

removal of a dike, culvert, and tide gate will reconnect tidal and river flows to the site of the former Waite Ranch in the Siuslaw River estuary. The project will also construct a levee to protect neighboring properties and infrastructure. (\$5.5 million)

Restoring Cultural Species Passage in the Coquille River Watershed Across Four Project Sites and Building Tribal Capacity

The [Coquille Indian Tribe](#) will restore fish passage at four culvert and tide gate barriers in the Coquille River watershed. This will open significant habitat for threatened Oregon Coast coho, Coquille River fall Chinook, and Pacific lamprey—species that are culturally important to the Coquille Indian Tribe and the community of Coos Bay. The work will help reduce the impacts of climate change by providing functioning floodplains and upgrading a major road and tsunami evacuation route. (\$4.2 million)

Washington

Cowlitz Indian Tribe - Ostrander Creek Fish Passage Project

The [Cowlitz Indian Tribe](#) will address the last remaining fish passage barrier on Ostrander Creek, a tributary of the lower Cowlitz River, by completely removing a culvert and associated abandoned railroad crossing. This work will benefit multiple species of steelhead and salmon that are important subsistence and cultural resources for tribal members. It will also help reduce the risk of downstream flooding. (\$1.9 million)

Ennis Creek Barrier Correction - East Ennis Road

The [Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe](#) will address one of the last remaining fish passage barriers in the Ennis Creek watershed by replacing undersized culverts on a city road in Port Angeles, Washington, with a bridge. This work will benefit threatened Puget Sound steelhead, bull trout, and Chinook salmon. The new bridge will also help reduce maintenance costs and reduce the risk of road failure and flooding. (\$1.4 million)

Removal of Migratory Fish Barrier at Brighton Creek - Replacement of Harts Lake Road S. Culvert

The [Nisqually Indian Tribe](#) will remove a culvert that is completely blocking fish passage on Brighton Creek, a tributary of the Nisqually River. They will replace it with a new channel-spanning culvert, opening up high quality habitat to access by threatened Puget Sound steelhead and Chinook salmon. The project design incorporates climate change projections to help prevent flooding, and a wildlife crossing to reduce the chance of animal strikes. The project will also support the tribe's Native Plant Restoration Crew's work at the project site after implementation. (\$5.8 million)

Hood Canal Bridge Fish Passage: Phase 2

The [Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe](#) will work to address fish passage at the floating Hood Canal Bridge to reduce a major cause of mortality for juvenile steelhead. They will develop a plan for near-term solutions to immediately reduce the loss of steelhead at the bridge, and evaluate the possibility of replacing the bridge as a long-term solution. Addressing this significant barrier will help support sustainable tribal fisheries and protect tribal trust resources. (\$2.2 million)

Skagit Basin Tribal Priority Fish Passage Implementation 2023

The [Skagit River System Cooperative](#), which provides natural resource management services for the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, will remove or replace seven culverts that block fish passage in the Skagit and Samish watersheds. They will also assess the feasibility of one additional fish passage project. This project will support tribal capacity to develop and engage in fish passage projects, and provide a hands-on opportunity for tribal members and youth to participate in habitat restoration. (\$3.3 million)

5th Avenue Dam Removal and Deschutes Estuary Restoration

The [Squaxin Island Tribe](#) will work to remove the 5th Avenue Dam, a barrier built across the mouth of the Deschutes River to create Capitol Lake. Removal of the dam and restoration of the estuary will create a significant amount of habitat of key importance to the recovery of threatened Puget Sound Chinook. The project will also support tribal capacity to expand their barrier removal efforts and engagement in salmon recovery planning in south Puget Sound. (\$6.4 million)

Tulalip Fish Passage Collaborative II

The [Tulalip Tribes](#) will work with partners to remove multiple fish passage barriers at priority streams in the Stillaguamish and Snohomish Basins, part of the South Whidbey Basin in Puget Sound. This effort will open significant habitat to access by threatened Puget Sound Chinook and steelhead, as well as Puget Sound coho. It will also benefit Southern Resident killer whales, a NOAA [Species in the Spotlight](#), by supporting their prey. Climate change considerations will be incorporated into the barrier replacements, to help prevent flooding and increase community resilience. (\$9.2 million)

Yakima and Klickitat River Fish Passage Improvement

The [Yakama Nation](#) will build tribal capacity by establishing new staff positions to support fish passage efforts in the Yakima and Klickitat watersheds. They will also replace a barrier comprised of three culverts with a bridge, to address the last remaining fish passage barrier on Brush Creek in the Klickitat watershed. This work will support threatened Middle Columbia River steelhead as well as additional migratory species. (\$3.1 million)

Nason Creek Floodplain (DOT - N1) RM 3.2 to 4.6 Stream Restoration

The [Yakama Nation](#) will work to relocate a portion of a state highway to improve fish passage, reduce roadway flooding, and reconnect habitat for salmon and steelhead. Currently, this section of Route 207 restricts migratory fish access to half of the floodplain. This project will reconnect 13 acres of floodplain habitat in a highly important area for the spawning and rearing of endangered Upper Columbia spring-run Chinook and threatened Upper Columbia steelhead. (\$3 million in first year; up to \$6.1 million total over three years)

Northeast

Maine

Improving Migratory Fish Passage in the Skutik River, Heart of the Traditional Peskotomuhkati Homeland

The [Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point](#) will work to increase fish passage at the Woodland Dam on the Skutik River (St. Croix River). With the downstream Milltown Dam currently being removed, Woodland is one of only two remaining barriers to migratory fish in the lower river. This effort will improve access to habitat for alewife and other migratory species important to tribal cultural traditions and sustenance lifeways practices. (\$12 million)

Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage in the Penobscot and Merrymeeting Bay Salmon Habitat Recovery Units While Building the Penobscot Nation's Fisheries Restoration and Outreach Capacity

The [Penobscot Indian Nation](#) will address five barriers in the Penobscot and St. George River watersheds to increase access to stream and spawning habitats for migratory fish. This work will help support alewives, endangered Atlantic salmon, and other migratory species of cultural, subsistence, economic, and recreational importance to the tribe. The project will also support tribal capacity for public outreach and community engagement to identify and implement new projects. (\$5.4 million)

Great Lakes

Wisconsin

Forest County Potawatomi Community's Restoring Tribal Water Resources with Climate Resilient Structures Project

The [Forest County Potawatomi Community](#) will replace several culverts on the North Branch Oconto River and in the headwaters of Otter Creek in Wabeno, Wisconsin. The new culverts will reconnect habitat for migratory fish. They will also help improve community resilience to climate change by being designed to withstand increased extreme weather events and flooding. (\$1.7 million)