

Monatiquot River Restoration Update May, 2020



The Town and its project partners continue to work toward the restoration of the Monatiquot River, including removal of the Armstrong Dam at the former Armstrong Cork factory site.



Photo by Brad Chase, MA Division of Marine Fisheries, 2009

The 16-acre site is located between Plain St, Mahar Highway, and MBTA tracks. The Monatiquot River flows south to north through the site. The project includes removal of the Armstrong Dam and the Ames Pond Dam.



When the Armstrong dam is removed, Hollingsworth Pond will drain and the river will be restored to a naturalized channel, similar to what is downstream now.

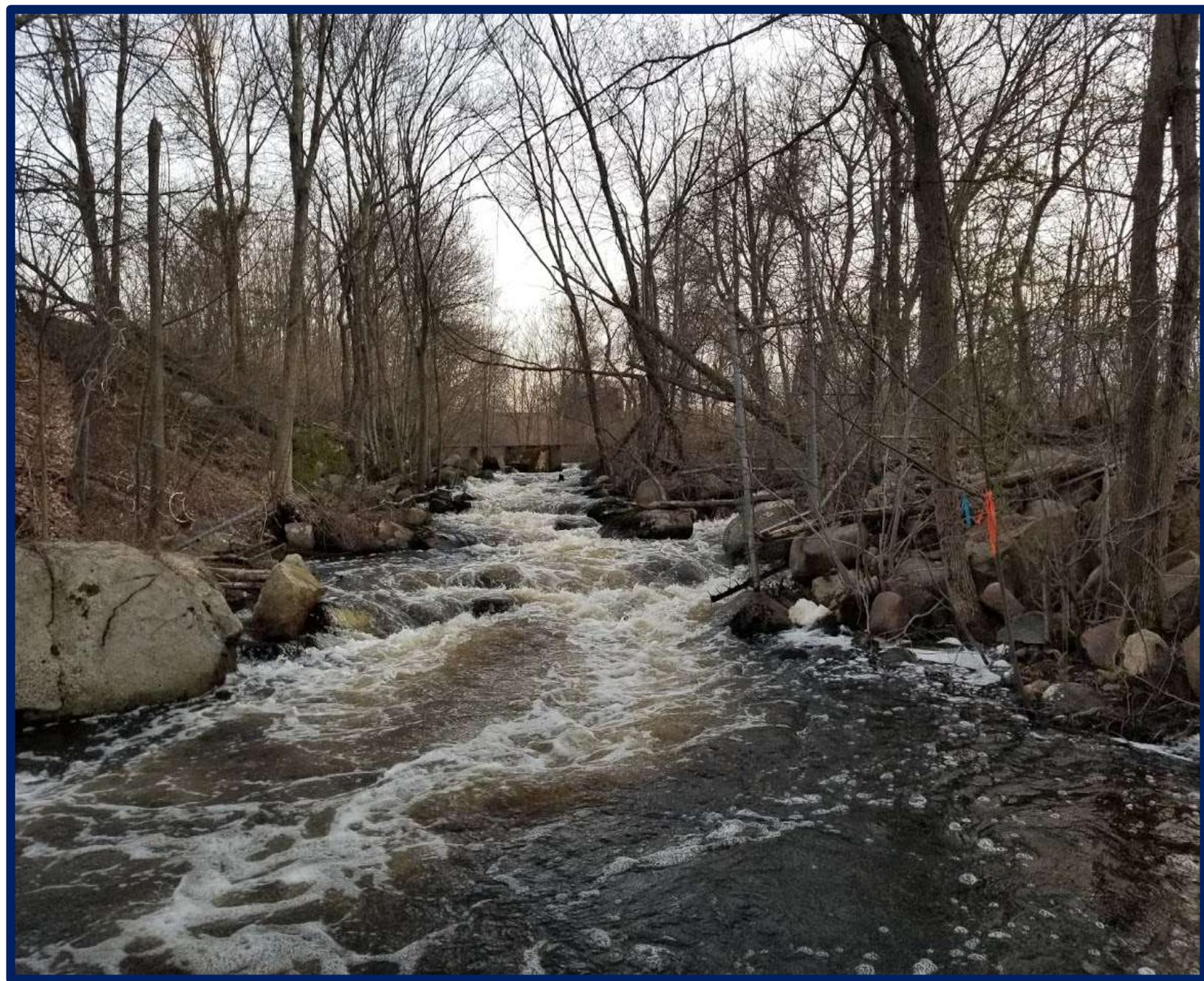
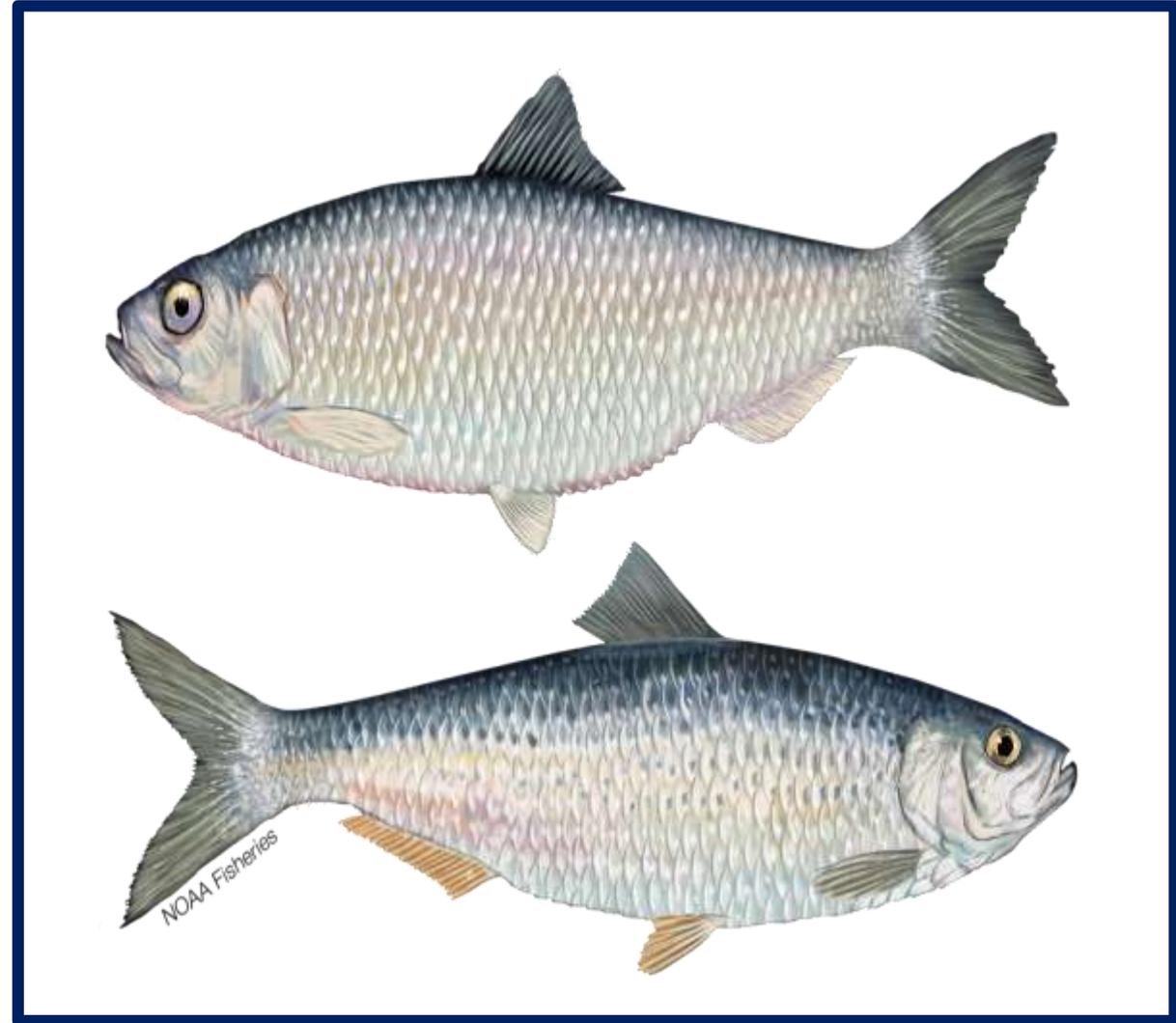


Photo by Robert Kearns, April, 2020

Project Benefit 1: Fisheries

Removal of the dams will allow migratory fish such as river herring to access upstream spawning habitat.

River herring are prey for larger fish species and help support New England fisheries.



River Herring



Project Benefit 2: Water Quality

The river will be cooler as it is no longer held back in Hollingsworth Pond.

Cooler water holds more dissolved oxygen, which is critical to all forms of aquatic life.

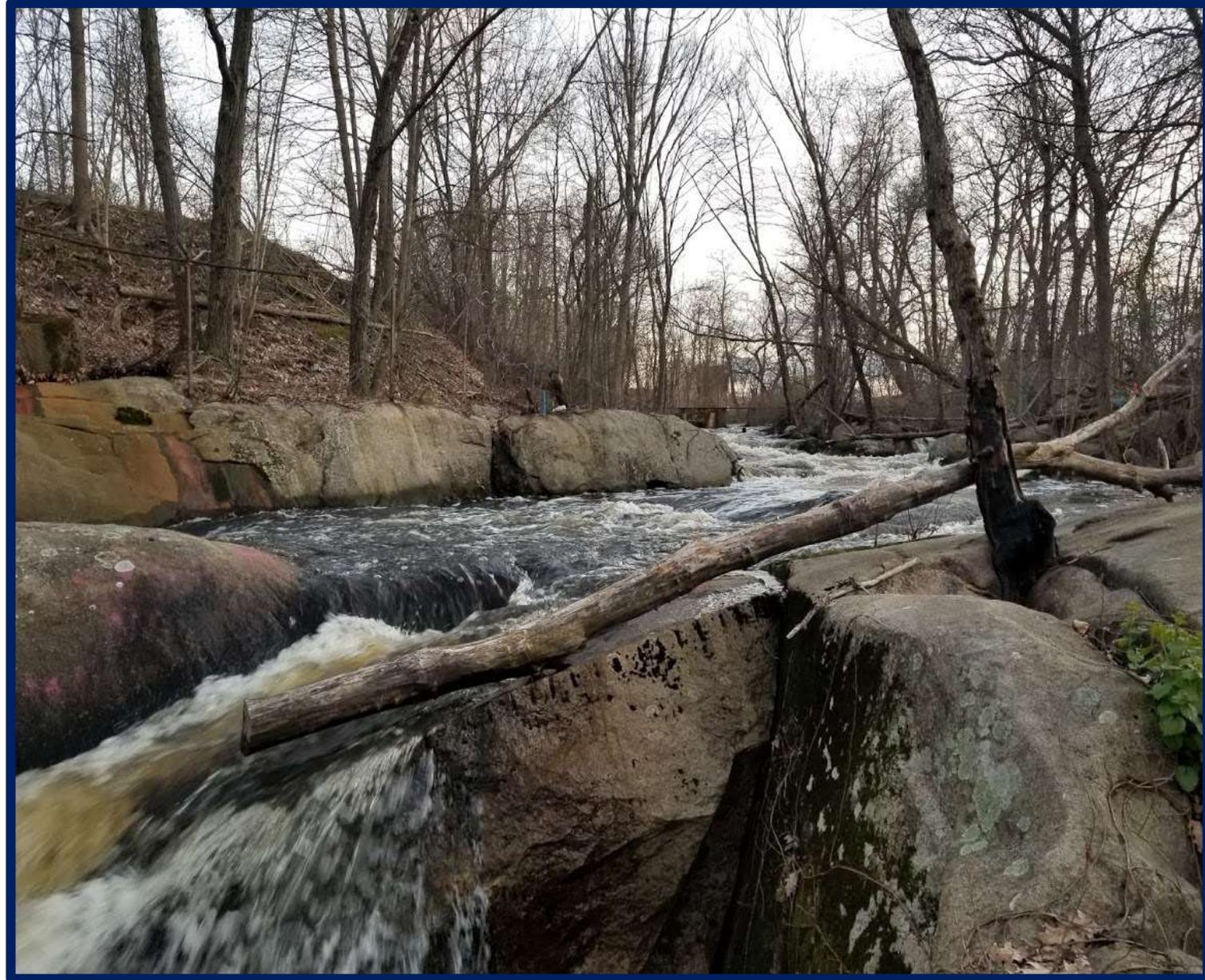
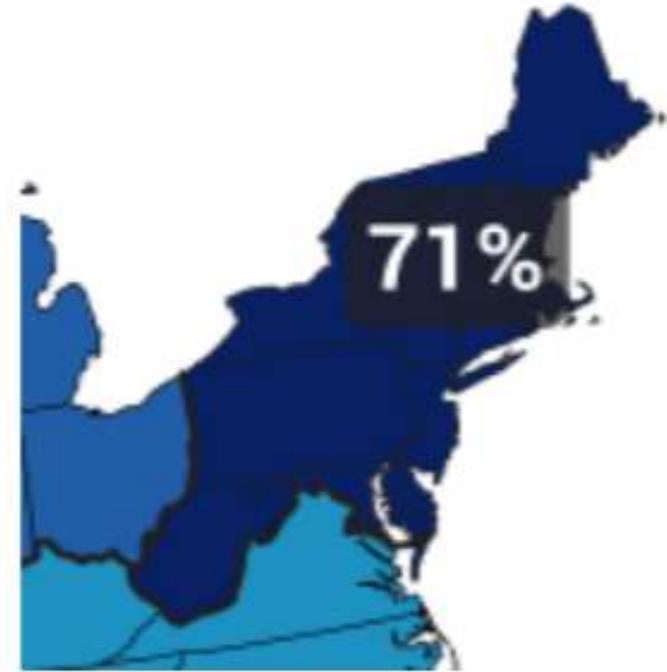


Photo by Robert Kearns, April, 2020

Project Benefit 3: Increased Resilience to Climate Change

Our region is experiencing increased frequency of heavy precipitation events. Removal of the dams eliminates potential for a hazardous dam failure in the event of a severe storm.



For the Northeast United States:

- **71% increase in the amount of rain that falls in the top 1% events from 1958 – 2012.**

Source: US National Climate Assessment 2014

Project Benefit 4:
Provide
Public Access to the River

The project will provide the public the opportunity to access the river, including some of the most scenic spots along the river.



Photo by Brad Chase, MA Division of Marine Fisheries 2015

The project partners are developing final engineering plans. Permitting will be done over the next year.

Construction is expected to begin in late spring 2021.



Photo by Milone and MacBroom, December, 2019

In this photo, looking upstream toward Plain St., the recent demolition of the former Armstrong Cork Factory can be seen very well.



Photo by Milone and MacBroom, December, 2019

The public access trail will be located along the restored river channel, from Plain St. to the downstream rock falls.

The rest of the site will be redeveloped by the property owner.



Trail Plan by Milone and MacBroom, May 2020



There will be opportunity for discussion on the project, including details of the public access trail as the design progresses. We expect to hold a public meeting in September or October, 2020. In the meantime, comments or suggestions may be sent to:

Kelly Phelan, Conservation Planner at
kphelan@braintreema.gov
or 781 794-8233



Check out the link to see a video of the river during the annual herring migration for a sense and sound of what is to come when the project is complete.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TG79PCEUiHY>

