Fact Sheet

Ten Mile River, East Providence, Rhode Island

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS **BUILDING STRONG®**

PROJECT NAME: Ten Mile River Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project, East Providence, Rhode Island, authorized by Section 206 of the Water Resource Development Act of 1996, as amended. Congressional District: Rhode Island 1st.

PROJECT SPONSOR: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM)

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: The Ten Mile River watershed, with a total drainage area of about 56 square miles, is located in southeastern Massachusetts and northeastern Rhode Island. About 51 square miles of this drainage area are situated in Massachusetts and the remaining five square miles are located in Rhode Island. The project area includes the lower portion of the Ten Mile River watershed, with a specific focus on providing anadromous fish passage at the first (lowest) three dams on the river: Omega Pond Dam, Hunts Mill Dam, and Turner Reservoir Dam.

PROPOSED PROJECT: Denil fish passage facilities will be constructed at the first three dams on the river: Omega Pond Dam, Hunts Mill Dam, and Turner Reservoir Dam. These Denil fish passage facilities will provide for upstream migration of adult blueback herring, alewife, and American shad to historic spawning areas. Each Denil fishway will be 4-feet wide and have a 1 vertical on 8 horizontal floor slope to allow the passage of both river herring (blueback herring and alewife) and American shad.

The project will restore anadromous fish populations to the lower Ten Mile River up to the Golf Club Dam in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. This will allow anadromous alewife access to about 340 acres of spawning habitat and provide approximately three miles of riverine spawning habitat for blueback herring and American shad. Based on the projections of RIDEM, these habitat areas will support a fish run of more than 200,000 herring. The number of American shad that will return is unknown, but the fishways are capable of passing about 25,000 shad.

PROJECT COSTS: Under the Section 206 cost share percentages (65% Fed, 35% non-Fed), the Federal and non-Federal shares are estimated at $4,700,000 and $2,500,000, respectively. RIDEM's non-Federal match is supported by contributions from the Narragansett Bay Watershed Restoration Bond Fund ($1,065,450), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) ($630,000 of stimulus funds), and the RICRMC Habitat Restoration Trust Fund ($100,000). The federal share includes $460,000 in stimulus funds provided to the Corps of Engineers. Other funds contributed to the project include $465,000 from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the city of East Providence, $332,000 in EPA 319 Program funds, and $50,000 from the FishAmerica Foundation. Save the Bay contributed funds to support the project feasibility study.

CURRENT PROJECT STATUS: John Rocchio Corporation mobilized on September 21, 2010 to begin work at Turner Reservoir and Hunts Mill dams. Construction of the fish ladders at Hunts Mill Dam and Turner Reservoir is nearly complete. A contract for construction of the Omega Pond fish ladder project was awarded to S&R Corporation of Lowell, Massachusetts on September 23, 2011, but work was delayed due to unexpected site conditions. Construction work at Omega Pond is ongoing and is expected to be complete in April of 2015.

CONTACT: For additional information on this project, please contact the Corps' Project Manager, Mr. Larry Oliver, at 978-318-8347 or by email at lawrence.r.oliver@usace.army.mil.

Updated June 2014