



GREENLAND'S WINNICUT RIVER FISHWAY

IT JUST DOES NOT WORK

My name is Chip Hussey. I am presently the Chairman of the Greenland Conservation Commission, Vice Chair of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, and former Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. I've been involved with the Town for over 40 years. Below is information on the Winnicut River Dam Removal Project managed by NHDES which failed to meet the project's goal of allowing fish to migrate from Great Bay to spawning grounds in the Winnicut River Watershed. The Greenland Conservation Commission are requesting your assistance.

It's now the spring of 2023. Over \$2 million and 10 years later the fishway on the Winnicut River still does not allow for the passage of fish. Before the actual construction started hearings were held in the Town of Greenland in which the parties involved (NH Coastal Program, NH Fish & Game, N.O.A.A, Public Archaeology Laboratory, Santech Consulting Inc, and NHDES) presented the plans to remove the dam and install a fishway. It was at the hearings that the fishway's design was questioned. It was felt that the velocities that would be achieved in the fishway were more than the alewives would be able to overcome. The presenters assured us that the water velocities would not be a problem; that, in fact, a similarly designed fishway existed on the west coast and was working well. It was later discovered that the fishway they had used as a model did not exist.

[Microsoft PowerPoint - Removal of Winnicut Dam 11-10-08](#)

[\(PDF\) INTRODUCTION TO FISHWAY DESIGN \(researchgate.net\)](#)

In 2009 construction started with the dam removal. Originally, NH Fish & Game had recommended that the fishway be built first, whereas, if the fishway did not perform as expected the boards could be put back in the dam, the area reflooded and the fish would pass over the fishway. The contractor convinced NHDES to allow the removal of the dam to be done first. The contractor went bankrupt, which put the project on hold. The state did exercise the bond and the contract was awarded to another contractor to finish the cleanup of the dam removal and install the fishway and the dry hydrant.

[Draft Report \(state.nh.us\)](#)

During the following spring spawning cycle, it was observed that the alewives could not make it up the fishway and were spawning at the bottom of the ladder. To add insult to injury, the fire department's dry hydrant that had been installed failed to work due to shoddy workmanship and failure to follow the plan.

[Greenland dam removal still plagued by problems \(seacoastonline.com\)](#)

It should be noted that NH Fish & Game was not the lead on the project. Due to state law NHDES oversaw the project and upon the finding that the fishway was not designed properly, they began to negotiate with the designers to come up with a solution. These negotiations broke down and according to what we've been told, the project was handed over to the Attorney General's office for a resolution. Currently there has been no comment from the Attorney General's office, a letter from the Greenland's Board of Selectman has had no response.

[The New Hampshire House of Representatives \(state.nh.us\)](#)

[Contact | U.S. Senator Maggie Hassan \(senate.gov\)](#)

[The New Hampshire State Senate](#)

[Contact Councilor Janet Stevens | District 3 | New Hampshire Executive Council \(nh.gov\)](#)

[Contact | U.S. Senator Maggie Hassan \(senate.gov\)](#)

[Contact Jeanne | Contact | U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire \(senate.gov\)](#)

[Contact | Congressman Chris Pappas \(house.gov\) federal and state representatives](#)

The Greenland Conservation Commission is asking you to contact both your federal and state representatives and senators, governor's councilor, and governor's office to express the concerns that this situation should be corrected and should not take another 10 years to solve. It is our belief that this will require more than a Band-Aid approach. The velocities of the water traveling underneath the bridge will require some type of control on the fishway. In addition, the construction and installation of a new dry hydrant system and impoundment area to provide fire protection for that section of the Town.



NH-689-DRY
HYDRANT DETAIL.pd

["Diadromous Fish Investigations, 2016: Anadromous Alosid Restoration an" by NH Fish & Game \(unh.edu\)](#)

[PROGRESS REPORT \(state.nh.us\)](#)

I'd like to take this time to thank you for considering this worthwhile project. If I can be of any further help or you would like further information you can contact me at:

Greenland Conservation Commission

PO Box 100

Greenland NH 03840.

Chip Hussey, Chairman

husseychip@gmail.com