Mattamiscontis Fishway

Engineers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Natural Resource Conservation Service provided 100% of the design for this project.

Project: Mattamiscontis Fishway, Penobscot Indian Nation, Penobscot County, Penobscot River Watershed

Before

Tributary: Mattamiscontis Lake is at the top end of Mattamiscontis Stream, which is a tributary to the Penobscot River. The lake is 1,025 acres with a maximum depth of 38 feet. Little Mattamiscontis Lake (275 acres) is located downstream of the project site and South Branch Lake is located on a tributary to Mattamiscontis Stream. The watershed is characterized by a low gradient and numerous beaver flowages.

Problem: An old, eroding log dam at the outlet of Mattamiscontis Lake had created impassable conditions in most flows for migratory and resident fish species, particularly sea-run alewives.

Solution: The logs from the remnant dam were removed and then six rock weirs were installed in a 100-foot segment of Mattamiscontis Steam below the lake outlet. Local rock was used to construct the rock weirs, which were designed for a 10-inch drop at high flow. Fish passage was accommodated through a low flow notch and by setting a lower elevation at some of the rocks in the weir near the stream bank to allow passage of other species during higher flow events.

Anticipated Results: The Maine Department of Marine Resources began stocking alewives into Mattamiscontis Lake in 2010 and the first returns are expected in 2014. Over time, Maine DMR anticipates a run of 300,000 adult alewives in the watershed each year.

After

Partners: ASF played a supporting role in this project. The lead partners included the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the USFWS Partners for Wildlife Program, and the Penobscot Indian Nation. NRCS and USFWS engineers corroborated on the design of the fishway and provided funding, along with ASF through the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation.

Total Project Costs: $50,000
Project Completion: September 2012