



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Narragansett Laboratory  
Restoration Center  
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May 20, 2011

Brendan Annett  
Coalition for Buzzards Bay  
114 Front Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

RE: Hathaway Pond Dam Removal, Rochester, MA

Dear Mr. Annett:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) supports the removal of the Hathaway Pond dam on the Sippican River in Rochester, MA. The full removal of this structure will allow unimpeded access by alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*), blueback herring (*A. aestivalis*) and American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) to important upstream spawning and/or rearing habitat. While the upstream impoundment area will be decreased with this full dam removal, the restored river channel and habitats upstream of the impoundment area will provide high quality habitat contributing to the restoration of these important diadromous fishery resources. NOAA believes that this dam removal, combined with a rebuilt structural fishway and new eelway at Leonard's Pond dam, will afford restoration of sustainable diadromous fish populations in the Sippican River.

According to David Belding in his 1920 publication, *A Report upon the Alewife Fisheries of Massachusetts* through the MA Division of Fisheries and Game, an alewife fishery was first established in Sippican River in 1808, although the construction of the Hathaway Pond dam and other obstructions greatly affected the passage of alewife to upstream spawning grounds. NOAA supports the Coalition for Buzzards Bay and other project partners to reverse the effects of these fish passage obstructions and restore the free-flowing Sippican River at Hathaway Pond dam for fish passage and other important ecological services.

It is our understanding that the dam owner supports the removal of this deteriorating dam for which she is under order by the MA Office of Dam Safety to repair or remove the dam. We are also aware of and have reviewed the Feasibility Study Report (November 2010) completed for the Hathaway Pond Dam which evaluated dam repair, partial and full dam removal alternatives. While a partial dam removal may provide substantial fish passage capabilities, this alternative would require expected long-term maintenance, and thus, potential problems with fish passage sustainability.

Thank for your consideration of our support letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me at the above contact information, should you seek additional information from me.

Sincerely,

James G. Turek  
Assistant Northeast Team Leader  
NOAA Restoration Center