

A scenic view of a river flowing through a forested area. The river is surrounded by dense green trees and foliage. The banks are rocky and covered with gravel. A sandy bar is visible on the right side of the river. The water is clear and flows over rocks, creating small rapids.

Chesapeake Bay Fish Passage Workgroup Top Two Priorities for FY21

**Julie Devers, USFWS
Mary Andrews, NOAA
Co-chairs, Fish Passage Workgroup**

Fish Passage Outcome Changes

PREVIOUS FISH PASSAGE OUTCOME: Restore historical fish migratory routes by opening 1,000 additional stream miles by 2025, with restoration success indicated by the presence of river herring, American shad, Hickory shad, Brook Trout and/or American eel.

NEW FISH PASSAGE OUTCOME: By 2025, restore historical fish migratory routes **at a rate of opening 132 miles every two years**, with restoration success indicated by the **presence of alewife, blueback herring, American shad, hickory shad, American eel and brook trout**, to be monitored in accordance with available agency resources and collaboratively developed methods.

NOTE: All web site materials need to be updated with new outcomes.

Maryland Culvert Guidance

- Fish Passage Workgroup has been focused on fish passage at dams for years - fish passage at road-stream crossings also important
- Growing movement across the country to improve resilience and fish passage at road-stream crossings
 - Hurricanes/Flooding has brought to light how roads can be cut off by flooding at undersized culverts
 - Fragmentation at road-stream crossings
- Each state in a different place
 - VA working with VDOT on pilot projects
 - PA dirt and gravel roads implementing Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) for funded projects
 - MD working on Culvert Guidance
- GIT funding through Chesapeake Bay Trust for MD road-stream crossing guidance
 - Can be used as a template for other states
 - Contract with Coastal Resources, Inc.
 - Currently developing standards – 1.2 bankfull width, embedded 1 foot, match slope of stream, match substrate, single culvert or spanning culvert/bridge
 - Next steps – background language for document and example projects
- Next Steps – share template with other states and develop a communications plan for DOTs and DPWs

Dam Removal Mitigation Calculator

- Intended to be a “carrot approach” to generate more dam removal projects
- Culverts are not included in the calculator at this time; future discussion on culverts is expected
- Jim Thompson proposed an approach similar to Bloede Dam Removal Crediting; current version based off stream mitigation calculator
- In the process of negotiating best metrics to identify highest quality projects

Metrics currently being evaluated:

- Upstream Functional Network from tool
- Dam Ranking in the tool (high priority versus low priority)
- Priority species multipliers
- Impoundment length and quality (from stream calculator)