

From: Davis, Eric
To: ["Dennis Wilber"](#); [Crocker, Jeff](#)
Cc: [Joanna Bombadill](#); [Mathew Rubin](#); [Slack Dam](#); [Will, Lael](#)
Subject: RE: Springfield Hydroelectric Downstream Fish Chute
Date: Thursday, April 14, 2016 3:13:00 PM

Hi Dennis,

The Agency recommends that the fish chute be opened when the high water recedes.

While the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) no longer cultures Atlantic salmon for restoration efforts in the Connecticut River Basin, the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission (CRASC) partners have recognized the value of returning salmon, including natural reproduction in natural habitat. Although natural reproduction capabilities and survival to emergence is unknown at this time, it should also be noted that downstream passage for stocked salmon smolts remains effective through 2016.

Additionally, since the decision by the USFWS to end its involvement in the salmon restoration program, it has been the practice of the Agency to recommend that operation of downstream passage facilities be continued where passage would also benefit resident species. The Agency recognizes the importance fish movement during different times of the year and during different life history stages in order to access the best available riverine aquatic habitat for spawning, rearing and feeding; avoid predator interactions; and promote genetic diversity. Examples of Agency recommendations to this effect include the construction of passage facilities at Ball Mountain and Townshend projects and the operation of passage facilities at the Comtu Falls project.

It is the recommendation of the Agency that downstream passage facilities shall continue to operate during the spring (April 1 – June 15) and fall (September 15 – November 15) periods, both in 2016 and for the foreseeable future. This recommendation shall be considered the most recent resource Agency recommendation regarding fish passage and protection.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Thanks,
Eric

Eric Davis, River Ecologist

1 National Life Drive, Main 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3522
802-490-6180 / eric.davis@vermont.gov
<http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/rivers>
(Please note my new e-mail address, effective July 27, 2015)



See what we're up to on our [Blog. Flow.](#)

From: Dennis Wilber [mailto:wilber.d@icloud.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 9:15 AM

To: Davis, Eric <Eric.Davis@vermont.gov>; Crocker, Jeff <Jeff.Crocker@vermont.gov>

Cc: Joanna Bombadill <bunis@tds.net>; Mathew Rubin <m@mrubin.biz>; Slack Dam <slackdam@vermontel.net>

Subject: Springfield Hydroelectric Downstream Fish Chute

Hi Eric,

The Black river is still running high, but once it goes down should we open the fish chute this year?

Thanks,

Dennis Wilber

For Springfield Hydroelectric.

Dennis Wilber

wilber.d@icloud.com



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email, including any attachments, may contain confidential, proprietary and/or privileged information for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). Any review, use, distribution, copy or disclosure by others is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient (or authorized to receive information on behalf of the recipient), please contact the sender and delete all copies of this message. Thank you.