

The Fishing Brook Fishway, dedicated in the Spring of 2007, is located on **PRIVATE PROPERTY**. Access is restricted. For more information, or to become a volunteer monitor, please contact the Old Saybrook Land Trust (860) 395-0465.



Image: NOAA

The river herring fishery is among the oldest in New England, providing fish oil, meat and animal food.

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**RESTORATION MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS:**



Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection,  
Long Island Sound License Plate Program &  
Inland Fisheries Division



Fish America Foundation

NOAA Restoration Center



USDA  
Natural Resources  
Conservation Service



Restore America's Estuaries

Save the Sound  
A program of Connecticut  
Fund for the Environment



Oyster River Coalition  
Old Saybrook Conservation Commission  
Tidewater Institute



RESTORING THE WATERS OF  
LONG ISLAND SOUND

**RESTORING  
MIGRATORY FISH TO  
THE OYSTER RIVER  
WATERSHED  
OLD SAYBROOK, CONNECTICUT**

Photo: Tidewater Institute



Fishing Brook Fishway

OLD SAYBROOK  
LAND TRUST



**SPRING 2007**



## MIGRATORY FISH: A UNIQUE LINK BETWEEN OCEAN AND STREAM

**A**nadromous fish spend most of their adult life in salt water and migrate to freshwater to reproduce. In Old Saybrook's Oyster River, Blueback Herring and Alewife — collectively known as river herring — return from the ocean each spring to spawn.

Until recently, migrating fish could not access the rich inland waters of Old Saybrook because of dams. Since 2000, the Old Saybrook Land Trust, working with town, state and federal partners, has established ways for migrating fish to bypass dams. Chalker Millpond and Fishing Brook Fishways, and in the near future, Crystal Lake Fish Bypass, will completely restore historic migratory fish runs to the headwaters of the Oyster River.

## RESTORING FOOD CHAINS

Restoring historic fish runs helps re-establish important food chains that benefit many other animals, including osprey, egrets, herons and river otter. A single female river herring can produce up to 200,000 eggs, most of which become food for other animals.

Photo: Tidewater Institute



*The Fishing Brook eel-pass is used to count and ensure passage of American Eel*

## AMERICAN EEL

Just the opposite of the river herring, catadromas eels will live in our upland streams and estuaries for up to 25 years before returning to the ocean to spawn. Adult eels swim to the Sargasso Sea — off the coast of Florida — to spawn. Like the river herrings, adult eels will produce millions of eggs. Juvenile eels, called glass eels

because they are clear, will remarkably make their way to our coastal waters to begin the life cycle over again.

## FISHWAYS

A coordinated coast wide effort is needed to protect and enhance anadromous fish resources in order to ensure the survival of these species. Fishways are sloped water passage-ways that enable anadromous fish to get over dams to reach historic spawning habitat. A growing number of coastal communities are successfully restoring fish runs to benefit these important species and replenish the food chain to inland wetlands and watercourses.

Protection of inland wetlands and watercourses from sediment, chemical and thermal pollution ensures that migratory species have healthy habitat to come home to.

PLEASE JOIN US

The Old Saybrook Land Trust is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to protecting the natural resources of the town. Membership support is welcomed.

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