



**Nor'East Chapter Trout Unlimited**  
Conserving and restoring Massachusetts's North Shore coldwater fisheries

## *NETU Newsletter*

### *February 2024*



## *Meeting Notes*

*Our Next Meeting will take place on Monday, 5 Feb 2024, at 6:00PM  
at the IRWA Headquarters, 143 County Road, Ipswich, MA 01938*

*OUR SPEAKER WILL BE*

*OUR OWN SPENCER BELSON!!!*

*Spencer will be talking about his adventures with the 2023 TU Teen Summit in Montana. For a “sneak preview” you can check out his blog at: <https://thecurrentangler.com/2023/07/26/2023-tu-teen-summit/>.*

*PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING!!!*



## *More on Spencer Belson's Upcoming Talk*



**Spencer is a member of Trout Unlimited's Youth Leadership Council, and has attended two of the group's annual National Summits. In 2023, the Summit was held at Georgetown Lake, Montana, a beautiful region with plentiful fisheries and immense restoration potential.**

**Join Spencer Belson and the rest of us on February 5th to learn about his experience in TU Teens, the Summit, and the incredible fishing of western Montana. To get a preview of the presentation, check out Spencer's own blog post about the TU Teen Summit at: <https://thecurrentangler.com/2023/07/26/2023-tu-teen-summit/>.**

## *Greetings from NETU President Ben Meade!*

**Dear fellow Nor'East Chapter Trout Unlimited Members,**

**Happy 2024 to all, and I hope this note finds you all doing well as we kick off the new year. NETU's meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup> was a great one! As Kalil Boghdan put it so well,**

*"I just want to say just how nice last evening's NETU chapter meeting was. Although we only had 14 in attendance, including the speaker, there was, at least for me, a special atmosphere about this particular meeting. I can't quite put my finger on it, but I arrived home feeling really good about attending it."*

**I couldn't agree more. Ross Kessler, Public Access Coordinator for the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, was the speaker at this meeting. Ross gave an excellent talk about his work which - in the broadest sense – is all about expanding access for the public to fishable waters across the state of Massachusetts. There was some great back and forth between Ross and the attendees about how public access to the outdoors is a great thing. The image that Kalil captured – seen here – of Ross's slide entitled "This is Why We Do It" says it all.**



**Everyone reading this note can probably say that you have benefited in immeasurable ways from spending time outside. Future generations deserve the same opportunities, and it was so refreshing to hear that Ross's job is to continually work towards that goal. I am very pleased to know that the state of Massachusetts employs people like Ross to make sure that everyone has access to salt and fresh water to cast a line into.**

*(concluded on next page – FBJ)*



## ***Greetings from NETU President Ben Meade! (concluded)***

**I am looking forward to seeing you at one of our NETU meetings this year. Our monthly meetings are lively and informative, with excellent speakers. We provide camaraderie, activism, and networking opportunities. We laugh a lot. We are actively recruiting new members and new energy. We welcome your attendance and involvement!**

**Ben Meade, NETU Chapter President**

### **NETU Conservation recap**

James MacDougall From: jm3@me.com

To: Ben Meade, Carl Soderland, Chett Walsh, Neil Shea, Fred Jennings  
Fri, Jan 26 at 1:19 PM

Hi,

Here is the presentation I was going to show last night. It is posted on Vimeo. I like to show past projects because they are substantial and I think the Chapter should be proud of them and take pride these accomplishments. There is much more that can be added. This is a powerpoint as a movie. Hit the space bar to stop it if you want to read all the text. I will link this to our web page: <https://vimeo.com/906813084?share=copy>

I forgot to include the past work in Manchester.

Jim

Jim MacDougall  
Nutter Farm  
29 Campmeeting Road  
Topsfield, MA 01983  
978-857-6826

\*\*\*\*\*

Benjamin Meade From: benjamin.k.meade@gmail.com

To: James MacDougall Cc: Carl Soderland, Chett Walsh, Neil Shea, Fred Jennings  
Fri, Jan 26 at 2:11 PM

Jim!

***This Video Is Awesome.*** Well, well done. You do great work. It "tells the story" of what the Chapter has accomplished more clearly than any combination of written articles or another format could. All, let's have this on repeat at the Banquet on March 9.

Benjamin K. Meade Cell: (603) 724 7828 [benjamin.k.meade@gmail.com](mailto:benjamin.k.meade@gmail.com)

## **Nor'East Chapter of Trout Unlimited Fishing is Our Common Bond, So Let's Get Together!**

### **Nor'East Chapter of Trout Unlimited -- Proposal for Activities and Events**

**Dear Nor'East Trout Unlimited Chapter Member,**

**I am reaching out with a proposal you just might enjoy participating in. Although the mission of Trout Unlimited (TU) revolves around the concept of Cold Water Conservation, the one thing that really binds many of us together is the love of fishing, whether it be trout fishing, freshwater bass fishing, wade fishing for striped bass, etc. Whether it be fly fishing or light spin fishing, it really doesn't matter. It's the fact that we are "out there" doing what we love to do, and that's fooling a fish to take our fly or lure. After all, "The tug is the drug."**

**When you joined Trout Unlimited National, they assigned you to a local TU chapter in the vicinity of where you live. The Nor'East Chapter of TU (NETU) is the one you have been assigned to. As many of you know through our newsletters, NETU, your local chapter, has accomplished several very important conservation projects over the past several years. Although our focus and mission revolve around stream/river conservation, NETU would like to broaden its outreach to you by offering other activities that provide the opportunity of NETU members to come together in fun events. An example of this could be the opportunity to come together and fish various local streams and rivers in Massachusetts, or rivers in neighboring states. These fishing activities might be day or overnight trips. In addition to this, other activities or events might include fly casting lessons, fly tying groups, special seminars, morning coffee/gabfests, etc. These little rendezvous might be a lot of fun and a nice way to meet and connect with other folks with like interests.**

**If you would like to receive information regarding future activities and events, or if you have any thoughts or ideas regarding what has been proposed, please email me and I will place you in a special email group that will receive further notifications regarding upcoming activities and events.**

**I look forward to hearing from you.**

**With best regards,**

**Kalil Boghdan**

**Activities and Events Committee Chair**

**[downrivercharters@comcast.net](mailto:downrivercharters@comcast.net)**

***So if you're interested, send an email to Kalil Boghdan today!!!***

**Re: Let's have fun fishing!**

**Kalil From: downrivercharters@comcast.net**

**To: Ben Meade, Ben Shea, Josh Rownd, Peter Vandermeulen, Fred Jennings, James MacDougall, James Goodhart, Chett Walsh, David Walsh, Bob Torkildsen, Ken Washburn, Geoffrey Day, Erik Christiansen, Art Howe, Spencer Belson, Dr C Soderland, Floyd Maker, Patrick Saunders, Neil Shea, Chris Hirsch, Miles Cobb, John LeJeune, Kevin Correa, Michael Flynn**

**Tue, Jan 16 at 7:13 PM**

**Good Evening,**

**As of this email, there are now 25 folks who have requested to be included in a special group named, *Activities and Events*. Six of the 25 are folks on this email strand, and they have requested to receive notifications of upcoming activities. They are: Bob T, Art H, Floyd M, Miles C, John Le, and Michael F. (I would like to thank Art and Miles for bringing forth ideas for possible fishing activities).**

**Once the *Activities and Events* group is formed, this will be the only email strand I will be working from. I am attempting to make this as uncomplicated as can be (at least for me) to reach those who want to participate in a fishing trip, riverside BBQ, special seminars, fly casting lessons/demonstrations, fly tying groups, etc., etc. (a chapter wide emailing will not be offered to participate). Obviously, future emails will go to the general membership, maybe on a semiannual bases, to inquire if there might be others in the chapter who might like to join this group. This *group* will be an evolving process and I am sure the list is going to grow.**

**The mission of the *Activities and Events* group is to get members of then chapter more involved with it. From these activities, leadership in the chapter just might rise and evolve. Please let me know if you would like me to add your name to this group. If I do not hear from you I will assume you are not interested.**

***For the Good of the Order,***

**Kalil Boghdan**

## *Some Crossfeeds from the Greater Boston Trout Unlimited Chapter*

As many of you know, for many years I have served on the boards of both the Nor'East and the Greater Boston chapters of Trout Unlimited. They have come up with an interesting idea that perhaps NETU should consider joining with...

\* \* \*

*Calling all GBTU fly tyers- Showcase your creativity, craftsmanship, and passion for fly tying in our fly tying showcase. Whether you're a seasoned tyer or just starting out, we invite you to participate and share your creations with us. This is not a competition, it's a showcase. We would love to share pictures of your flies on GBTU social media and chapter newsletters. So, show us what you got!*

*The criteria are simple:*

- *Must have been tied by you*
- *You must be a GBTU chapter member (if needed renew [here](#))*
- *The submitted picture should be high quality whether it's a phone pic or high end mirrorless camera*

*Photo tips:*

- *Get close*
- *Simple uncluttered background*
- *Get creative*
- *Feel free to edit the picture*
- *Submit the actual edited image file (not screenshots, downsized files, thumbnails, etc)*

*Email your fly photo to [sworrell@gbtu.org](mailto:sworrell@gbtu.org) and include the following info:*

- *Your full name*
- *Name of your fly*
- *Brief description of fly*
- *Target species*

\* \* \*

**I was intrigued by this proposal, so I submitted my own saltwater fly, which I use as a very effective search fly in the waters I usually fish...**

Fred Jennings From:peakdawn@yahoo.com

To:Sterling Worrell

Fri, Dec 22, 2023 at 3:58 PM

OK, Sterling. Here are some photos of my "Shameless Hooker" and some accompanying text to go with them.

Your full name: Frederic B. Jennings Jr., Ph.D. (economics)

Name of your fly: The Shameless Hooker

Brief description of fly: See below

Target species: Striped Bass (but it also works on other species)

*(concluded on next page – FBJ)*



## *Some Crossfeeds from GBTU (continued)*

**Description, evolution and discussion of fly:** This fly is tied entirely of various colors of crystal flash. It evolved from a fly called "The Captain's Special" which was tied with a combination of bucktail and crystal flash, going from white to very dark on the back, but I began to notice that this fly got fishier and fishier as the bucktail got chewed out of it. When I started tying the clouser version with only crystal flash, a friend of mine said that it looked like a flashy Parisian street whore dressed to party! So I named it "The Shameless Hooker"...

Note a few key features of these two flies. Before I lay thread to a hook (these are probably #1/0 hooks), I do three things: I pinch down the barb; I bend the straight part of the long J-hook until the point is aiming inside the eye (to make it like a barbless circle hook); and I sharpen the point of the hook. Note that bending the hook that way effectively conceals the point within the dressing on the fly's back...

The photos show two versions of the fly, both tied by me and rescued from my fishing chestpack. In the early season, the light-colored one with the rust-colored back seems to work better than the darker one, which I use later in the season. But they both catch fish no matter what the time of year. Unless the stripers are targeting something very specific, I use this fly almost exclusively as a search fly as it will likely get their attention because it is so visible. I have caught stripers from 11" up to 40" on this fly, using a 6 or 6.5 foot 2-weight fly rod.

Before you think I'm babying these fish, please understand that I'm using 16-18 pound tippets at the end of a 7-foot leader tied to about a 7-weight (usually fast sink) shooting head that's about 12 feet long, joined to 50 feet of flat mono running line. With this rig, you can cast a 2-weight rod in a 20-knot wind, and you can deal with large fish because it allows you to put 300 yards of backing on a trout-sized reel.

You don't want to fish this sort of tackle from a boat in deep water. But fishing from shore, you are pulling sideways on your hooked fish, and you can put on as much pressure as the tippet strength will tolerate. I land fish a whole lot more quickly than most other anglers...

Fred Jennings





## *Some Crossfeeds from GBTU (continued)*



Jan 18, 2024

To: Josh Rownd & Ben Meade, NETU

Dear Josh & Ben:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing on behalf of the Greater Boston Chapter of Trout Unlimited to request NETU's sponsorship for an upcoming event we hope will resonate with your organization's values and commitment to community engagement. The event will focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the community. We anticipate this event will draw a diverse audience, bringing together individuals and invited BIPOC nonprofits (i.e., Latino Outdoors, Elevate Youth) who share a passion for conservation and the outdoors.

Our organization is dedicated to promoting the conservation and responsible use of coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. We are proud of the work we do in fostering a sense of community among conservation anglers and enthusiasts. At the core of our mission is the belief that the outdoors should be accessible to everyone, regardless of their background. We are committed to ensuring that all individuals have the opportunity to enjoy, recreate, and restore themselves in our natural surroundings.

To further this commitment, we are excited to host a special screening of "[Blackwaters](#)," a compelling film that explores the beauty and significance of our natural waterways. This film, directed by Chad Brown and edited by Dudley Edmondson, not only captures the essence of our conservation challenges but also highlights the importance of inclusion and diversity in outdoor activities.

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## *Some Crossfeeds from GBTU (continued)*



The film will be followed by an in-person panel discussion with Director Chad Brown and Editor Dudley Edmondson and the other 4 characters in the film. The panel session encompasses the power of five Black men whose paths have been challenged with loss, defeat, fear, and pain by life's ups and downs and social injustice challenges black men and black boys face every day. The next day we plan a fly-casting/fly-tying clinic to extend our learning and sense of belonging.

### Event Details:

- Friday Eve, March 15th (Film Screening & Panel) 5-7 PM Brattle Theater & 7-8 PM (Social gathering) Cambridge, Massachusetts
- Saturday Morning, March 16th (Fly Casting & Tying Clinic)

To support this event, we have established several sponsorship tiers. We kindly request your organization's support at one of these sponsorship tiers to help us make this event a success. By partnering with us, you will not only align your organization with our mission but also demonstrate your dedication to fostering a welcoming and diverse outdoor community.

- Wild Atlantic Salmon: \$2000 and above
- Native Brook Trout: \$1000-\$1999
- Wild Rainbow Trout: \$500-\$999
- Wild Brown Trout: \$250-\$499
- Trout Parr: up to \$249

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## *Some Crossfeeds from GBTU (concluded)*

Sponsors at each level will receive prominent recognition in all our social media channels, newsletters, and other marketing avenues leading up to and during the event (higher levels of sponsorship will receive more prominent recognition, (i.e., larger logos)). Your organization's commitment will play a pivotal role in helping us promote inclusivity in the outdoors and engage the Greater Boston community in meaningful discussions about conservation and recreation. All proceeds will be used to cover the cost of the film screening/venue, travel and speaker honorariums and other associated event costs.

We are excited about the possibilities this event offers and hope we can count on your support to make the Greater Boston outdoors accessible for everyone. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or for further information. You can contact me through the info below.

Sincerely,

Rui Coelho,  
Vice Chair MA TU Council,  
President Emeritus, Greater Boston TU  
617-285-1665  
[rcoelho@gbtu.org](mailto:rcoelho@gbtu.org)

*(end – FBJ)*

## **APPEAL FOR GBTU BLACKWATERS FILM PROJECT**

As many of us TU members know, almost all of our MA chapters suffer from a lack of diversity in the membership. Most of us are “old white guys” and if we TU members can succeed in recruiting and keeping people from more diverse ethnic, cultural and racial backgrounds into our chapters, we’d all be much better off for this effort. The Greater Boston Chapter of Trout Unlimited here is putting forth an appeal to both Nor’East TU Chapter members and members of the MA State TU Council to support this effort to raise our awareness of these issues. *Blackwaters* looks like a great film: <https://blackwatersfilm.com/https://blackwatersfilm.com/>.

*Thank you! Fred Jennings, NETU Newsletter Editor*



# *Staying Current on Ipswich Dam Removal*

## **Fwd: Ipswich Mills Dam Removal Updates**

Carl Soderland From: carlsoderland1971@gmail.com  
To: Fred Jennings, Ben Meade, James MacDougall  
Thu, Jan 25 at 10:47 AM

We should publish the **Read the FAQ** about the dam in our newsletter this month, next month and March. This info needs to get out there. IRWA has done a great job answering questions.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Neil Shea** <[ipswichriver@mg2.lglcrm.net](mailto:ipswichriver@mg2.lglcrm.net)>  
Date: Tue, Jan 23, 2024 at 3:54 PM  
Subject: Ipswich Mills Dam Removal Updates  
To: <[carlsoderland1971@gmail.com](mailto:carlsoderland1971@gmail.com)>

Dear Carl and Diane,

Thanks so much for helping us out with the Ipswich Mills Dam Campaign! In order to keep your finger on the pulse of the latest developments with this campaign, we'll send out these weekly short but sweet emails for your reading pleasure.

### **The Latest Updates:**

Ipswich River Watershed Association staff [continues to meet with Ipswich "influencers"](#) to ensure they have all the facts about dam removal to make an informed decision at the ballot this spring.

### **Busting Myths about Dam Removal:**

*If you hear:* Concerns about Choate bridge.

*You can say:* Impacts of dam removal have been carefully studied and there are absolutely NO impacts to Choate bridge or County Street bridge.

*If you hear:* Concerns about flooding.

*You can say:* The Ipswich Mills Dam does not reduce flood risk in any way. In fact, dam removal will actually somewhat reduce flood risk by restoring the floodplain storage upstream of downtown Ipswich.

[Read the FAQ for more info on either of these myths.](#)

### **Call To Action:**

Let us know how your conversations with friends and neighbors about dam removal are going! Respond to this email with a snapshot of the feedback form handed out at the River Action party on 1/10/24 or with a few notes about what messages are resonating, or not, with Ipswich residents.

***Your support is appreciated!***

Sincerely,  
Neil Shea, Restoration Program Director

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# *Staying Current on Ipswich Dam Removal (continued)*

## **IPSWICH MILLS DAM -- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS NOV. 2023**

### **History and Background of the Dam**

The Ipswich Mills Dam is located in downtown Ipswich. In 1637 a dam was first built to help power grist mills. This early dam was considerably smaller than the granite block dam that we see today. The current structure was likely constructed around 1880, then significantly modified in 1908 to power adjacent mills. It was decommissioned from industrial use by the 1930s. The dam was privately owned until The Town of Ipswich bought it from Sylvania Corporation in 1982.

### **Responsibilities of Dam Ownership**

The Town is responsible for all costs associated with liability, operation, and maintenance of the Ipswich Mills Dam and adjacent fish ladder. The Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety requires regular structural inspections to ensure the dam is in safe operating condition. Local, state, and federal laws dictate that all negative impacts be mitigated. State and Federal law and legal precedent shields dam owners from all liability if owners proactively remove a dam.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. Why explore dam removal?
2. Were alternatives to dam removal considered?
3. Why aren't we exploring implementing a new or innovative fish bypass that would allow the dam to stay?
4. Will migratory fish return after dam removal?
5. What are diadromous fish and why are dams so problematic for them?
6. How will fish get past dams further up the river?
7. Why not wait until water withdrawal issues on the river are improved?
8. Will dam removal affect existing water supplies on the river?
9. What will the river look like after dam removal?
10. How will dam removal affect flooding?
11. Does the project require an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)?
12. What permits are needed for the project?
13. How will the project affect my property value?
14. Why now?
15. What is the impact of dam removal on shellfish populations?
16. What happens to the ecosystem above the dam if it is removed?
17. What are the implications for surrounding infrastructure and buildings?
18. Will the depth of the river upstream change?
19. How will paddling and recreational activities be impacted by dam removal?
20. Who can I contact about this project?

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# *Staying Current on Ipswich Dam Removal (continued)*

## **IPSWICH MILLS DAM -- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS NOV. 2023 (continued)**

### **1. Why explore dam removal?**

The Town of Ipswich has been studying the feasibility of removal since 2013. Eliminating ongoing maintenance costs and long-term liability are appealing financial outcomes for the town. Additionally removing the dam aligns with the goals of the Ipswich Community Resiliency Building Report, Ipswich Community Development Plan, and The Town's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan. Improving the ecological health of the river and migratory fish passage are added benefits of dam removal.

**Liability:** Dam owners are responsible for all liability and risks created by the dam, including damages if the dam were to fail. Removing the dam will reduce upstream flooding and eliminate any risk of a dam failure causing a flood downstream.

**Operation and Maintenance:** The town is required to pay for a suite of annual costs for upkeep including maintenance, inspection and permitting. A 2020 inspection identified multiple deficiencies and detailed recommended maintenance tasks. As the dam ages it will require more maintenance with higher price tags.

**Ecological Health:** Dam removal will restore full access to this section of the Ipswich River for a number of migratory fish species, many of which have severely depleted populations. It will also restore natural river processes. The dam causes an unnaturally ponded section of the river that drowns the natural river channel. This more stagnant water accumulates sediment, warms the water, and reduces oxygen concentrations during much of the year. Further, the dam's location at the head of tide is particularly damaging to the river as it prevents the gradual mixing of salt and freshwater.

### **2. Were alternatives to dam removal considered?**

A full suite of alternatives, such as no action, partial dam removal, nature-like fish passage bypass and in-river, nature-like fishway alternatives, were explored during the partial feasibility study phase approximately a decade ago. These alternatives were ruled out early on as viable options by the Town and its Technical Advisory Committee (that included Ipswich Town Manager, Members of the Select Board, and Town staff) based on minimal resulting benefits and higher costs than full dam removal. This led to the full Feasibility Study focusing on all impacts of full dam removal.

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## *Staying Current on Ipswich Dam Removal (continued)*

### **IPSWICH MILLS DAM -- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS NOV. 2023 (continued)**

#### **3. Why aren't we exploring implementing a new or innovative fish bypass that would allow the dam to stay?**

A new fishway was ruled out due to limited ecological benefit, limited space, and the needed alterations to existing downtown infrastructure – including private residences, commercial businesses, and the surrounding roads. A new, large, nature-like fishway at this location may pass certain fish species at some level of effectiveness but will not have the full suite of passage improvements or other ecological benefits that dam removal would. No fishway will work for all species, and some species won't use them at all. Additionally the cost associated with building, operating and maintaining such a fishway would be prohibitively expensive.

#### **4. Will migratory fish return after dam removal?**

The Ipswich Mills Dam is the gateway to the river for all of the migratory species. Opening up migratory access past the Ipswich Mills Dam is a critical component of restoring healthier fish runs on the river. Migratory fishes typically begin utilizing upstream habitat soon after dam removal (often the first year). Access to more spawning and rearing habitat is likely to result in larger populations over a matter of years to decades, as demonstrated in other dam removal projects.

#### **5. What are diadromous fish and why are dams so problematic for them?**

A diadromous fish is a fish that must move between fresh and saltwater to complete its life cycle. Moving between these environments is very difficult on their bodies and they typically have a limited time frame to make that journey. Because of this, the delay a dam or a sequence of dams with fishways can cause as fish search for the fishway entrance or make multiple attempts to ascend or descend can have real effects on a population. Because of this fascinating life history diadromous fishes are especially vulnerable to infrastructure like dams and culverts. To have viable populations of diadromous fish, they need to get in and out of rivers and ponds quickly and safely in order to escape predation and other outside environmental threats.

#### **6. How will fish get past dams further up the river?**

For the first time ever, every dam on the main stem of the Ipswich River has a plan in progress to improve fish passage and the health of the river. Momentum continues upstream with the completion of the new Howlett Brook Fishway in Topsfield, steady progress on the removal of the South Middleton Dam, and preliminary designs for a natural fish bypass at the Willowdale Dam.

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## *Staying Current on Ipswich Dam Removal (continued)*

### **IPSWICH MILLS DAM -- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS NOV. 2023 (continued)**

#### **7. Why not wait until water withdrawal issues on the river are improved?**

In 2021 the Ipswich River was named one of America's Most Endangered Rivers® due to excessive water withdrawals threatening ecosystem health and regional water security. The North Shore Water Resiliency Task Force was formed in response to that designation and is winding down its work to improve water supply resilience and ecosystem health in the Ipswich River Watershed. It is anticipated that the Task Force's recommendations will be in place before the dam is removed.

#### **8. Will dam removal affect existing water supplies on the river?**

The question of impacts to existing water supplies on the river was extensively addressed in the full feasibility study. All public and private water supplies were inventoried and assessed. The study concluded that there will not be any negative impacts to current or future public or private water supplies, nor does the dam provide any potential water supply benefit.

#### **9. What will the river look like after dam removal?**

It may take 1-2 growing seasons for the newly exposed river bank to revegetate. After this period, the river will look similar to the 30 miles of the river upstream of the Railroad Bridge in Ipswich. Expect to see meandering channels and a series of deep pools and shallower riffle areas that are typical of all coastal rivers in Massachusetts.

#### **10. How will dam removal affect flooding?**

Like the vast majority of dams in Massachusetts, the Ipswich Mills Dam provides no flood control benefit. It does however increase flooding somewhat upstream of the dam and creates a risk of downstream flooding in the event of a dam failure. To address concerns over flood impacts of dam removal the feasibility study evaluated this and found the following:

**Downstream:** There will be no change to the amount of water flowing downstream. The Ipswich River Dam is a “run-of-river” dam, meaning that it does not provide upstream flood control and that the flow of water currently going over the dam will be the same following removal. There is more risk of flooding if the dam were to fail as opposed to if the dam were to be removed.

**Upstream:** The river's natural flood storage capacity will be restored. Water levels upstream from the dam will lower, making available additional floodplain storage that can mitigate future flood events.

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# *Staying Current on Ipswich Dam Removal (continued)*

## **IPSWICH MILLS DAM -- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS NOV. 2023 (continued)**

### **11. Does the project require an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)?**

The Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) office issued a certificate in October 2023 stating that the project partners must submit a Single Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This EIR will address how sediment released from the project will be sampled and managed, so as to prevent the flow of potentially contaminated material into downstream areas. Project partners are creating a plan for sediment sampling and monitoring as part of the Single EIR. This EIR filing will include a project description, an alternatives analysis, an analysis of the existing environment, an assessment of impacts, permitting requirements, mitigation measures, and responses to public comments from the MEPA filing.

### **12. What permits are needed for the project?**

Clean Water Act (sediment review); Rivers & Harbors Act (Certificate Issued 10/16/23); Environment Impact Report (EIR) Jan/Feb 2024; Waterways Program Dredge Permit; Water Quality Program Certification; Dam Safety Program Permit; Conservation Commission; Building Department; Historical Commission...

A rigorous permitting process will ensure that all potential negative impacts will be addressed. Below is a list of regulatory reviews and permits that must be obtained for this project to happen: Federal Regulatory Review; US Army Corps of Engineers; Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulatory Review; MA Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office; MA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); MA Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR); Municipal Regulatory Review - Town of Ipswich.

### **13. How will the project affect my property value?**

There are many factors which influence property values and there is not one adjustment that can be applied across the board due to the uniqueness of properties in the area. Removal of the Ipswich Mills Dam is not expected to affect property values. There is no evidence that removal of run of river dams affect property values.

### **14. Why now?**

Since 2006 extensive studies have been done on the impacts of removing the Ipswich Mills Dam. Removing this dam is ranked as one of the highest priority restoration projects in Massachusetts by the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration and The Nature Conservancy ranks it as one of the highest priority projects along the Atlantic Coast. No major environmental or technical issues have been identified and many ecological benefits will be gained. Right now an unprecedented amount of federal, state, and private dollars are available specifically for dam removal projects. They are available now and may not be available in the future. It would be a disservice to the taxpayers of Ipswich to not investigate the opportunity to remove liability, maintenance, and operational costs from the town budget while also improving climate resiliency of Ipswich and the ecology of the river.

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## *Staying Current on Ipswich Dam Removal (continued)*

### **IPSWICH MILLS DAM -- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS NOV. 2023 (continued)**

#### **15. What is the impact of dam removal on shellfish populations?**

As documented in the feasibility studies, there are minimal impacts from dam removal to shellfish. The only potential impact could be due to accumulated contaminated sediments built up behind the dam. As part of the pre-feasibility study, extensive sediment sampling revealed that the possibility of contaminants in sediments behind the dam is extremely low, and another round of sediment sampling will be completed during the permitting process to confirm that finding.

Removing the Ipswich Mills Dam will restore the natural river process of sediment transport, which is critical to maintaining the health of the marshlands. Our region is experiencing stronger and more frequent coastal storms, making it even more critical that we restore the river's natural ability to enhance the marsh by transporting and depositing sediment downstream.

#### **16. What happens to the ecosystem above the dam if it is removed?**

The impoundment behind the dam will change after removal – water levels will decrease somewhat on average and will become more dynamic based on seasonal freshwater flow and tidal influence. Habitats will not disappear, they will shift. This section of the river will revert to its natural state where river-dependent plants and animals will dominate. Ecologists generally favor this change as they are more natural and resilient to climate change.

If the dam is removed the tide will extend another 1.5-2 miles upriver. A freshwater tidal wetland will be restored to this stretch of the river. This habitat is the rarest aquatic habitat in Massachusetts.

#### **17. What are the implications for surrounding infrastructure and buildings?**

Both the partial feasibility study (completed in 2014), the full feasibility study (completed in 2019) and subsequent mitigation studies concluded there were no significant technical, legal or infrastructure risks associated with dam removal. This includes risk to the nearby EBSCO facility, which is being actively studied. In 2023 an internal investigation of the EBSCO facility revealed a concrete pier support underlying the foundation. A full report on these latest findings is expected in 2024.

A comprehensive study was completed that investigated potential impacts to both upstream and downstream structures. Structures identified as having no potential impacts with no further action needed: *Pedestrian bridge; Farley Brook outfall; Sewer interceptor and siphon*. Structures identified as having no potential impacts, but will need to be monitored: *Building foundations and walls downstream of the pedestrian bridge; Choate Bridge*. Structures identified to have “moderate” potential impacts needing reinforcement: *Old fishway wall; Pedestrian platform piers*.

*(continued on next page →)*

## *Staying Current on Ipswich Dam Removal (concluded)*

### **IPSWICH MILLS DAM -- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS NOV. 2023 (continued)**

#### **18. Will the depth of the river upstream change?**

Hydrologic models show that the new water level will vary depending on the flow and tide, with significantly less variation as you move upstream. Low flow conditions in the Ipswich River are exacerbated by municipal and private water withdrawals. These issues are complex and are currently being addressed by the North Shore Water Resiliency Task Force. The Task Force is a group of municipalities, water suppliers, and legislators working to make sure the river has the water it needs. This is expected to be improved along a similar timeline as dam removal, which will improve water levels in the river during periods of drought and regular summer low flow.

#### **19. How will paddling and recreational activities be impacted by dam removal?**

Paddling will noticeably change on the stretch between where the dam is currently located and the IRWA dock. Flatwater paddling will be reduced and this stretch will now offer a paddling experience that more closely resembles other upstream reaches of the Ipswich River. There will be twice daily tidal rises and falls that may not always be noticeable depending on the level of flow in the river. During periods of extreme low-flow, paddling may be difficult in some areas just as it is in upper sections of the Ipswich. Ocean access will be easier. There is currently no easy way to portage over the dam. Removing the dam would allow uninterrupted paddling from upstream down to the marsh, beach, and ocean.

#### **Who can I contact about this project?**

The Town and its project partners will continue to hold public informational meetings throughout the process. All project related reports can be viewed on the Ipswich Mills Dam project website: [IpswichMillsDam.com](http://IpswichMillsDam.com)

Please feel free to contact:

**Frank Ventimiglia, Ipswich Department of Public Works: [frankv@ipswichma.gov](mailto:frankv@ipswichma.gov)**

**Neil Shea, Restoration Program Director, IRWA: [nshea@ipswichriver.org](mailto:nshea@ipswichriver.org)**

*(end of Ipswich River Dam FAQs -- FBJ)*

# *Here's a Shocker: Wayne Castonguay Resigned! He'll be very hard to replace as IRWA Executive Director.*

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Ipswich River Watershed Association**

James MacDougall From:jm3@me.com

To: Fred Jennings, Art Howe, Josh Rownd

Fri, Jan 26 at 10:04 AM

Hi,

Dave Comb, a board member at Ipswich River Watershed Association, would like the job description for the IRWA executive director to be posted in the TU NorEast newsletter and sent to a publicist at TU National. The job description can be found on the link below. I will post it on our web page as an announcement blog post: <https://www.ipswichriver.org/executive-director/>.

Thank you,

Jim MacDougall

Nutter Farm

29 Campmeeting Road

Topsfield, MA 01983

978-857-6826



\*\*\*\*\*

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The Ipswich River Watershed Association (IRWA) seeks a self-directed, goal-oriented, strategically minded Executive Director (ED) to lead our organization into the future. The Association is an inclusive, member-driven, and highly collaborative organization working on behalf of our natural environment and the more than 350,000 residents and the businesses on the North Shore who rely on the Ipswich for their source of drinking water. We use science, education, storytelling, and advocacy tools to develop and implement effective programs that protect the Ipswich River watershed and inspire our communities to take action and provide support.

As the leader of a skilled and experienced staff of twelve, the ED is responsible for overall organizational management, staff development, and implementing strategic initiatives. The ED is also responsible for the organization's \$1.25 Million annual operating budget, as well as its reserves budgets and a variable restoration project implementation budget that can be in the millions of dollars annually. This position is also responsible for overseeing our 25-acre public reservation and headquarters facility on the banks of the Ipswich River known as Riverbend. You will be joining at a key moment in our organization's 48-year history, as we implement a new five-year Strategic Plan, to dramatically increase the pace of our active restoration and resiliency efforts, and improve our ability to serve communities across the North Shore. The ED will play a key leadership role in engaging Board members and major donors in meeting the financial goals of the organization. This position reports to the Board of Directors and has three direct reports: The Directors of Resiliency, Science & Restoration, and Development & Engagement.

*(continued on next page →)*

# *Here's a Shocker: Wayne Castonguay Resigned!*

## *Tough Shoes to Fill by a New IRWA Executive Director (continued)*

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Ipswich River Watershed Association**

#### **Key Responsibilities**

- **Leadership:** Drive implementation of strategic, innovative, effective, science-driven watershed conservation, restoration, education, advocacy, stewardship and recreation programs, projects, and policies to improve the river for people and wildlife. Lead staff in implementing the strategic plan.
- **Development:** In an environment where individual and corporate donations (including major gifts) account for more than 70% of the organization's annual operating budget, serve as the organization's lead development officer in partnership with the Development & Engagement Director (DDE) to foster a culture of philanthropy throughout the organization; strategize and execute IRWA's fundraising activities; be the chief fundraiser amongst major donors; work with the Board's Development and Engagement Committee and DDE to establish and execute fundraising plans and develop fundraising materials; work to secure major gifts, support fundraising events and special campaigns.
- **Management:** Direct the day-to-day management of IRWA and ensure the effective and efficient administration of all internal operations. Supervise direct staff reports, evaluate their performance; provide on-going professional guidance and development as well as coaching, as needed, administer personnel policies; recruit, hire and retain staff needed to advance the strategic plan. Formulate projects with staff members in their program areas (currently: River Science, Ecological Restoration, Education, Advocacy, Resiliency, Development and Engagement, and Administration and Finance). Undertake direct program work in special projects as appropriate; coordinate annual work plans.
- **Policy, Planning and Advocacy:** Proactively engage our Board, staff, and partner organizations to analyze, develop, and advocate for positions on relevant legislation, legal challenges, regulations, policies and plans; present IRWA's position in comment letters, public meetings, and hearings.
- **Community Relations:** As the chief spokesperson for IRWA; represent IRWA at private and public forums across a wide range of partnerships; develop strong relationships with people and communities representing the demographic diversity within the watershed; communicate IRWA's work and successes; ensure that IRWA is properly represented and known to its various constituencies, including local, state, and federal officials and agencies.
- **Finance and Budgeting:** Work with our Treasurer, Finance Committee, and staff to develop the annual budget, and track the budget over the fiscal year. Oversee all financial operations, records and reports. Ensure proper management of investments, funds and assets; control costs responsibly; authorize purchases and disbursements. Ensure timely completion of annual audit and tax filings, legal compliance, and annual reporting to IRWA members at our Annual Meeting.
- **Grants and Contracts:** With the DDE, provide oversight to staff in the development of high-quality grant applications; execute grant and contract agreements, ensuring fulfillment of all requirements; ensure timely reporting to all donors.
- **Board Coordination:** Actively engage and work closely with our Board of Directors; keep Board of Directors informed in a timely manner of all relevant organizational activities; work with the President of the Board to develop agendas for Board and Executive Committee meetings; assist other Board committees as needed; assure optimal communication between Board and staff.
- Other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

(continued on next page →)



## ***Here's a Shocker: Wayne Castonguay Resigned! Tough Shoes to Fill by a New IRWA Executive Director (continued)***

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Ipswich River Watershed Association**

#### **Qualifications**

- Undergraduate degree in Environmental Science, Education, Environmental Management, Business Management, Communications, Legal or related field, or comparable level of progressive and related work experience is required for consideration.
- Advanced degree in a related field is preferred.

#### **Preferred Background, Skills, Attributes**

- Significant fundraising experience with a demonstrated level of success with a focus individual donors at the major gift level.
- Enthusiastic, positive attitude and a passion for serving the community and building and enhancing relationships across that community
- Progressive non-profit management experience including budgeting, staff management, and general administration.
- Strong understanding and appreciation of local and state government policies, practices, and procedures.
- Thorough understanding of basic ecological and watershed principles.
- Proven ability to work proactively and strategically with minimal supervision.
- Demonstrated experience developing and implementing advocacy campaigns.
- Strong communication skills and public speaking experience.
- Demonstrated record of collaboration and coalition building
- Previous experience working with a Board of Directors.
- Significant experience and strong commitment to work with, leverage, mentor and inspire partners, volunteers, and donors.
- Comfort using standard office-place technologies; a working knowledge of specific computer programs such as Google Suite and Microsoft Office Suite.

#### **Hours, Schedule, and Compensation**

This is a full-time position with a salary commensurate with your demonstrated abilities and experience. Benefits include generous paid time off, health insurance, HSA and a 401k retirement plan. Schedule is flexible but requires some evening and occasional weekend work. This is not a remote work position; however, some remote work may be acceptable.

#### **Application Procedure**

To apply, send a resume, along with a cover letter explaining how your skills, talents, and experience would help advance our organization and our mission. Resumes will be accepted until close of business Friday March 15th. Apply to 'Search Committee' at: [irwainfo@ipswichriver.org](mailto:irwainfo@ipswichriver.org) with "Executive Director Application" in the subject line. Ipswich River is an equal opportunity employer and diverse candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

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# *Here's a Shocker: Wayne Castonguay Resigned! Tough Shoes to Fill by a New IRWA Executive Director (concluded)*

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Ipswich River Watershed Association**

### **Organization & Opportunity**

The Ipswich River Watershed Association, Inc. (IRWA) is a 501(c)(3) organization formed in 1977 by concerned citizens and regional conservation partners. Our mission is *to protect and restore the Ipswich River for people and nature*. We are the primary advocate for the River and its watershed; we are “The Voice of the River.” IRWA is considered one of the most effective and respected watershed associations in the country having received more EPA Environmental Merit Awards than any other organization. The organization is fiscally strong, stable and well positioned to provide an ideal opportunity to be only its third Executive Director in its history.

The Ipswich River has been declared one of the Most Endangered Rivers in America by American Rivers due primarily because of excessive water withdrawals. This said, its water quality is among the highest in the State with nearly 50% of its watershed being permanently conserved land. The River is a tributary to the Great Marsh, the largest salt marsh in New England and an internationally recognized outstanding natural resource. Located within a half hour of Boston and an hour's drive to over four million people, the Ipswich River is one of the most cherished recreational and natural resources in the Northeast.

### **CONTACT US**

Ipswich River Watershed Association  
Riverbend Headquarters  
143 County Road Ipswich, MA 01938 [irwainfo@ipswichriver.org](mailto:irwainfo@ipswichriver.org)  
978.412.8200

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### **MISSION**

The Ipswich River Watershed Association is the voice of the Ipswich River. We work to protect nature and make sure that there is enough clean water for people, fish and wildlife, today and for our children and theirs.

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**IPSWICH RIVER  
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**



# *IRWA's Report on PIE Rivers Annual Meeting*

## **PIE Rivers eNews: Winter Edition**



**Winter eNews • January 5, 2024**

**Parker, Ipswich & Essex River Watershed Collaborative**



## **Annual Meeting Was A Success**

On Thursday, December 7th, over 50 resiliency and restoration practitioners met for a morning of information sharing, networking, and envisioning the work that the PIE-Rivers partnership can tackle over the next few years. A full recap is available on our blog.

We are constantly striving for this partnership to offer real help and real results to our partners - which is why your feedback is so important. Prior to the meeting we sent out a survey, check out those results below. The informal conversations that attendees had during breaks and lunch following the meeting proved to be invaluable opportunities for information sharing.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CLICK ON THIS LINK:**

**<https://pie-rivers.org/pie-rivers-annual-meeting-2023/>**.



# *Some Exciting Stuff on Dam Removals*

**Nice article on NPR website about dam removal on the Klamath River**

**myeomans@gbtu.org From: myeomans@gbtu.org**

**To: Andresino, Mike, Fred Jennings, Kathleen Erickson, Matthew Murphy, Robert Cantow  
Thu, Jan 18 at 8:24 AM**

**<https://www.npr.org/2024/01/12/1224494403/klamath-river-begins-to-flow-again-with-dam-removal-project>**

**Fred Jennings From:peakdawn@yahoo.com**

**To: Andresino, Mike, Kathleen Erickson, Matthew Murphy, Robert Cantow, Rui Coelho  
Thu, Jan 18 at 10:23 AM**

**Thanks for this, Mike. I'm really excited about this effort to free up the Klamath River. I used to fish the Klamath River when I lived in California, both during my "hippie years" (1969-71) and while I was at Stanford (1974-79), both at the mouth of the Trinity River (about 25 miles upriver from the coast) and where the Shasta River flowed into the Klamath a short ways below the Iron Gate Dam. I always fished with very light tackle, and I recall hooking a large King Salmon in the Klamath that took me hundreds of yards downriver (outside a thick row of bushes) before I successfully landed it.**

**There was also a fish weir with a fish-counting station (manned by two cheery fisheries rangers during the autumn run) on the Shasta River about 300 yards upriver from its mouth, and there was one pool in that 300 yard stretch that held a lot of big salmon. You couldn't fish within 100 yards of the weir or the river mouth, but that one pool was legal until they made it illegal, most likely in response to our depredations! You would hook a salmon in that pool and it would often run down into the Klamath before it could be landed. That was some of the most amazing fishing I've ever had. That "meathole" was a very reliable spot for hooking (and occasionally landing) big King Salmon until that magical pool where salmon would hold was taken out of play. I have to admit that a part of me was glad they finally did that, though I don't recall that anyone else was fishing that pool like we always were.**

**Recalling guilty pleasures...**

**Fred Jennings**

*(continued on next page →)*

# *Some Exciting Stuff on Dam Removals (continued)*

## **No turning back: The largest dam removal in U.S. history begins**

Updated January 13, 2024

1:46 PM ET

Heard on [All Things Considered](#)

By [Erik Neumann - Jefferson Public Radio](#)

Juliet Grable

<https://www.npr.org/2024/01/12/1224494403/klamath-river-begins-to-flow-again-with-dam-removal-project>



*The bypass tunnel at the bottom of Iron Gate Dam in Northern California has been carefully reinforced so it can handle the load of water and sediment pouring through it. Juliet Grable for NPR (left photo); and Amy Cordalis (left) and Barry McCovey, members of the Yurok Tribe, have played key roles in advocating for the removal of the Klamath River dams. Juliet Grable for NPR (right photo)*

The largest dam removal in U.S. history entered a critical phase this week, with the lowering of dammed reservoirs on the Klamath River.

On Thursday, the gate on a 16-foot-wide bypass tunnel at the base of Iron Gate dam, the lowest of those slated to be removed, was opened from a crack to 36 inches.

Amy Cordalis stood in the dawn chill to witness the first big surge as the gate was widened. She's an attorney and Yurok Tribe member who has played a critical role in advocating for dam removal. As water poured through the tunnel, she could hear boulders rolling and tumbling. The water turned to dark chocolate milk as decades of pent-up sediment surged through.

"This is historic and life-changing," Cordalis said. "And it means that the Yurok people have a future. It means the river has a future; the salmon have a future."

Mike Belchik, a senior policy adviser for the Yurok Tribe, was also there to witness the controlled breach.

"It's kind of surreal," said Belchik, who has worked on Klamath River water issues for the tribe for nearly 30 years. "I don't know why we had such confidence that it was going to happen. But we did. We always knew it would happen."

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## *Some Exciting Stuff on Dam Removals (continued)*

### **No turning back: The largest dam removal in U.S. history begins (continued)**

One hundred seventy-three feet high, with a 740-foot crest, Iron Gate is an earth embankment dam with a skinny, many-fingered reservoir behind it. The lowering — or drawdown — of Iron Gate and two other reservoirs on the Klamath River will make way for the removal of three remaining hydroelectric dams that are part of the Lower Klamath Project in Northern California and southern Oregon.



*Copco 1, located on the Klamath River in Northern California, is one of three remaining dams in the Lower Klamath Project that will be deconstructed later this year. Juliet Grable for NPR*

For decades, these barriers have blocked salmon, steelhead and Pacific lamprey from accessing habitat above them and contributed to poor water quality below. The Klamath River was once the third-largest salmon producer on the West Coast, but in the time since the dams were constructed, the Klamath's coho and Chinook runs have dwindled to a fraction of their historic abundance.

When tribal activists first started calling for the removal of four Klamath River dams in the late 1990s, people thought they were "crazy," said Leaf Hillman, an elder of the Karuk Tribe who helped launch the campaign. "We've never really considered any other alternative to removing dams. And so it was a fight that we were committed to, and that we knew that we had to win. And it's been an intergenerational struggle."

A massive die-off of Chinook salmon in 2002 catalyzed increased activism around getting the dams removed. An estimated 34,000 to 78,000 fish died. The loss of these fish didn't just mean the loss of a fun summer fishing activity, said Brook Thompson, a Yurok Tribe member who was 7 years old at the time and is now in her late 20s. "Those salmon to me are the connections I have with my relatives," she explained. "In a day, that was all gone."

The fight to save the Klamath River's salmon shaped the lives and careers of people like Thompson, who grew up holding up posters at protests. Today, she is pursuing a Ph.D. that focuses, in part, on how to incorporate Native knowledge into policy. For her, it all comes back to the river and the fish that are so central to Native diets, ceremonies and identity. "Yurok spirituality and Yurok ways of life cannot exist without having the salmon here," she said.

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## *Some Exciting Stuff on Dam Removals (continued)*

### **No turning back: The largest dam removal in U.S. history begins (continued)**

While activists celebrate the rebirth of a river, the massive project brings uncertainty to others, particularly residents who live near the dams. In the small town of Copco Lake, Calif., losing their namesake lake means losing the centerpiece of their community. It also brings heightened concerns about how the reshaped landscape will affect their property values and their ability to safeguard their homes from wildfires in a high-risk region.

Up until now, vehicles could easily access the lakeshore to pump water to fight fires, and aircraft could dip their buckets into the lake, according to Francis Gill, a Copco Lake resident and fire chief for the community's volunteer fire department. Gill fears that the community will be much more exposed to fire without the lake as a buffer.

"Now, instead of having that lake as a huge barrier, we get the potential for fire to jump the river, get from one side to the other easily," Gill said. "Especially just with the way the wildfires have been getting the last 10 years. They just blow up so fast and get so big, so quickly."



Other large dam removals on the Penobscot River in Maine and on the Elwha River in Washington state have shown that rivers — and the fish that depend on them — can recover quickly. The successful campaign and restoration of the Klamath watershed will no doubt inform other dam removal efforts.

"Every time we do this, and we do this at a big scale, we learn new things about the legal pathways," said Dave Owen, a law professor at the University of California, San Francisco. "It just helps people see that this is possible, and that it can be highly successful."

Advocates and analysts are eyeing four dams on the Lower Snake River in Washington as the next big dam removal in the queue. Owen says that who owns the dams and what the dams are used for greatly impacts the politics around their removal.

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## *Some Exciting Stuff on Dam Removals (concluded)*

### **No turning back: The largest dam removal in U.S. history begins (continued)**

"Along the Snake River, you have irrigators who rely on some of those reservoirs; you also have barge traffic, that's conveying wheat," Owen said. These factors make the Snake River dams a "harder case." Still, the removal of the Klamath River dams "makes action on the Snake River more likely than it was a few years ago," he said.

For the next week, water will flow through the bypass tunnel at an average rate of 2,200 cubic feet per second, draining down Iron Gate reservoir between two and four feet per day. Later this month, J.C. Boyle, the uppermost of the three dams, will be breached, followed by Copco 1. By June, the Klamath River should be flowing more or less within its historic channel, and the work of dismantling the structures can begin.

Advocates are quick to point out that dam removal alone will not save the Klamath River's salmon runs. However, removing the barriers will open up 76 miles of coho habitat and over 400 miles of Chinook habitat, says Shari Witmore, a fish biologist at NOAA Fisheries.

If modeling is correct, as many as 80% more Chinook salmon could return to the basin within about 30 years after the dams are removed. Ocean harvest could increase by as much as 46%. But this will depend in part on restoring important tributaries, including the cold spring-fed rivers in the upper Klamath Basin, which have been compromised with diking and draining of wetlands.

"Once we restore that, we put this basin back together," Witmore says. "That creates a lot of resilience over time with climate change, and it buffers against multi-year droughts."

Cordalis, the Yurok Tribe member, agrees that more work lies ahead. But she's also looking forward to fulfilling a simple personal goal.

"Fishing," she said. "I want to go fishing."

*Here's another important and interesting paper on dam removal with a historical perspective:*

### **Are we ready for more dam removals in the United States?**

Farshid Vahedifard<sup>1,\*</sup>, Kaveh Madani<sup>2,3</sup>, Amir AghaKouchak<sup>4,5</sup> and Sannith Kumar Thota<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Richard A Rula School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762, United States of America

<sup>2</sup> The MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT 06511, United States of America

<sup>3</sup> Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London, London SW7 1NE, United Kingdom

<sup>4</sup> Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of California, Irvine, CA 92697, United States of America

<sup>5</sup> Department of Earth System Science, University of California, Irvine, CA 92697, United States of America

\* Author to whom any correspondence should be addressed.

A link to this paper is here: <https://doi.org/10.1088/2634-4505/abe639>

# *Striped Bass and the ASMFC with Amendment II*

## **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission NEWS RELEASE**

### *Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger

January 25, 2024

703.842.0749

## **ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Board Approves Addendum II**

### ***Establishes Measures to Continue Progress Towards Stock Rebuilding***

Arlington, VA – The Commission's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board approved Addendum II to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Striped Bass. The Addendum modifies recreational and commercial measures to reduce fishing mortality in 2024, establishes an expedited response process to upcoming stock assessments, and addresses requirements for recreational filleting. Addendum II builds upon the 2023 emergency action by changing the measures in the FMP to reduce fishing mortality and support stock rebuilding. Addendum II measures will replace the emergency action measures upon its implementation by the states by May 1, 2024.

"First and foremost, thank you to the 2,000 members of the public who submitted public comments. The Board had difficult issues to discuss, and public comments were a crucial part of the deliberations," said Board Chair Megan Ware from Maine. "The Board remains focused on rebuilding the stock by 2029. The upcoming 2024 stock assessment will be an important checkpoint on progress toward rebuilding."

For the ocean recreational fishery, the Addendum implements a 28" to 31" slot limit, 1-fish bag limit, and maintains 2022 season dates for all fishery participants; this maintains the same ocean recreational measures adopted under the recent emergency action. For the Chesapeake Bay recreational fishery, the Addendum implements a 19" to 24" slot limit, 1-fish bag limit, and maintains 2022 season dates for all fishery participants. For the commercial fishery, the Addendum reduces commercial quotas by 7% in both the ocean and Chesapeake Bay.

To address concerns about recreational filleting allowances and compliance with recreational size limits, the Addendum establishes two requirements for states that authorize at-sea/shore-side filleting of striped bass: racks must be retained and possession limited to no more than two fillets per legal fish.

To enable an expedited management response to upcoming stock assessments prior to the 2029 rebuilding deadline, the Addendum establishes a mechanism allowing the Board to respond to a stock assessment via Board action if the stock is not projected to rebuild by 2029.

States must submit implementation plans by March 1, 2024 for Board review and approval, which will take place at a special Board meeting to be scheduled for later in March. All Addendum II measures must be implemented by May 1, 2024. Addendum II will be available in February on the Commission website at <http://www.asmfc.org/species/atlantic-striped-bass> under Management Plans and FMP Reviews. For more information, please contact Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [efranke@asmfc.org](mailto:efranke@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

*The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and diadromous species. 1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201  
703.842.0740 (phone) [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org)*



# *A Bit of Nice Relief – A British Ode to a River*

## **THE RIVER (downloaded by FBJ on 30 Dec 2023)**

A short film about a small and precious chalk river in Kent, the Darent River. Part poem, part history re-imagined, it tells its story going back 100 million years and sheds light on its fragile existence today.

Made by Temujen Gunawardena and Badj Whipple (<http://temjam.com/> and <https://vimeo.com/badjwhipple>)

Written and narrated by Deborah Wolton (<https://thequadrangle.co/about/history/>)

Sound design Jonah Brody (<https://www.jonahbrody.com>)

The Darent River Preservation Society is committed to restoring and preserving the health of the Darent, its catchment and tributaries, its flora and fauna. Find out how to get involved at [www.darent-drips.org.uk](http://www.darent-drips.org.uk)

The production of this animation was supported by the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme (DVLPS), Kent Downs National Landscape and The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Please feel free to share the film with other people and groups you think would be interested.

If presenting it to a live or online audience or if you're sending it out to a network we would very much appreciate if you could credit and include the link to The Quadrangle, Kent (<https://thequadrangle.co>)

**HERE'S THE VIDEO THEY MADE ABOUT THE DARENT RIVER:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyTNrw2njF0>**

# *The Problem of Ecological Overshoot*

*I do a lot of work with an interesting organization called Biodiversity for a Livable Climate ([www.bio4climate.org](http://www.bio4climate.org)) and am exposed to a firehose of information about the climate crisis. If you're not paying attention, you should be. There's some tough information out there about impending problems we should be facing a lot better!!!*

*Fred Jennings, NETU Newsletter Editor*

## **EMAIL EXCHANGE WITH PHIL BOGDONOFF, BOARD CHAIR AT [WWW.BIO4CLIMATE.ORG](http://WWW.BIO4CLIMATE.ORG) ON 1 JAN 2024**

FBJ wrote: Here are a few items that might scare the crap out of all of us... From Phil Bogdonoff...

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Fwd: [ecosystems] Why are we not talking about Ecological Overshoot?**

Phil started the discussion with this: **Why are we not talking about Ecological Overshoot?**  
<https://medium.com/@elisabethrobson/why-are-we-not-talking-about-ecological-overshoot-f174a53756a5>

I wrote Phil back to say how EXCELLENT I thought this article was... -- FBJ)

### **Why are we not talking about Ecological Overshoot?**

[Elisabeth Robson](#) Dec 13, 2023



Ecological Overshoot

[Bill Rees](#) spent a good part of his career developing a tool called the ecological footprint analysis — a measurement of our collective footprint in terms of the natural resources humans use each year and the waste products we put back into the environment. His analysis showed that humanity is well into overshoot — meaning, we are using far more resources than can be regenerated by Earth, and producing far more waste than the Earth can assimilate.

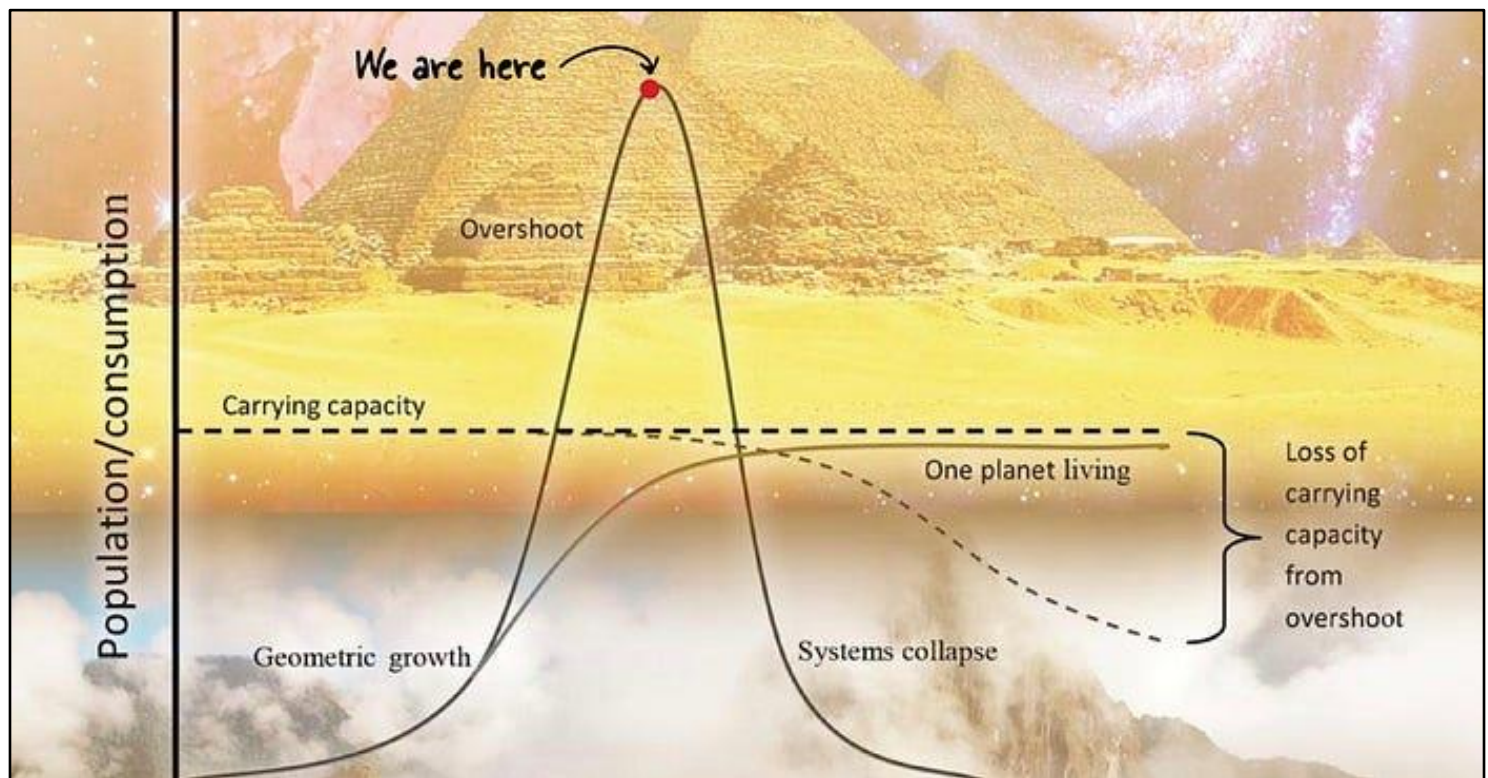
Overshoot is like having a checking account and a savings account and using not only all the money in our checking account each year, but also drawing down our savings account. Everyone knows if we spend down our savings account, eventually we'll run out of money. In ecological terms, eventually we'll run out of easily-extractable resources and do so much damage from the pollution we've created, life-as-we-know-it will cease to exist.

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## *The Problem of Ecological Overshoot (continued)*

I don't like using the word "resources" to describe the natural world, but it is a handy word to describe all the stuff we humans use from the natural world to keep ourselves alive and to maintain industrial civilization: whether that's oil, trees, water, broccoli, cows, lithium, phosphorus, or the countless other materials and living beings we kill, extract, process, refine, and consume to get through each and every day and keep the global economy humming. Please know that I wince each time I write "resources" to represent living beings, ecosystems, and natural communities.

Whatever we call the stuff that fuels 8+ billion humans and the great big hungry beast that is industrial civilization, Bill's analysis estimates our collective ecological footprint is currently running at about 1.75 Earth's worth of it. Of course that use is unevenly distributed; as a North American, I am ashamed to say that I and my many neighbors on this continent have an ecological footprint 15–20 times bigger than the Earth could sustain if everyone lived like us. Many people on Earth still have ecological footprints far below what the Earth could sustain if everyone lived like them, so it all averages out to 1.75 Earths.



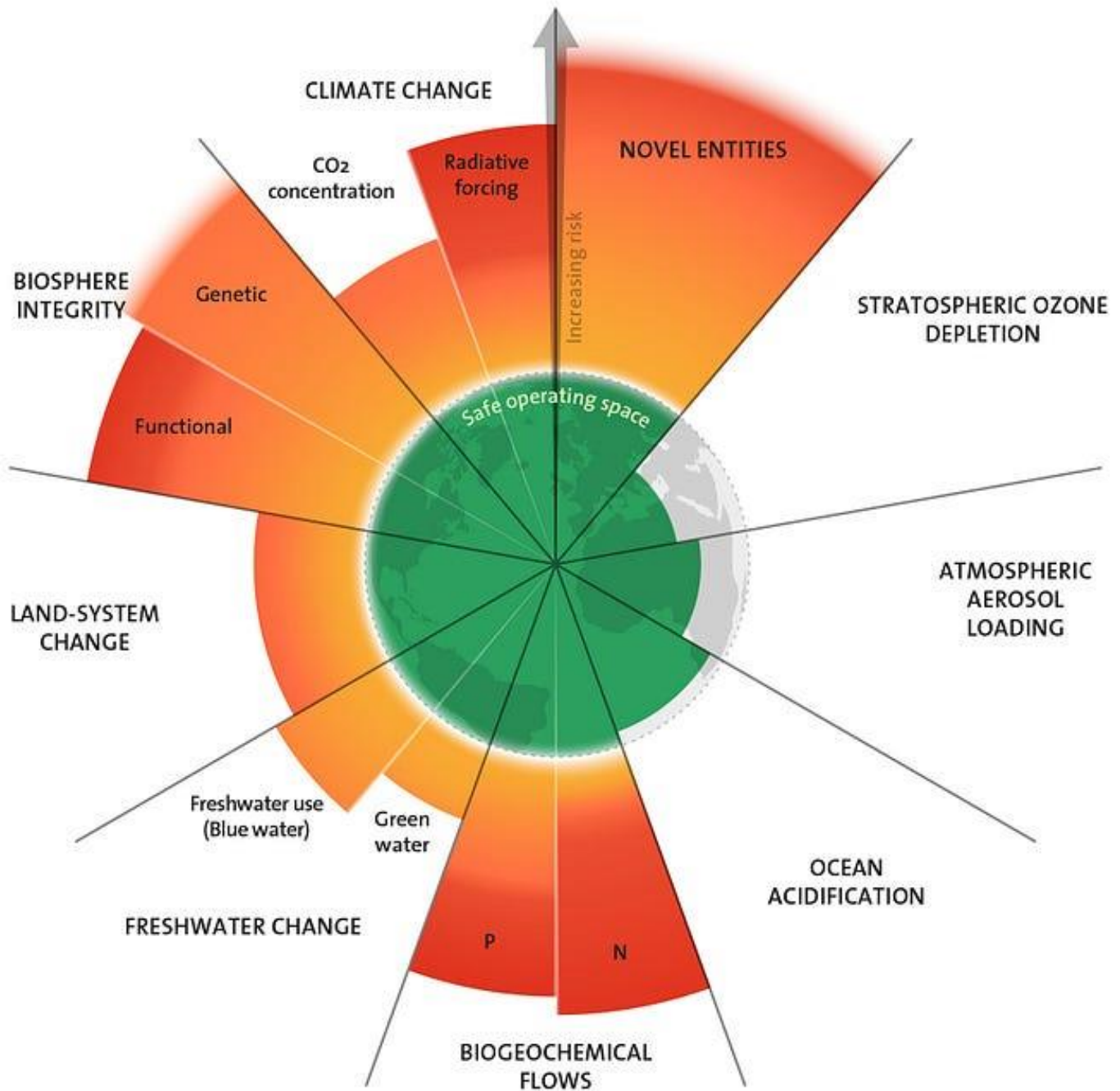
But wait! you might be saying; how can we be using more than one Earth's worth of resources? Because we are drawing down those resources, like drawing down our savings account. Each year less is regenerated — fewer salmon and fewer trees for instance — , more materials are gone forever, more toxic waste is polluting the environment. Eventually the savings account will be empty, and that's when life-as-we-know-it ends for good.

A companion yardstick for measuring human overshoot of Earth's carrying capacity is the [planetary boundaries framework](#). This framework identifies nine processes that are critical for maintaining the stability and resilience of the Earth system as a whole. The framework tracks by how much we've transgressed beyond a safe operating space for the nine processes: climate change, biosphere integrity, land system change, freshwater change, biogeochemical flows, ocean acidification, atmospheric aerosol loading, stratospheric ozone depletion, and novel entities such as micro plastics, endocrine disruptors, and organic pollutants.

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# *The Problem of Ecological Overshoot (continued)*



*Planetary Boundaries Framework, Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University*

Six of the nine boundaries are transgressed, and of those, five are in the high risk zone. By far the boundary we've transgressed furthest is biosphere integrity — much more so than climate change. This is perhaps not surprising given that humans and our livestock make up 96% of the weight of land mammals and wildlife a mere 4%, and that the accumulated weight of all human stuff on the planet now weighs more than all living beings — flora and fauna combined — on Earth.

I'm writing this as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) [Conference of Parties \(COP\) 28](#) is wrapping up in Dubai, UAE. There was a lot of talk about climate change and fossil fuels — mostly whether we will “phase down” or “phase out” our use of fossil fuels — and about so-called “renewables.” The conference ended with a [global goal](#) to “triple renewables and double energy efficiency.”

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# *The Problem of Ecological Overshoot (continued)*

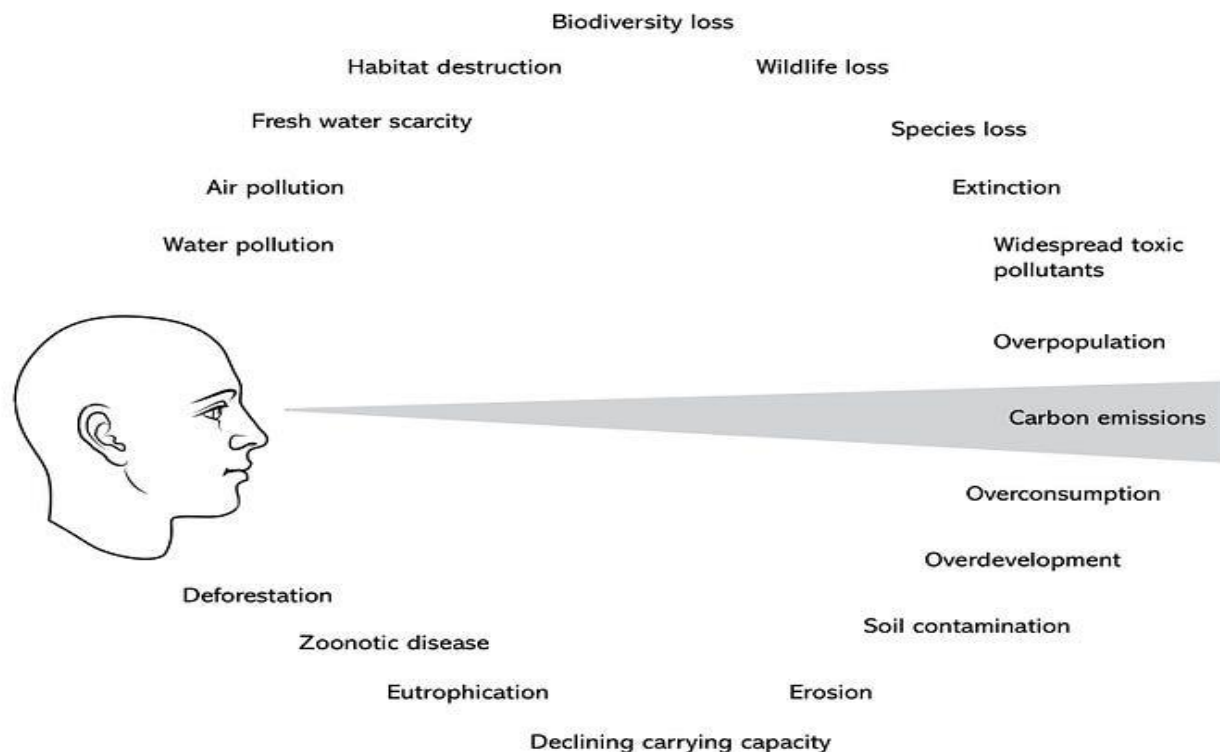
“We acted, we delivered,” claimed COP28 President Sultan Al Jaber, as if building more industrial technologies, like wind turbines and solar panels, and making more energy efficient buildings and cars will somehow restore biosphere integrity; unpollute the water, land and air; regrow all the old-growth forests; unpave the wetlands; and reverse the 1000x-faster-than-normal rate we are exterminating species on Earth.

The global focus on climate change, cemented by almost 30 years of UNFCCC conferences, has blinded the world to our true predicament — that is, ecological overshoot — of which climate change is just one of many symptoms. Organizations, governments, corporations, the media are all talking and talking about climate change and the supposed “solutions” of renewables and energy efficiency, while essentially ignoring the ongoing destruction of the natural world. I sometimes imagine them sitting around the large conference tables at the COP with their fingers in their ears singing la-la-la-la-la so as to tune out the natural world as she begs for mercy while they plan “green growth” and scheme to make sure none of the agreements will put a dent in any of their bank accounts.

Likewise, local governments, including the one where I live, are also entirely focused on climate change. Recent meetings, reports, policies, and plans in the county where I live reflect the **carbon tunnel vision** that is legislated from on high, including state laws mandating net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and “clean electricity” by 2045, and enforcing a market-based program to cap greenhouse gas emissions.

These state laws and others, as well as federal incentives such as the Infrastructure Law of 2021 and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, put the focus squarely on carbon emissions. No other symptom of ecological overshoot has such clear cut, goal-oriented legislation as carbon emissions.

## **Carbon Tunnel Vision** Missing the big picture

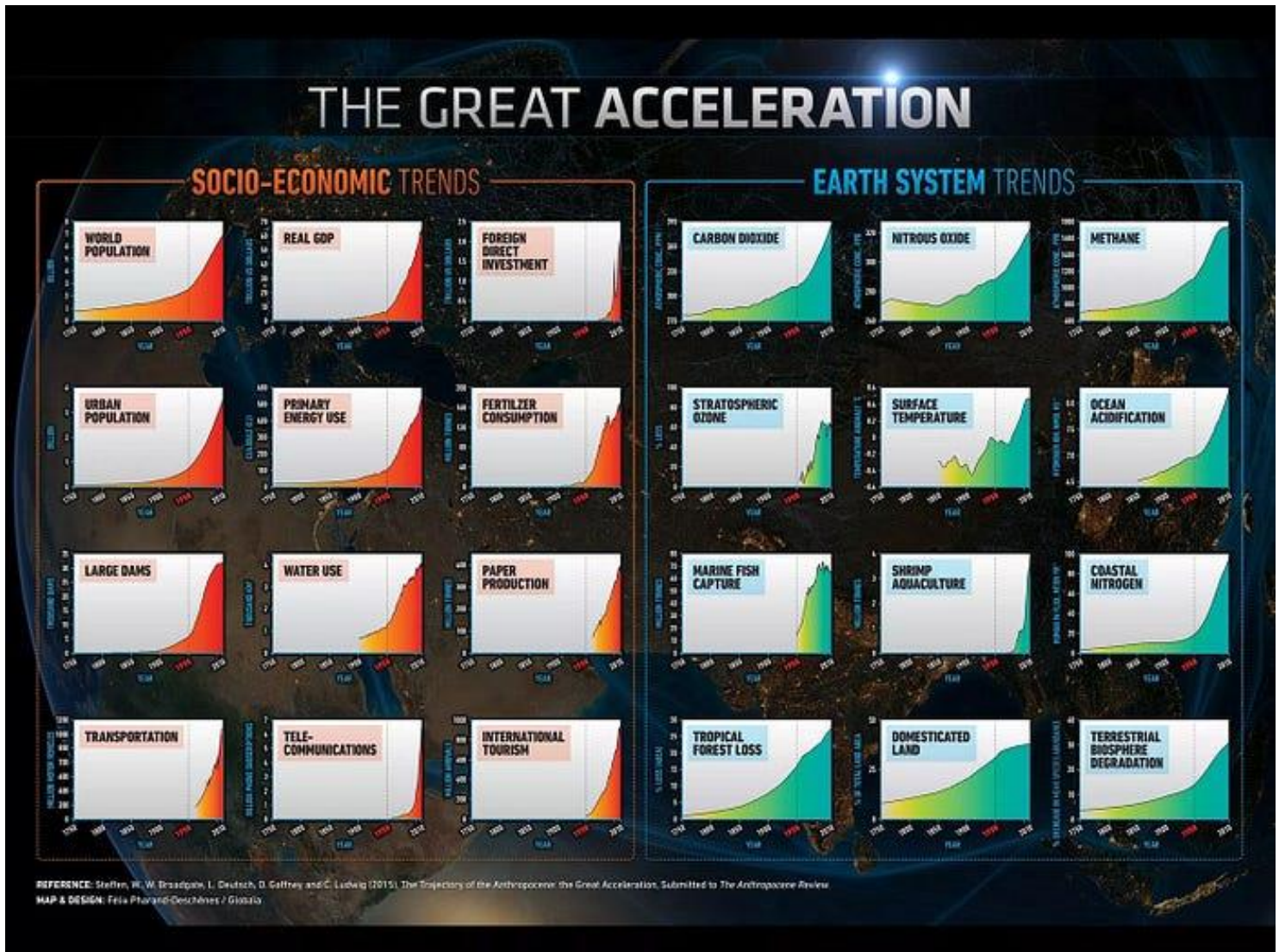


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# The Problem of Ecological Overshoot (continued)

Carbon tunnel vision means other problems get short shrift. And the “solutions” that corporations are selling us in order to meet the goals set by federal and state law will actually make many of the other symptoms of ecological overshoot worse. Far worse.

Imagine the hockey-stick shaped graph of growth over the past 250 years or so. It doesn't really matter what growth you're measuring — population, the economy, average income, fertilizer use, nitrogen runoff, copper extraction— that graph is going steeply up.



## The Great Acceleration

My county's planning documents assume that growth line will continue going up. Everywhere's planning documents assume the same — that the economy, population, extraction, development, and consumption will continue growing. Indeed, an economy based on debt *requires* it for life-as-we-know-it to continue.

But this is simply not possible on a finite planet with finite resources and ecosystems already shattering under pressure. Basic laws of ecology tell us that [when a species overshoots the regenerative capacity of its environment, that species will collapse](#). This is true for humans too. Our city, county, state, and federal policies do not reflect this reality in any way. This is shortsighted at best; a catastrophe at worst.

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# *The Problem of Ecological Overshoot (continued)*

So why are most scientists, organizations, and governments so focused on climate change and carbon emissions? In part, because it's relatively easy to measure. We've been measuring carbon dioxide in the atmosphere since 1958, and many other greenhouse gases almost as long. We can see the average annual parts per million increase every year. It's much easier to measure CO2 ppm in the atmosphere than it is to count every last frog of a given species, or detect toxic pollutants in ground water, or track the decline of top soil, or do long term studies on the impacts of pesticides and herbicides.

Another answer to that question is that corporations have created technologies and industries they can sell to the world as "solutions" to climate change. These "solutions" allow corporations and the governments they influence to believe we can continue business-as-usual. The pervasive propaganda about these "solutions" allows us regular folk to believe we can continue life-as-we-know-it without having to worry too much because "someone's doing something about climate change."

Unlike the "solutions" to climate change that corporations are constantly trying to sell us, there is no profitable technology that will eliminate habitat loss, species extinctions, pollution, and deforestation. And so what we hear from organizations, governments, corporations, and the media is *all climate change all the time*, because someone's making bank.

To try to break through the wall of *all climate change all the time*, I recently hosted a series of events on ecological overshoot. I invited everyone I could think of in my county who might have influence on county policy and planning in hopes of sparking the kinds of broader conversations I wish we were having. Few of those people showed up, perhaps unsurprisingly, so it seems unlikely those conversations will happen.

However, the three presentations — by [Bill Rees](#), [Jeremy Jiménez](#), and [Max Wilbert](#) — are excellent and well worth sharing with the broader community of people who are trying their best to start conversations about ecological overshoot.

I hope you enjoy these presentations as much as I did, and have better luck than I have at broaching these topics with people where you live.

Bill Rees: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVp5YvMemal>

Jeremy Jiménez: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTH6PULIZqg>

Max Wilbert: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l90DFUZr2K0>

[Climate Change](#)  
[Ecological Overshoot](#)  
[Planetary Boundaries](#)  
[Environment](#)  
[Difficult Conversations](#)

**Written by Elisabeth Robson**

Deep Green activist, author, former computer scientist.



***But there's more, so don't relax quite yet... --FBJ***

***You see, Phil Bogdonoff responded to my Thank You with another tidbit!***  
*(continued on next page →)*

# *The Problem of Ecological Overshoot (continued)*

Philip Bogdonoff From:pbogdonoff@gmail.com

To:Fred Jennings

Tue, Jan 2 at 7:51 PM

My friend Jack goes farther! See below. What do you think?

-- Philip

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jack Alpert** <[jackalpert4@gmail.com](mailto:jackalpert4@gmail.com)>

Date: Tue, Jan 2, 2024, 5:14 PM

**Subject: Re: [ecosystems] Why are we not talking about Ecological Overshoot?**

To: <[ecosystemsstudygroup@googlegroups.com](mailto:ecosystemsstudygroup@googlegroups.com)>

Philip,

Philip wrote: "Why are we not talking about Ecological Overshoot."

Philip we should not be talking about ecological footprint 1.75 times too big because we are 100 times too big for non ecological reasons.

- 1) climate change is an overshoot problem.
- 2) it definitely a sub problem of ecological overshoot.
- 3) however, ecological overshoot is a sub problem of overshoot of non ecological resources like fossil fuels.

In the same sense that climate overshoot will kill people. Ecological overshoot will kill more people than climate overshoot, and overshoot of nonecological resources will kill more people than ecological overshoot.

These conference presentations – which suggest that concerned people are putting their focus in the wrong place – are themselves focusing in the wrong place.

Viability if a system might better be focused at a broader level than fixing overshoot of ecological footprint.

Being successful at fixing ecological footprint might still allow the death of everyone.

See short videos: What happens when civilization runs out of fossil fuels

Civilization's: "Running out of gas" story. [youtu.be/b5z5R6xq0EG](https://youtu.be/b5z5R6xq0EG)

also How the World Works 9 minute video <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Cnyweoke5Cc>

Jack Alpert PhD Director:

Stanford Knowledge Integration Laboratory <http://www.skil.org>

(C) 913 708 2554 [jackalpert@me.com](mailto:jackalpert@me.com)

13617 W. 48th Street Shawnee, KS 66216

[600 word summary of Jack's work](#)

*(end of Ecological Overshoot discussion – FBJ)*

# *The Myth of Human Supremacy* *by Derrick Jensen*

## **The Myth of Human Supremacy** **Fred Jennings 18 January 2024**

A small group of us at Biodiversity for a Livable Climate ([www.bio4climate.org](http://www.bio4climate.org)) have been engaged in a discussion of DEI issues that has evolved toward an embrace of the Rights of Nature and other related concerns. We have moved from a discussion of White Supremacy and related issues to a current read of Derrick Jensen's work on the cultural issues surrounding Human Supremacy, 'speciesism' and related concerns, from which is emerging a clearer understanding among our group of the ineffable complementarity of our human relationships with the Natural World, which has important implications for how we should envision our roles and impacts on this rapidly shrinking and dangerously overheated planet.

In the course of this process of inquiry and exchange, one of us found a PDF version of Derrick Jensen's interesting book called ***The Myth of Human Supremacy*** that I thought I would share with you:

<https://eddirockerz.files.wordpress.com/2020/11/the-myth-of-human-supremacy-pdfdrive-.pdf>

***These issues are important. Please give them  
some of your scarce attention –FBJ***

*That's all, folks! See you next month... (Editor)*