



Save the Sound[®]
a program of
Connecticut Fund
for the Environment

Save
The
Sound

C/O CT Fund for the Environment
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The fish aren't grateful. But I am.

★★★★ Winner of the prestigious 4-Star Rating from *Charity Navigator* for efficient management and financial growth!



October, 2007

Dear Mr. Howard,

Dozens of alewives wriggle in the cold waters above the dam at Jordan Mill Pond. After 150 years of exile, this is a homecoming. And I'm a witness.

I wish you could be here today, too. After all, your member support for Save the Sound helped us build the 65-foot fishway around Jordan Mill Dam. You made it possible to re-open eight acres of ancient spawning and nursing ground above the dam to alewives, blueback herring and sea-run brown trout.

These and other critical Long Island Sound species need our help to survive. Save the Sound has stepped up to that challenge with a five-year plan to restore 20 coastal and inland habitats to their historic roles supporting the Sound's complex web of life.

Next year, when the weather clears, we will be asking our members and friends to get their hands dirty and their feet wet at some of our project sites. But you can join the restoration team right now with a fall contribution to Save the Sound.

We don't have much time. We humans have done a lot of damage to the natural spawning and feeding areas that the Sound's fish need to live. Over the past 200 years, we've dammed the rivers, filled the marshes and polluted the water.

Thanks to its relentless drive to breed in vast numbers, the alewife has endured. But just barely. Fifty years ago, commercial boats landed 75 million pounds of alewives from the waters of Long Island Sound. Today, the catch is down to less than three percent of that: two million pounds. Predators such as bluefish and striped bass have declined along with their prey.

For thousands of years, coastal saltwater marshes and the rivers flowing into the Sound have provided a rich nursery for the creatures of the Sound. To restore declining fish stocks, we must save, repair and restore these vanishing coastal habitats and breeding areas...and soon.

That's the goal of Save the Sound's Habitat Restoration program. This year, we have already completed three projects to install or extend fishways in the Sound's watershed. Our portfolio of 14 currently active or potential projects includes more fishways, whole dam removals, restoration of tidal flows to saltwater marshes, replanting of native species on shore and riverbanks, and dune habitat restoration.

And each completed project helps rebuild the natural systems that once made Long Island Sound one of the most abundant cradles of life in the world.



We can keep this pace because we have a great professional team here at Save the Sound. They combine scientific expertise, great relationships with federal, state and local partners, and **strong** project management skills.

But we also rely on help from members like you. Will you please support our advocacy for Long Island Sound and our habitat restoration work with a fall gift of \$25, \$35, \$50, \$75 or more?

Those alewives circling at the bottom of the dam at Jordan Mill Pond came back, spring after spring for a century and a half. They never failed in the belief that somehow, this year, they would fulfill their destiny and swim beyond that dam.

Then, after 150 years of futility, the fishway you and I helped install made the alewives' onward journey possible. I don't think they were one bit surprised. Or grateful.

But I am. Thanks to you I enjoyed that stirring moment of return at the Jordan Mill Pond dam.

With your contribution we can make that moment happen again and again.

Sincerely,

Donald Strait
Executive Director

P. S. To see first-hand some habitat we have protected:

- You can visit the salt water ponds, marshes and open tidal channels we helped restore at Hammonasset State Park in Madison, Connecticut.
- You can check out the fishway and “eel-levator” we helped install on the Saugatuck River.
- Or, you can see what I saw at Jordan Mill Park in Waterford. (It's a little hard to find, but well worth it when the alewives are running in the spring or fall!)

Or better yet, give CFE a call at (203) 787-0646, ext. 113. I'll make sure one of our staff members gives you a tour!