

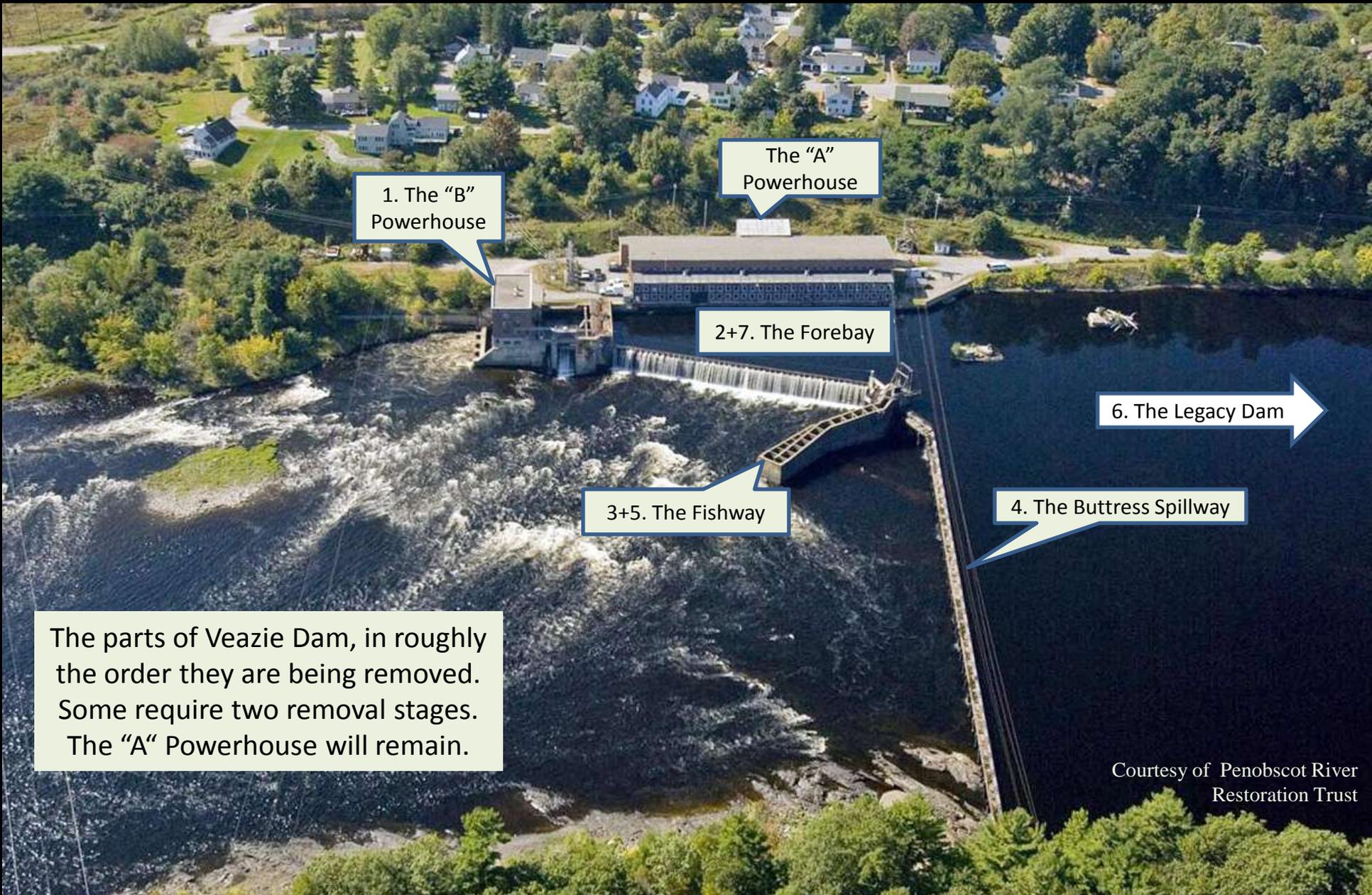
The 2013 Demolition of the Veazie Dam...

Restoration of the Penobscot River, Maine



Courtesy of Penobscot River
Restoration Trust

The parts of Veazie Dam, in the order they are being removed.



1. The "B" Powerhouse

The "A" Powerhouse

2+7. The Forebay

3+5. The Fishway

4. The Buttress Spillway

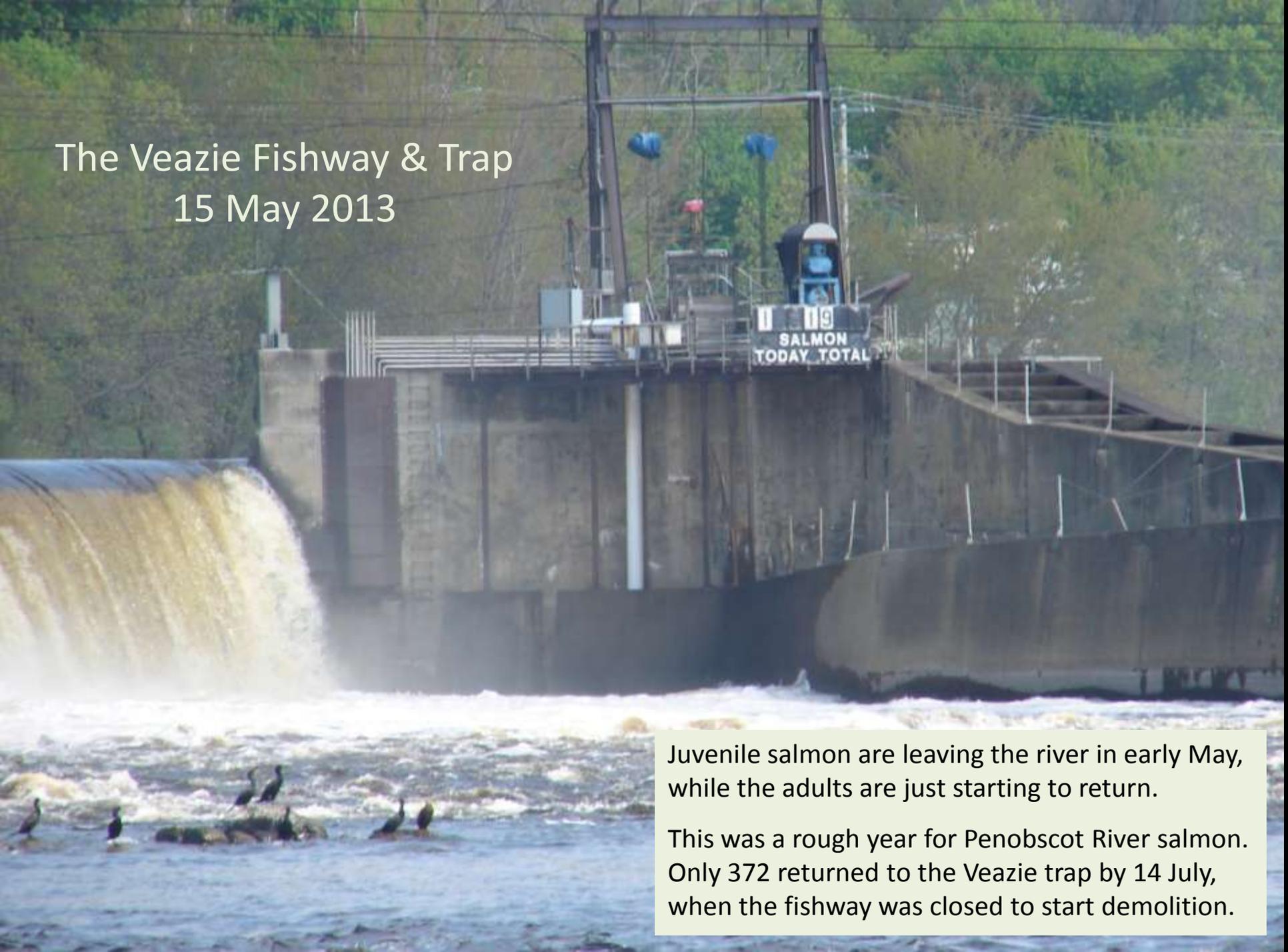
6. The Legacy Dam

The parts of Veazie Dam, in roughly the order they are being removed. Some require two removal stages. The "A" Powerhouse will remain.

From the bank near the Veazie Salmon Club – May 2013



all photo credits: Steve Shepard, US Fish & Wildlife Service, or as noted



The Veazie Fishway & Trap
15 May 2013

Juvenile salmon are leaving the river in early May, while the adults are just starting to return.

This was a rough year for Penobscot River salmon. Only 372 returned to the Veazie trap by 14 July, when the fishway was closed to start demolition.



Progress as of 19 June – Powerhouse B demolition came first



This equipment was installed in 1938, when Powerhouse B was added.



Powerhouse B demolition – 9 July

It may not look like much, but that was a lot of concrete in about 17 days.
Thanks to RF Jordan, who completed this part of the Veazie demolition.
Sargent was awarded the main part of the demolition project.



What a great day
for a celebration!

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22 July 2013

Various FWS photo credits



Poised to start  
the celebration

and ... 3, 2, 1





Progress on the forebay wall a few days after the celebration.



Chip Haskell, CES



## Demolition as of 2 August.

What remains of the B Powerhouse is under the access road at left.  
The forebay wall is gone and fishway demolition has started.



13 August

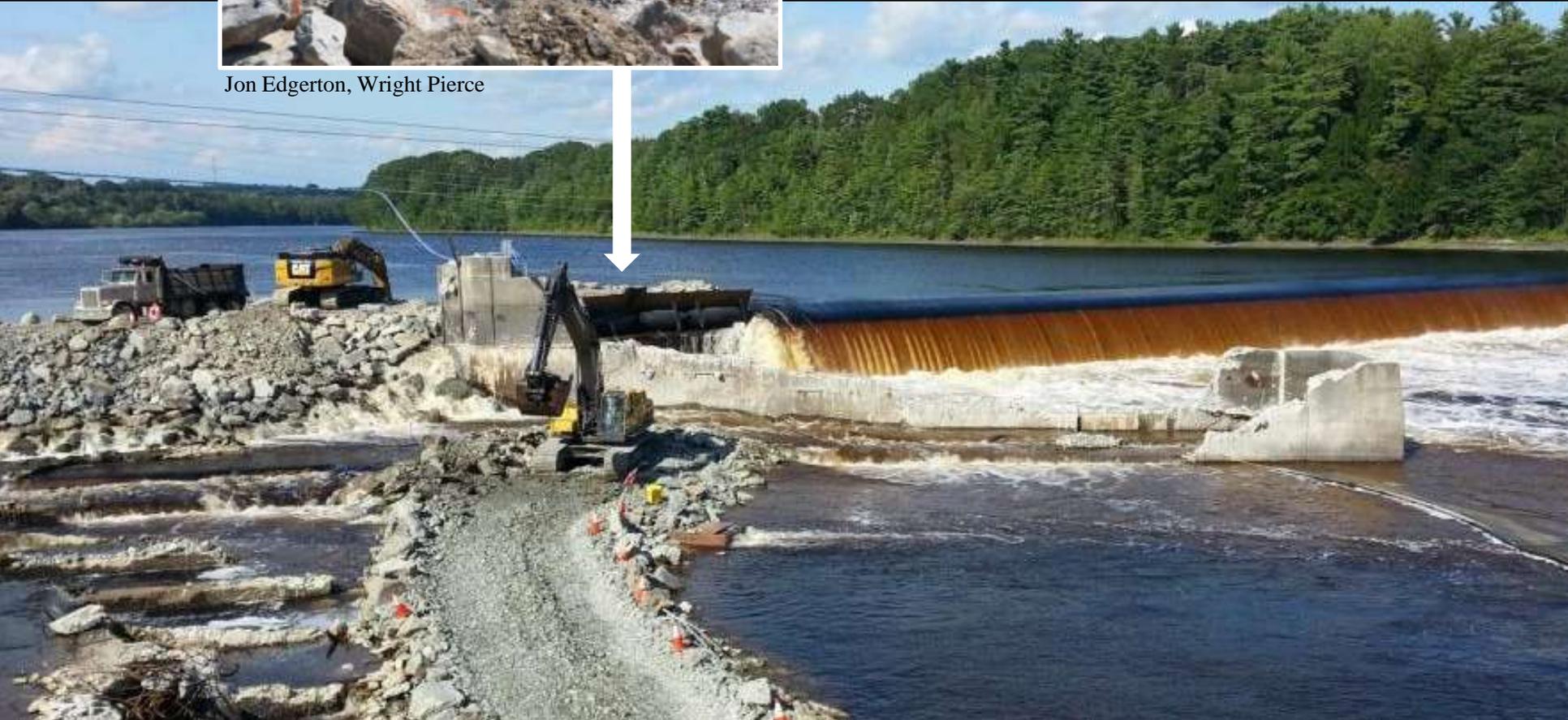
The fishway is being crushed, one bite at a time. The bulldozer and dump truck are extending the coffer dam/access road to reach the buttress spillway, behind the fishway.

# 16 August

Demolition of the buttress spillway began in dramatic fashion today. Sargent punched a underwater hole through the buttress panels just beyond the fishway (whirlpool at left).



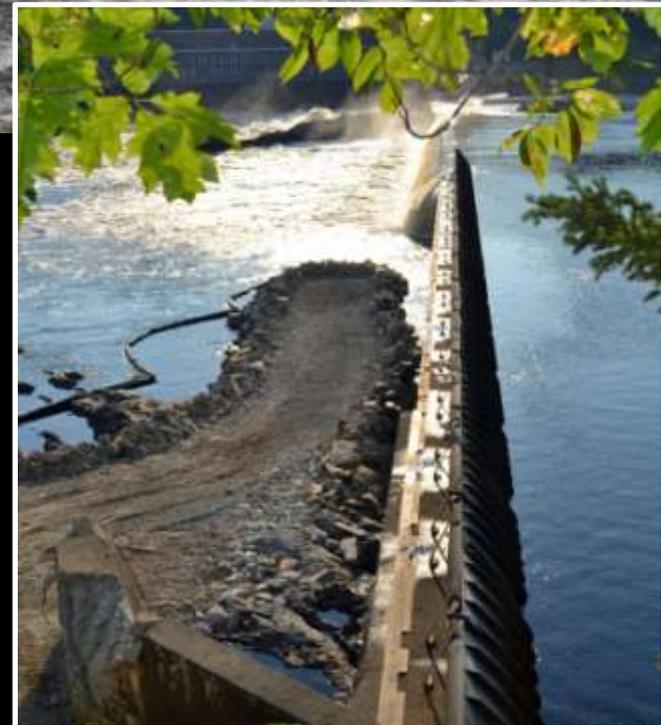
Jon Edgerton, Wright Pierce





22 August

Demolition work has shifted to Eddington. The coffer dam/access road is being removed (above). The material is being trucked to the east side of the river to build a new access road below the buttress spillway (at right).



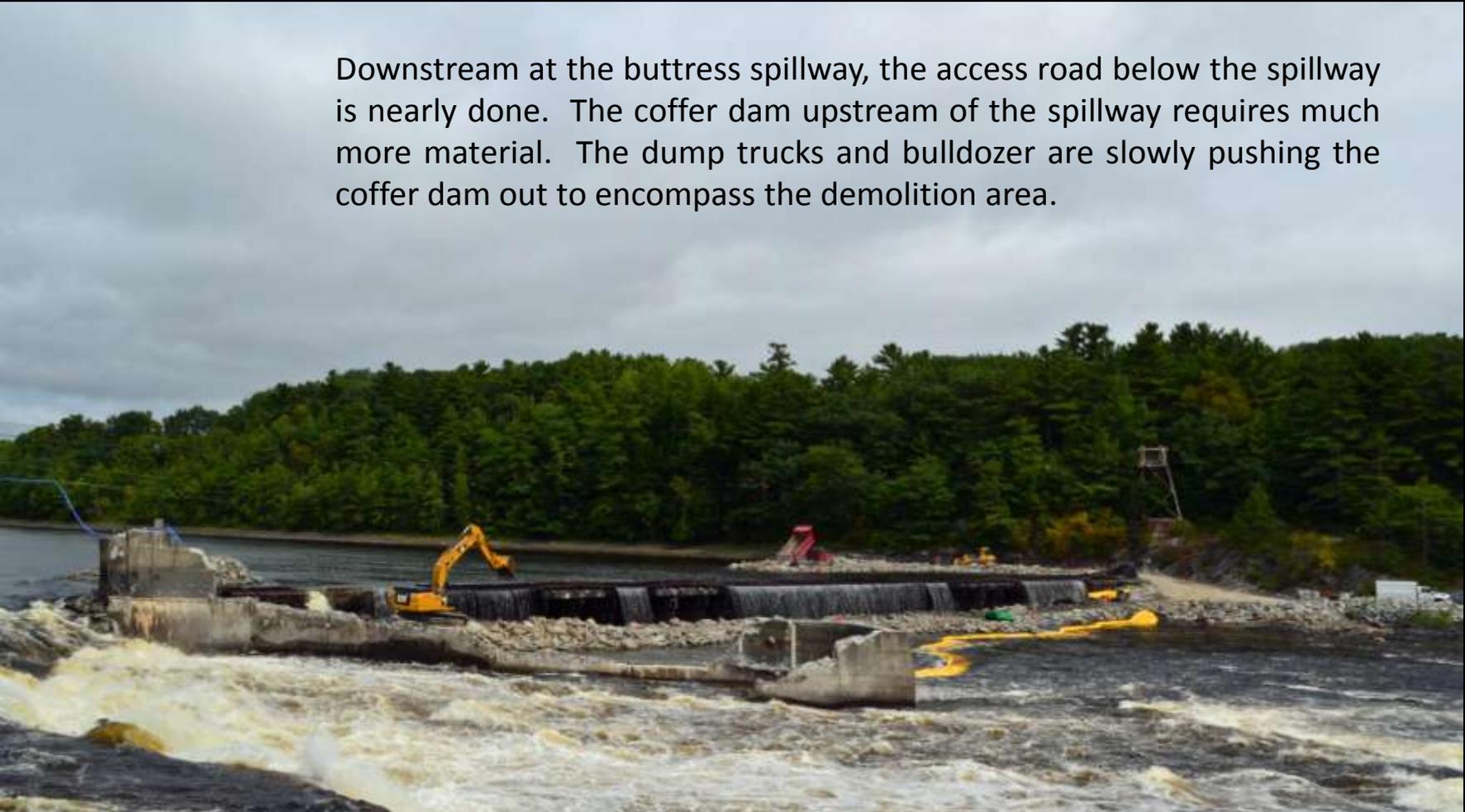
# Progress as of 29 August

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The impoundment elevation has dropped and begun to expose the 19<sup>th</sup> century legacy dam structures that are visible in the photo at right.



Downstream at the buttress spillway, the access road below the spillway is nearly done. The coffer dam upstream of the spillway requires much more material. The dump trucks and bulldozer are slowly pushing the coffer dam out to encompass the demolition area.

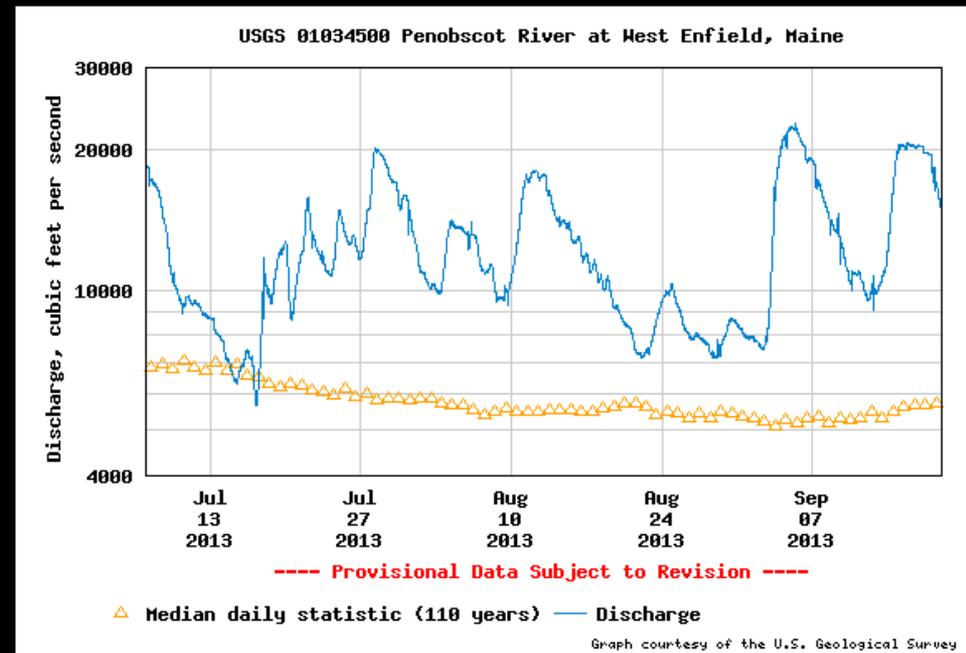


# Progress (lack thereof) in early September



This dam is not going without a fight. High flows stopped work on the buttress spillway until late September.

The river flow is higher than at any time since Sargent started working on 15 July. The graph at right shows provisional 2013 flow data in comparison to the long term median daily flow.



26 September

Back at work and making good progress



# 5 October

Lower flows and a giant coffer dam have given Sargent the edge they needed.



# 19 October

The main buttress spillway and fishway are gone!

The coffer dam is being pulled back to the Veazie shore and the tailrace access road has been rebuilt.



# The Legacy Dam – 19 October

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The 19th century Legacy Dam is now exposed. There has been very little deterioration since it was submerged in 1912...much remains in the river. Portions will be removed to provide fish passage, including the major blockage shown below. An access road is being built at left.





Similar views of the Legacy Dam, 100 years apart



Veazie Dam Removal – 2013



← Before (15 May) & In Progress (19 Oct.) →



This is the last of these updates that I will be able to provide. Other duties call.

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I've had the pleasure of working on the Penobscot River on and off for more than two decades, conducting fish passage research and working on the licensing of the (too many) dams.

I've tagged and chased many salmon, enjoyed my nights studying eels, seen dense schools of adult and juvenile alewife, Tim and I had otters bumping into our boots, and of course, I've spent countless hours in Penobscot meetings.

The Penobscot is a special place. I've lived most of my life in this watershed and I look forward to the changes that will be realized as a result of the removal of these dams.

I hope you've enjoyed the photos.

It was my pleasure – Steve Shepard

Looking upstream from the Legacy Dam
at the (nearly) restored Lower Penobscot River

