

Historic Dams 4&5 Eelway Passage Project - Potomac River
Substantive Issues Report

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENTS 2007

(11/19/2009)

AE11000 Affected Environment: Species Of Special Concern (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 10 **Comment Id:** 50850 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Please review and implement an action plan to thoroughly address this extremely troubling issue. Media reports continue to underscore alleged widespread and rising eel fishery destruction in the Chesapeake Bay watershed area and Eastern seaboard, despite strong documentation indicating such problems exist. Please contact the appropriate stakeholders/personnel to turnaround these growing issues and concerns. Please coordinate, collaborate and cooperate on Federal, State and/or local jurisdictional levels in addressing these concerns potentially impacting adversely public policy, finances, trust, confidence, ecosystem, environment and quality of life issues. Thank you for your time in this matter and hope to hear from you soon.

Organization:

Commenter: Alex Balboa **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 10 **Comment Id:** 50849 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: I was reading the latest Associated Press article "Dam passageways allow eels to reclaim habitat" (By KAREN GARDNER, Feb 17, 2007) with great interest when I came across the following sentences: ...Eels were once plentiful in the Potomac River. Two federal agencies are now working to rebuild the eel population in its natural habitat. ...Alex Hoar, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Northeast Regional Office in Hadley, Mass., has been working to restore the eel population to the Potomac. "We think the Potomac could be the first river on the East Coast opened for eels in accordance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's goals for eels," Hoar said. ...Eels historically made up 25 percent of the fish population of East Coast waterways. Hoar and other federal officials would like to help restore some of that population. "Only 10 percent of their historic range is unobstructed," Hoar said. ...Eels contribute to the overall health of an estuary because they were part of the original food chain, according to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Organization:

Commenter: Alex Balboa **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 39496 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: We see no reason to be concerned that construction and maintenance of the eelways will have any negative effect on other natural resources. We encourage the National

Park Service to pursue the construction of these eelways and support other measures to improve and open eel habitat in the Potomac River Basin.

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Commenter: Stephanie Flack **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 39495 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has shown that Dams #4 and 5 are impediments to upstream eelway passage, and successful eelways on nearby dams have clearly shown their effectiveness in allowing eels to pass upstream in large numbers. These proposed eelways would improve access to and open 120 river miles of critical eel habitat for feeding and growth. The ability of the eel, especially females, to access far inland freshwater habitats in the watershed has been shown to be an important factor to ensure the development of larger females that possess a higher reproductive potential than females that are found lower in the basin.

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Commenter: Stephanie Flack **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 2 **Comment Id:** 38597 **Coder's Initials:** LYNNE_WIGFIELD

Comment Text: I hope you can complete this project. I live in Franklin County Pennsylvania along Licking Creek, which according to my old, old neighbors (now all long dead) used to be chock full of eels. They had many happy memories of night-fishing. I hope the eels can be restored.

Organization:

Commenter: Bob Hunter **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 3 **Comment Id:** 39308 **Coder's Initials:** LYNNE_WIGFIELD

Comment Text: After reviewing the Fishery Management Report No. 36 of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, dtd April, 2000, and the C & O Canal NHP Project Scoping, Environmental Assessment for Eelways - Historic Dams # 4 & 5 on the Potomac River, Washington County, MD., dtd Jan 8, 2007, I support building the eelways in one form or another. They appear to be effective in supporting the migration of eels to their historic habitat and will be beneficial in restoring the eel population. I have no opinion on which design is the best, but wish to go on record as supporting moving out on this project.

Organization:

Commenter: Thomas Lightfoot **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 4 **Comment Id:** 39487 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Please expedite actions to install the eelways on Dams #4 and 5 on the Potomac

River. As a catch and release angler, I am becoming very concerned with the natural habitat of the river for my and future generations. Restoring the eels is critical to preserving our river ecosystem.

Organization: Potomac R. Smallmouth Club

Commenter: Terrence Cooney **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 39494 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: On behalf of The Nature Conservancy we would like to voice our support for the construction of eelways on Dams #4 & 5 on the Potomac River to promote restoration of American eel to more of their historic range, provided that continued safe downstream passage at the dams is ensured as well. The American eel is a long-lived, catadromous fish species which occupies a significant and unique niche in the Atlantic coastal drainages. The American eel is a panmictic species that appears to be in decline throughout its entire range. In the 2000 management plan for the American eel, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission set objectives to restore eel to waters where they had historical abundance by providing access. This plan reports that, as of 2000, only 11% of historic eel habitat (in river miles) in the Potomac River Basin were fully accessible to eel.

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Commenter: Stephanie Flack **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

AE12000 Affected Environment: Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 10 **Comment Id:** 50850 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Please review and implement an action plan to thoroughly address this extremely troubling issue. Media reports continue to underscore alleged widespread and rising eel fishery destruction in the Chesapeake Bay watershed area and Eastern seaboard, despite strong documentation indicating such problems exist. Please contact the appropriate stakeholders/personnel to turnaround these growing issues and concerns. Please coordinate, collaborate and cooperate on Federal, State and/or local jurisdictional levels in addressing these concerns potentially impacting adversely public policy, finances, trust, confidence, ecosystem, environment and quality of life issues. Thank you for your time in this matter and hope to hear from you soon.

Organization:

Commenter: Alex Balboa **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 5 **Comment Id:** 39486 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Hello. We are the Potomac River Smallmouth Club and we recently heard about a proposal to build eel ladders on Dams Four and Five on the Potomac River, under your jurisdiction. We are commenting in support of the eel ladders. It sounds like a great project. We

always favor projects that help expand the biodiversity of the Potomac, especially those that favor Smallmouth Bass. Throughout your NEPA process, and afterward, is there a place our members can go to track the progress of the project? Feel free to contact me via email. Regardless, we favor installation of the ladders to facilitate large-scale migration of the American eel from the Atlantic Ocean to the Potomac Headwaters. Thanks for managing our nation's cultural and natural resources.

Organization: Potomac River Smallmouth Club

Commenter: Aaron m Otte **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

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Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Commenter: Stephanie Flack **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 39492 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Approx. 10 years a FTWS biologist suggested removing dams #4 and #5, following a nationwide effort to remove barriers on US waterways. He was told that MD DNR and the citizens of Washington County would not support his proposal before it ever reached NPS, or perhaps it did. During several years of negotiations w/ Allegheny Power, MD DNR supported an eel ladder and did not support a fish ladder because the ladder potentially offered less restoration/enhance of fish than the former, which was much less expensive, more functional/successful, and was less unusual. Fish populations are similar above and below dams #4 and offering little justification for a fish ladder, however the dams are an obstacle for, at present, the rivers only migratory fish, the American Eel. Installation of eel ladders would muffle future crys for dam removal.

Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 39488 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: That NPS should chose Alter A. based upon a subject evaluation of aesthetics, public safety, or impact upon archaeological/cultural resources. Choosing Aternative B, (I prefer), C, or D would favorably impact living resources and diversity in the aquatic environment of the Potomac River.

Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 39489 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Do you have any additional suggestions or comments? The choice of alter B would lesson the minimal impacts upon the NPS environment and opinions relating to this impact. Installation near the power plants will have advantages of: (1) electric power supply (2) relatively isolated location that would lesson concerns about public safety and vandalism. Regardless of a MD or WV location I would suspect minimal vandalism of the ladder itself, but a higher potential on the eel collection device by area fishermen as eels are an excellent bait for catching rockfish (striped bass) or crabs in the Cheapeak Bay. (3) Allegheny employee may be moved to react quickly to a rising water or other mother nature threats to the eel ladder. Despite their presence at the plants being only occasional it may still be more often than workers/volunteers on the MD side to be able to observe possible problems that require corrective action. (4) Less visual impact upon NPS property. This will also result in less visitor use and experience of the natural aquatic resouces in the Potomac River, but perhaps enhance/maintain the experience for those strictly interested in the cultural and history of the towpath. It's my limited judgement that there are more general recreationists utilizing this area

that the latter.

Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

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Organization:

Commenter: Alex Balboa **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

AE13000 Affected Environment: Cultural Resources (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 39489 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

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their presence at the plants being only occasional it may still be more often than workers/volunteers on the MD side to be able to observe possible problems that require corrective action. (4) Less visual impact upon NPS property. This will also result in less visitor use and experience of the natural aquatic resources in the Potomac River, but perhaps enhance/maintain the experience for those strictly interested in the cultural and history of the towpath. It's my limited judgement that there are more general recreationists utilizing this area than the latter.

Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 6 **Comment Id:** 39484 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: I want to know how the eelway is going to affect the flat ground next to the dams on the Maryland side. Is construction strictly going to be in the water or will there be damage and possible closure to the areas during construction?

Organization: C & O Canal Association

Commenter: Gary P McGinnis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

AE14000 Affected Environment: Historic Structures (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 39489 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

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Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

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Organization: C & O Canal Association

Commenter: Gary P McGinnis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

AE19000 Affected Environment: Other Agencies' Land Use Plans
(Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 10 **Comment Id:** 50850 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Please review and implement an action plan to thoroughly address this extremely troubling issue. Media reports continue to underscore alleged widespread and rising eel fishery destruction in the Chesapeake Bay watershed area and Eastern seaboard, despite strong documentation indicating such problems exist. Please contact the appropriate stakeholders/personnel to turnaround these growing issues and concerns. Please coordinate, collaborate and cooperate on Federal, State and/or local jurisdictional levels in addressing these concerns potentially impacting adversely public policy, finances, trust, confidence, ecosystem, environment and quality of life issues. Thank you for your time in this matter and hope to hear from you soon.

Organization:

Commenter: Alex Balboa **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 9 **Comment Id:** 39497 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: As owner/operator of the above mentioned facilities, Allegheny Energy Supply Company, LLC (AE) hereby provides comments to Project Scoping Report by National Park Service (NPS)/ Department of the Interior in regards to the construction of the eel ladders on the NPS dams. AE has provided the funds for the initial purchase and installation of the eel ladders as part of our negotiations with the NPS under the Supplemental Agreement for dam use. AE has always taken the position that the eel ladder at Dam No. 4 should be placed on the Maryland side of the river. Because of the river topography, debris always collects on the West Virginia side of the river at the power house. Based on this fact, AE believes that constant repairs or replacement of the eel ladder will be necessary during high river flow. AE cannot take any responsibility for the eel ladder if it is placed at the hydro facility at Dam No. 4, which will be subject to the heavy debris load.

Organization: Allegheny Energy

Commenter: Charles L Simons **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 39492 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

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Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 38599 **Coder's Initials:** MANDY_KERSHNER

Comment Text: I am the owner of the Kemps Mill Dam on the Conococheague Creek which feeds into the Potomac at Cushwa Basin approx. 3 watermiles south. In conjunction with Maryland State permits, I constructed a fish ladder along the raceway adjacent to the dam and observed carp using it last year to go above the dam. I assume eels and other fish also use it to go upstream. A number of years ago during the permit process, I spoke with a Maryland Fisheries representative who was surprised as he observed small fish jumping over temporary fish ladder 'rungs' in my raceway, and he commented that the government had built million dollar fish ladders that didn't work, yet mine did. My concern is that again millions of public tax dollars will be used to plan and construct over-elaborate "eelways" at Dams 4 & 5 which likely will not work well enough to provide adequate 'payback' to the public.

Organization:

Commenter: Richard J Nye **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

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Organization:

Commenter: Alex Balboa **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

AE23000 Affected Environment: Visitor Conflicts (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 39489 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

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Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 6 **Comment Id:** 39485 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: I frequently ride a bike along the Canal and enjoy resting at the dams before returning. I picnic at the dams on occasion too. I would love to have picnic tables insted of eelways.

Organization: C & O CAnal Association

Commenter: Gary P McGinnis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 6 **Comment Id:** 39484 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: I want to know how the eelway is going to affect the flat ground next to the dams on the Maryland side. is construction strictly going to be in the water or will there be damage and possible closure to the areas during construction?

Organization: C & O CAnal Association

Commenter: Gary P McGinnis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

AE8000 Affected Environment: Visual Quality (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 7 Comment Id: 39489 Coder's Initials: JEANNETTE_DAWSON

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Organization: C & O CAnal Association

Commenter: Gary P McGinnis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 6 Comment Id: 39483 Coder's Initials: JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Dam Four and Five are both scenic areas where a person has a little room to stretch out and walk around to enjoy the sceanery of the river. Both are quite popular fishing spots.

Organization: C & O CAnal Association

Commenter: Gary P McGinnis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

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Commenter: Gary P McGinnis **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

AL4000 Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 39490 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON
Comment Text: I would suggest a very simple design that has a past history of "working" on passing eels. This may lessen construction costs so that ladders might be duplicated (a back-up ladder) during initial construction which would certainly be more economical than a subsequent construction effort. I believe it would be irresponsible to assume that the ladders will not be damaged or completely removed during a Potomac River flood event regardless of human actions taken prior to this event.

Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**
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Organization: Potomac River Smallmouth Club

Commenter: Aaron m Otte **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 38598 **Coder's Initials:** LYNNE_WIGFIELD
Comment Text: Specifically, I'd like to know why more eels are important or good for us, anyway? And why not 'farm' them in hatcheries like we do 'muskies' etc. and then put them into the Potomac above Dam 5? The money saved could be spent on canal improvements and renovation, such as repairing the Cushwa Basin Aquaduct and renovating other sections of the canal for public use and enjoyment.

Organization:

Commenter: Richard J Nye **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

CC1000 Consultation and Coordination: General Comments (Substantive)

-
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Organization:

Commenter: Alex Balboa **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

CR4000 Cultural Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives **(Substantive)**

-
Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 39489 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Do you have any additional suggestions or comments? The choice of alter B would lesson the minimal impacts upon the NPS environment and opinions relating to this impact. Installation near the power plants will have advantages of: (1) electric power supply (2) relatively isolated location that would lesson concerns about public safety and vandalism. Regardless of a MD or WV location I would suspect minimal vandalism of the ladder itself, but a higher potential on the eel collection device by area fishermen as eels are an excellent bait for catching rockfish (striped bass) or crabs in the Cheapeake Bay. (3) Allegheny employee may be moved to react quickly to a rising water or other mother nature threats to the eel ladder. Despite their presence at the plants being only occasional it may still be more often than workers/volunteers on the MD side to be able to observe possible problems that require corrective action. (4) Less visual impact upon NPS property. This will also result in less visitor use and experience of the natural aquatic resouces in the Potomac River, but perhaps enhance/maintain the experience for those strictly interested in the cultural and history of the towpath. It's my limited judgement that there are more general recreationists utilizing this area that the latter.

Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 39488 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: That NPS should chose Alter A. based upon a subject evaluation of aesthetics, public safety, or impact upon archaeological/cultural resources. Choosing Aternative B, (I prefer), C, or D would favorably impact living resources and diversity in the aquatic environment

of the Potomac River.

Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 38598 **Coder's Initials:** LYNNE_WIGFIELD

Comment Text: Specifically, I'd like to know why more eels are important or good for us, anyway? And why not 'farm' them in hatcheries like we do 'muskies' etc. and then put them into the Potomac above Dam 5? The money saved could be spent on canal improvements and renovation, such as repairing the Cushwa Basin Aquaduct and renovating other sections of the canal for public use and enjoyment.

Organization:

Commenter: Richard J Nye **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

GA2000 Impact Analysis: Use Trends And Assumptions (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 10 **Comment Id:** 50850 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Please review and implement an action plan to thoroughly address this extremely troubling issue. Media reports continue to underscore alleged widespread and rising eel fishery destruction in the Chesapeake Bay watershed area and Eastern seaboard, despite strong documentation indicating such problems exist. Please contact the appropriate stakeholders/personnel to turnaround these growing issues and concerns. Please coordinate, collaborate and cooperate on Federal, State and/or local jurisdictional levels in addressing these concerns potentially impacting adversely public policy, finances, trust, confidence, ecosystem, environment and quality of life issues. Thank you for your time in this matter and hope to hear from you soon.

Organization:

Commenter: Alex Balboa **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 10 **Comment Id:** 50849 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: I was reading the latest Associated Press article "Dam passageways allow eels to reclaim habitat" (By KAREN GARDNER, Feb 17, 2007) with great interest when I came across the following sentences: ...Eels were once plentiful in the Potomac River. Two federal agencies are now working to rebuild the eel population in its natural habitat. ...Alex Hoar, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Northeast Regional Office in Hadley, Mass., has been working to restore the eel population to the Potomac. "We think the Potomac could be the first river on the East Coast opened for eels in accordance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's goals for eels," Hoar said. ...Eels historically made up 25 percent of the fish population of East Coast waterways. Hoar and other federal officials would like to help restore some of that population. "Only 10 percent of their historic range is unobstructed," Hoar

said. ...Eels contribute to the overall health of an estuary because they were part of the original food chain, according to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Organization:

Commenter: Alex Balboa **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 6 **Comment Id:** 39482 **Coder's Initials:** SUZIE_BOLTZ

Comment Text: My first question is in regards to teh need for eelways. How do the eels get around Great Falls? If a small dam is an impediment then it would not seem possible for the eel to get past the height of the falls.

Organization: C & O CAnal Association

Commenter: Gary P McGinnis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 38599 **Coder's Initials:** MANDY_KERSHNER

Comment Text: I am the owner of the Kemps Mill Dam on the Conococheague Creek which feeds into the Potomac at Cushwa Basin approx. 3 watermiles south. In conjunction with Maryland State permits, I constructed a fish ladder along the raceway adjacent to the dam and observed carp using it last year to go above the dam. I assume eels and other fish also use it to go upstream. A number of years ago during the permit process, I spoke with a Maryland Fisheries representative who was surprised as he observed small fish jumping over temporary fish ladder 'rungs' in my raceway, and he commented that the government had built million dollar fish ladders that didn't work, yet mine did. My concern is that again millions of public tax dollars will be used to plan and construct over-elaborate "eelways" at Dams 4 & 5 which likely will not work well enough to provide adequate 'payback' to the public.

Organization:

Commenter: Richard J Nye **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 38598 **Coder's Initials:** LYNNE_WIGFIELD

Comment Text: Specifically, I'd like to know why more eels are important or good for us, anyway? And why not 'farm' them in hatcheries like we do 'muskies' etc. and then put them into the Potomac above Dam 5? The money saved could be spent on canal improvements and renovation, such as repairing the Cushwa Basin Aquaduct and renovating other sections of the canal for public use and enjoyment.

Organization:

Commenter: Richard J Nye **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 2 **Comment Id:** 38597 **Coder's Initials:** LYNNE_WIGFIELD

Comment Text: I hope you can complete this project. I live in Franklin County Pennsylvania

along Licking Creek, which according to my old, old neighbors (now all long dead) used to be chock full of eels. They had many happy memories of night-fishing. I hope the eels can be restored.

Organization:

Commenter: Bob Hunter **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

IC100 ISSUES - Cultural resource issues (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 39488 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: That NPS should chose Alter A. based upon a subject evaluation of aesthetics, public safety, or impact upon archaeological/cultural resources. Choosing Aternative B, (I prefer), C, or D would favorably impact living resources and diversity in the aquatic environment of the Potomac River.

Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 38598 **Coder's Initials:** LYNNE_WIGFIELD

Comment Text: Specifically, I'd like to know why more eels are important or good for us, anyway? And why not 'farm' them in hatcheries like we do 'muskies' etc. and then put them into the Potomac above Dam 5? The money saved could be spent on canal improvements and renovation, such as repairing the Cushwa Basin Aquaduct and renovating other sections of the canal for public use and enjoyment.

Organization:

Commenter: Richard J Nye **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

IN100 ISSUES - Natural resource issues (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 10 **Comment Id:** 50849 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: I was reading the latest Associated Press article "Dam passageways allow eels to reclaim habitat" (By KAREN GARDNER, Feb 17, 2007) with great interest when I came across the following sentences: ...Eels were once plentiful in the Potomac River. Two federal agencies are now working to rebuild the eel population in its natural habitat. ...Alex Hoar, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Northeast Regional Office in Hadley, Mass., has been working to restore the eel population to the Potomac. "We think the Potomac could be the first river on the East Coast opened for eels in accordance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's goals for eels," Hoar said. ...Eels historically made up 25 percent of the fish population of East Coast waterways. Hoar and other federal officials would like to help restore some of that population. "Only 10 percent of their historic range is unobstructed," Hoar

said. ...Eels contribute to the overall health of an estuary because they were part of the original food chain, according to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Organization:

Commenter: Alex Balboa **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 39495 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has shown that Dams #4 and 5 are impediments to upstream eelway passage, and successful eelways on nearby dams have clearly shown their effectiveness in allowing eels to pass upstream in large numbers. These proposed eelways would improve access to and open 120 river miles of critical eel habitat for feeding and growth. The ability of the eel, especially females, to access far inland freshwater habitats in the watershed has been shown to be an important factor to ensure the development of larger females that possess a higher reproductive potential than females that are found lower in the basin.

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Commenter: Stephanie Flack **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 39492 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Approx. 10 years a FTWS biologist suggested removing dams #4 and #5, following a nationwide effort to remove barriers on US waterways. He was told that MD DNR and the citizens of Washington County would not support his proposal before it ever reached NPS, or perhaps it did. During several years of negotiations w/ Allegheny Power, MD DNR supported an eel ladder and did not support a fish ladder because the ladder potentially offered less restoration/enhance of fish than the former, which was much less expensive, more functional/successful, and was less unusual. Fish populations are similar above and below dams #4 and offering little justification for a fish ladder, however the dams are an obstacle for, at present, the rivers only migratory fish, the American Eel. Installation of eel ladders would muffle future crys for dam removal.

Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 38598 **Coder's Initials:** LYNNE_WIGFIELD

Comment Text: Specifically, I'd like to know why more eels are important or good for us, anyway? And why not 'farm' them in hatcheries like we do 'muskie's' etc. and then put them into the Potomac above Dam 5? The money saved could be spent on canal improvements and renovation, such as repairing the Cushwa Basin Aquaduct and renovating other sections of the canal for public use and enjoyment.

Organization:

Commenter: Richard J Nye **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 2 Comment Id: 38597 Coder's Initials: LYNNE_WIGFIELD

Comment Text: I hope you can complete this project. I live in Franklin County Pennsylvania along Licking Creek, which according to my old, old neighbors (now all long dead) used to be chock full of eels. They had many happy memories of night-fishing. I hope the eels can be restored.

Organization:

Commenter: Bob Hunter **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 7 Comment Id: 39488 Coder's Initials: JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: That NPS should chose Alter A. based upon a subject evaluation of aesthetics, public safety, or impact upon archaeological/cultural resources. Choosing Aternative B, (I prefer), C, or D would favorably impact living resources and diversity in the aquatic environment of the Potomac River.

Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 Comment Id: 39494 Coder's Initials: JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: On behalf of The Nature Conservancy we would like to voice our support for the construction of eelways on Dams #4 & 5 on the Potomac River to promote restoration of American eel to more of their historic range, provided that continued safe downstream passage at the dams is ensured as well. The American eel is a long-lived, catadromous fish species which occupies a significant and unique niche in the Atlantic coastal drainages. The American eel is a panmictic species that appears to be in decline throughout its entire range. In the 2000 management plan for the American eel, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission set objectives to restore eel to waters where they had historical abundance by providing access. This plan reports that, as of 2000, only 11% of historic eel habitat (in river miles) in the Potomac River Basin were fully accessible to eel.

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Commenter: Stephanie Flack **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 Comment Id: 39496 Coder's Initials: JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: We see no reason to be concerned that construction and maintenance of the eelways will have any negative effect on other natural resources. We encourage the National Park Service to pursue the construction of these eelways and support other measures to improve and open eel habitat in the Potomac River Basin.

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Commenter: Stephanie Flack **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 9 **Comment Id:** 39497 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: As owner/operator of the above mentioned facilities, Allegheny Energy Supply Company, LLC (AE) hereby provides comments to Project Scoping Report by National Park Service (NPS)/ Department of the Interior in regards to the construction of the eel ladders on the NPS dams. AE has provided the funds for the initial purchase and installation of the eel ladders as part of our negotiations with the NPS under the Supplemental Agreement for dam use. AE has always taken the position that the eel ladder at Dam No. 4 should be placed on the Maryland side of the river. Because of the river topography, debris always collects on the West Virginia side of the river at the power house. Based on this fact, AE believes that constant repairs or replacement of the eel ladder will be necessary during high river flow. AE cannot take any responsibility for the eel ladder if it is placed at the hydro facility at Dam No. 4, which will be subject to the heavy debris load.

Organization: Allegheny Energy

Commenter: Charles L Simons **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

IP100 ISSUES - Park management issues (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 9 **Comment Id:** 39497 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: As owner/operator of the above mentioned facilities, Allegheny Energy Supply Company, LLC (AE) hereby provides comments to Project Scoping Report by National Park Service (NPS)/ Department of the Interior in regards to the construction of the eel ladders on the NPS dams. AE has provided the funds for the initial purchase and installation of the eel ladders as part of our negotiations with the NPS under the Supplemental Agreement for dam use. AE has always taken the position that the eel ladder at Dam No. 4 should be placed on the Maryland side of the river. Because of the river topography, debris always collects on the West Virginia side of the river at the power house. Based on this fact, AE believes that constant repairs or replacement of the eel ladder will be necessary during high river flow. AE cannot take any responsibility for the eel ladder if it is placed at the hydro facility at Dam No. 4, which will be subject to the heavy debris load.

Organization: Allegheny Energy

Commenter: Charles L Simons **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 38598 **Coder's Initials:** LYNNE_WIGFIELD

Comment Text: Specifically, I'd like to know why more eels are important or good for us, anyway? And why not 'farm' them in hatcheries like we do 'muskies' etc. and then put them into the Potomac above Dam 5? The money saved could be spent on canal improvements and renovation, such as repairing the Cushwa Basin Aquaduct and renovating other sections of the canal for public use and enjoyment.

Organization:

Commenter: Richard J Nye **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 38599 **Coder's Initials:** MANDY_KERSHNER

Comment Text: I am the owner of the Kemps Mill Dam on the Conococheague Creek which feeds into the Potomac at Cushwa Basin approx. 3 watermiles south. In conjunction with Maryland State permits, I constructed a fish ladder along the raceway adjacent to the dam and observed carp using it last year to go above the dam. I assume eels and other fish also use it to go upstream. A number of years ago during the permit process, I spoke with a Maryland Fisheries representative who was surprised as he observed small fish jumping over temporary fish ladder 'rungs' in my raceway, and he commented that the government had built million dollar fish ladders that didn't work, yet mine did. My concern is that again millions of public tax dollars will be used to plan and construct over-elaborate "eelways" at Dams 4 & 5 which likely will not work well enough to provide adequate 'payback' to the public.

Organization:

Commenter: Richard J Nye **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

IV100 ISSUES - Visitor use or experience issues (Substantive)

-

Correspondence Id: 6 **Comment Id:** 39485 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: I frequently ride a bike along the Canal and enjoy resting at the dams before returning. I picnic at the dams on occasion too. I would love to have picnic tables insted of eelways.

Organization: C & O CAnal Association

Commenter: Gary P McGinnis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 6 **Comment Id:** 39484 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: I want to know how the eelway is going to affect the flat ground next to the dams on the Maryland side. is construction strictly going to be in the water or will there be damage and possible closure to the areas during construction?

Organization: C & O CAnal Association

Commenter: Gary P McGinnis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

ON1000 Other NEPA Issues: General Comments (Substantive)

-

Correspondence Id: 10 **Comment Id:** 50850 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Please review and implement an action plan to thoroughly address this extremely troubling issue. Media reports continue to underscore alleged widespread and rising eel fishery destruction in the Chesapeake Bay watershed area and Eastern seaboard, despite strong documentation indicating such problems exist. Please contact the appropriate stakeholders/personnel to turnaround these growing issues and concerns. Please coordinate, collaborate and cooperate on Federal, State and/or local jurisdictional levels in addressing these concerns potentially impacting adversely public policy, finances, trust, confidence, ecosystem, environment and quality of life issues. Thank you for your time in this matter and hope to hear from you soon.

Organization:

Commenter: Alex Balboa **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 10 **Comment Id:** 50849 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: I was reading the latest Associated Press article "Dam passageways allow eels to reclaim habitat" (By KAREN GARDNER, Feb 17, 2007) with great interest when I came across the following sentences: ...Eels were once plentiful in the Potomac River. Two federal agencies are now working to rebuild the eel population in its natural habitat. ...Alex Hoar, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Northeast Regional Office in Hadley, Mass., has been working to restore the eel population to the Potomac. "We think the Potomac could be the first river on the East Coast opened for eels in accordance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's goals for eels," Hoar said. ...Eels historically made up 25 percent of the fish population of East Coast waterways. Hoar and other federal officials would like to help restore some of that population. "Only 10 percent of their historic range is unobstructed," Hoar said. ...Eels contribute to the overall health of an estuary because they were part of the original food chain, according to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Organization:

Commenter: Alex Balboa **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 38599 **Coder's Initials:** MANDY_KERSHNER

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Organization:

Commenter: Richard J Nye **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

PN3000 Purpose And Need: Scope Of The Analysis (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 10 **Comment Id:** 50850 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Please review and implement an action plan to thoroughly address this extremely troubling issue. Media reports continue to underscore alleged widespread and rising eel fishery destruction in the Chesapeake Bay watershed area and Eastern seaboard, despite strong documentation indicating such problems exist. Please contact the appropriate stakeholders/personnel to turnaround these growing issues and concerns. Please coordinate, collaborate and cooperate on Federal, State and/or local jurisdictional levels in addressing these concerns potentially impacting adversely public policy, finances, trust, confidence, ecosystem, environment and quality of life issues. Thank you for your time in this matter and hope to hear from you soon.

Organization:

Commenter: Alex Balboa **Page:** **Paragraph:**

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Organization:

Commenter: Alex Balboa **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 9 **Comment Id:** 39497 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: As owner/operator of the above mentioned facilities, Allegheny Energy Supply Company, LLC (AE) hereby provides comments to Project Scoping Report by National Park Service (NPS)/ Department of the Interior in regards to the construction of the eel ladders on the NPS dams. AE has provided the funds for the initial purchase and installation of the eel ladders as part of our negotiations with the NPS under the Supplemental Agreement for dam use. AE has always taken the position that the eel ladder at Dam No. 4 should be placed on the Maryland side

of the river. Because of the river topography, debris always collects on the West Virginia side of the river at the power house. Based on this fact, AE believes that constant repairs or replacement of the eel ladder will be necessary during high river flow. AE cannot take any responsibility for the eel ladder if it is placed at the hydro facility at Dam No. 4, which will be subject to the heavy debris load.

Organization: Allegheny Energy

Commenter: Charles L Simons **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 39495 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has shown that Dams #4 and 5 are impediments to upstream eelway passage, and successful eelways on nearby dams have clearly shown their effectiveness in allowing eels to pass upstream in large numbers. These proposed eelways would improve access to and open 120 river miles of critical eel habitat for feeding and growth. The ability of the eel, especially females, to access far inland freshwater habitats in the watershed has been shown to be an important factor to ensure the development of larger females that possess a higher reproductive potential than females that are found lower in the basin.

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Commenter: Stephanie Flack **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 39494 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: On behalf of The Nature Conservancy we would like to voice our support for the construction of eelways on Dams #4 & 5 on the Potomac River to promote restoration of American eel to more of their historic range, provided that continued safe downstream passage at the dams is ensured as well. The American eel is a long-lived, catadromous fish species which occupies a significant and unique niche in the Atlantic coastal drainages. The American eel is a panmictic species that appears to be in decline throughout its entire range. In the 2000 management plan for the American eel, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission set objectives to restore eel to waters where they had historical abundance by providing access. This plan reports that, as of 2000, only 11% of historic eel habitat (in river miles) in the Potomac River Basin were fully accessible to eel.

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Commenter: Stephanie Flack **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 39492 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Approx. 10 years a FTWS biologist suggested removing dams #4 and #5, following a nationwide effort to remove barriers on US waterways. He was told that MD DNR and the citizens of Washington County would not support his proposal before it ever reached NPS, or perhaps it did. During several years of negotiations w/ Allegheny Power, MD DNR supported an eel ladder and did not support a fish ladder because the ladder potentially offered

less restoration/enhance of fish than the former, which was much less expensive, more functional/successful, and was less unusual. Fish populations are similar above and below dams #4 and offering little justification for a fish ladder, however the dams are an obstacle for, at present, the rivers only migratory fish, the American Eel. Installation of eel ladders would muffle future cries for dam removal.

Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 39491 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Limit ladder evaluation study to one or two years with possible follow up every 5 years. Environmental researches tend to over-study nature in an attempt to make a perfect prediction-something that remains an impossible task when dealing with Mother Nature.

Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 39490 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: I would suggest a very simple design that has a past history of "working" on passing eels. This may lessen construction costs so that ladders might be duplicated (a back-up ladder) during initial construction which would certainly be more economical than a subsequent construction effort. I believe it would be irresponsible to assume that the ladders will not be damaged or completely removed during a Potomac River flood event regardless of human actions taken prior to this event.

Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 4 **Comment Id:** 39487 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Please expedite actions to install the eelways on Dams #4 and 5 on the Potomac River. As a catch and release angler, I am becoming very concerned with the natural habitat of the river for my and future generations. Restoring the eels is critical to preserving our river ecosystem.

Organization: Potomac R. Smallmouth Club

Commenter: Terrence Cooney **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 5 **Comment Id:** 39486 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Hello. We are the Potomac River Smallmouth Club and we recently heard about a proposal to build eel ladders on Dams Four and Five on the Potomac River, under your jurisdiction. We are commenting in support of the eel ladders. It sounds like a great project. We

always favor projects that help expand the biodiversity of the Potomac, especially those that favor Smallmouth Bass. Throughout your NEPA process, and afterward, is there a place our members can go to track the progress of the project? Feel free to contact me via email. Regardless, we favor installation of the ladders to facilitate large-scale migration of the American eel from the Atlantic Ocean to the Potomac Headwaters. Thanks for managing our nation's cultural and natural resources.

Organization: Potomac River Smallmouth Club

Commenter: Aaron m Otte **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 6 **Comment Id:** 39485 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: I frequently ride a bike along the Canal and enjoy resting at the dams before returning. I picnic at the dams on occasion too. I would love to have picnic tables insted of eelways.

Organization: C & O CAnal Association

Commenter: Gary P McGinnis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 6 **Comment Id:** 39482 **Coder's Initials:** SUZIE_BOLTZ

Comment Text: My first question is in regards to teh need for eelways. How do the eels get around Great Falls? If a small dam is an impediment then it would not seem possible for the eel to get past the height of the falls.

Organization: C & O CAnal Association

Commenter: Gary P McGinnis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 3 **Comment Id:** 39308 **Coder's Initials:** LYNNE_WIGFIELD

Comment Text: After reviewing the Fishery Management Report No. 36 of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, dtd April, 2000, and the C & O Canal NHP Project Scoping, Environmental Assessment for Eelways - Historic Dams # 4 & 5 on the Potomac River, Washington County, MD., dtd Jan 8, 2007, I support building the eelways in one form or another. They appear to be effective in supporting the migration of eels to their historic habitat and will be beneficial in restoring the eel population. I have no opinion on which design is the best, but wish to go on record as supporting moving out on this porject.

Organization:

Commenter: Thomas Lightfoot **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 38598 **Coder's Initials:** LYNNE_WIGFIELD

Comment Text: Specifically, I'd like to know why more eels are important or good for us, anyway? And why not 'farm' them in hatcheries like we do 'muskies' etc. and then put them into

the Potomac above Dam 5? The money saved could be spent on canal improvements and renovation, such as repairing the Cushwa Basin Aquaduct and renovating other sections of the canal for public use and enjoyment.

Organization:

Commenter: Richard J Nye **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

PN8000 Purpose And Need: Objectives In Taking Action (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 10 **Comment Id:** 50850 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Please review and implement an action plan to thoroughly address this extremely troubling issue. Media reports continue to underscore alleged widespread and rising eel fishery destruction in the Chesapeake Bay watershed area and Eastern seaboard, despite strong documentation indicating such problems exist. Please contact the appropriate stakeholders/personnel to turnaround these growing issues and concerns. Please coordinate, collaborate and cooperate on Federal, State and/or local jurisdictional levels in addressing these concerns potentially impacting adversely public policy, finances, trust, confidence, ecosystem, environment and quality of life issues. Thank you for your time in this matter and hope to hear from you soon.

Organization:

Commenter: Alex Balboa **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 10 **Comment Id:** 50849 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: I was reading the latest Associated Press article "Dam passageways allow eels to reclaim habitat" (By KAREN GARDNER, Feb 17, 2007) with great interest when I came across the following sentences: ...Eels were once plentiful in the Potomac River. Two federal agencies are now working to rebuild the eel population in its natural habitat. ...Alex Hoar, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Northeast Regional Office in Hadley, Mass., has been working to restore the eel population to the Potomac. "We think the Potomac could be the first river on the East Coast opened for eels in accordance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's goals for eels," Hoar said. ...Eels historically made up 25 percent of the fish population of East Coast waterways. Hoar and other federal officials would like to help restore some of that population. "Only 10 percent of their historic range is unobstructed," Hoar said. ...Eels contribute to the overall health of an estuary because they were part of the original food chain, according to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Organization:

Commenter: Alex Balboa **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 39495 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has shown that Dams #4 and 5 are

impediments to upstream eelway passage, and successful eelways on nearby dams have clearly shown their effectiveness in allowing eels to pass upstream in large numbers. These proposed eelways would improve access to and open 120 river miles of critical eel habitat for feeding and growth. The ability of the eel, especially females, to access far inland freshwater habitats in the watershed has been shown to be an important factor to ensure the development of larger females that possess a higher reproductive potential than females that are found lower in the basin.

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Commenter: Stephanie Flack **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 39492 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Approx. 10 years a FTWS biologist suggested removing dams #4 and #5, following a nationwide effort to remove barriers on US waterways. He was told that MD DNR and the citizens of Washington County would not support his proposal before it ever reached NPS, or perhaps it did. During several years of negotiations w/ Allegheny Power, MD DNR supported an eel ladder and did not support a fish ladder because the ladder potentially offered less restoration/enhance of fish than the former, which was much less expensive, more functional/successful, and was less unusual. Fish populations are similar above and below dams #4 and offering little justification for a fish ladder, however the dams are an obstacle for, at present, the rivers only migratory fish, the American Eel. Installation of eel ladders would muffle future crys for dam removal.

Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 3 **Comment Id:** 39308 **Coder's Initials:** LYNNE_WIGFIELD

Comment Text: After reviewing the Fishery Management Report No. 36 of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, dtd April, 2000, and the C & O Canal NHP Project Scoping, Environmental Assessment for Eelways - Historic Dams # 4 & 5 on the Potomac River, Washington County, MD., dtd Jan 8, 2007, I support building the eelways in one form or another. They appear to be effective in supporting the migration of eels to their historic habitat and will be beneficial in restoring the eel population. I have no opinion on which design is the best, but wish to go on record as supporting moving out on this project.

Organization:

Commenter: Thomas Lightfoot **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 38599 **Coder's Initials:** MANDY_KERSHNER

Comment Text: I am the owner of the Kemps Mill Dam on the Conococheague Creek which feeds into the Potomac at Cushwa Basin approx. 3 watermiles south. In conjunction with Maryland State permits, I constructed a fish ladder along the raceway adjacent to the dam and observed carp using it last year to go above the dam. I assume eels and other fish also use it to go

upstream. A number of years ago during the permit process, I spoke with a Maryland Fisheries representative who was surprised as he observed small fish jumping over temporary fish ladder 'rungs' in my raceway, and he commented that the government had built million dollar fish ladders that didn't work, yet mine did. My concern is that again millions of public tax dollars will be used to plan and construct over-elaborate "eelways" at Dams 4 & 5 which likely will not work well enough to provide adequate 'payback' to the public.

Organization:

Commenter: Richard J Nye **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 38598 **Coder's Initials:** LYNNE_WIGFIELD

Comment Text: Specifically, I'd like to know why more eels are important or good for us, anyway? And why not 'farm' them in hatcheries like we do 'muskies' etc. and then put them into the Potomac above Dam 5? The money saved could be spent on canal improvements and renovation, such as repairing the Cushwa Basin Aquaduct and renovating other sections of the canal for public use and enjoyment.

Organization:

Commenter: Richard J Nye **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

PO4000 Park Operations: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 39490 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: I would suggest a very simple design that has a past history of "working" on passing eels. This may lessen construction costs so that ladders might be duplicated (a back-up ladder) during initial construction which would certainly be more economical than a subsequent construction effort. I believe it would be irresponsible to assume that the ladders will not be damaged or completely removed during a Potomac River flood event regardless of human actions taken prior to this event.

Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

VS4000 Visitor Conflicts And Safety: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 39489 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Do you have any additional suggestions or comments? The choice of alter B would lessen the minimal impacts upon the NPS environment and opinions relating to this impact. Installation near the power plants will have advantages of: (1) electric power supply (2) relatively isolated location that would lessen concerns about public safety and vandalism.

Regardless of a MD or WV location I would suspect minimal vandalism of the ladder itself, but a higher potential on the eel collection device by area fishermen as eels are an excellent bait for catching rockfish (striped bass) or crabs in the Cheapeake Bay. (3) Allegheny employee may be moved to react quickly to a rising water or other mother nature threats to the eel ladder. Despite their presence at the plants being only occasional it may still be more often than workers/volunteers on the MD side to be able to observe possible problems that require corrective action. (4) Less visual impact upon NPS property. This will also result in less visitor use and experience of the natural aquatic resources in the Potomac River, but perhaps enhance/maintain the experience for those strictly interested in the cultural and history of the towpath. It's my limited judgement that there are more general recreationists utilizing this area than the latter.

Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 39488 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: That NPS should chose Alter A. based upon a subject evaluation of aesthetics, public safety, or impact upon archaeological/cultural resources. Choosing Aternative B, (I prefer), C, or D would favorably impact living resources and diversity in the aquatic environment of the Potomac River.

Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

**Historic Dams 4&5 Eelway Passage Project - Potomac River
Substantive Issues Report**

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENTS 2007

(11/19/2009)

ED1000 Editorial (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 10 Comment Id: 50850 Coder's Initials: JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Please review and implement an action plan to thoroughly address this extremely troubling issue. Media reports continue to underscore alleged widespread and rising eel fishery destruction in the Chesapeake Bay watershed area and Eastern seaboard, despite strong documentation indicating such problems exist. Please contact the appropriate stakeholders/personnel to turnaround these growing issues and concerns. Please coordinate, collaborate and cooperate on Federal, State and/or local jurisdictional levels in addressing these concerns potentially impacting adversely public policy, finances, trust, confidence, ecosystem, environment and quality of life issues. Thank you for your time in this matter and hope to hear from you soon.

Organization:

Commenter: Alex Balboa **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 9 Comment Id: 39497 Coder's Initials: JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: As owner/operator of the above mentioned facilities, Allegheny Energy Supply Company, LLC (AE) hereby provides comments to Project Scoping Report by National Park Service (NPS)/ Department of the Interior in regards to the construction of the eel ladders on the NPS dams. AE has provided the funds for the initial purchase and installation of the eel ladders as part of our negotiations with the NPS under the Supplemental Agreement for dam use. AE has always taken the position that the eel ladder at Dam No. 4 should be placed on the Maryland side of the river. Because of the river topography, debris always collects on the West Virginia side of the river at the power house. Based on this fact, AE believes that constant repairs or replacement of the eel ladder will be necessary during high river flow. AE cannot take any responsibility for the eel ladder if it is placed at the hydro facility at Dam No. 4, which will be subject to the heavy debris load.

Organization: Allegheny Energy

Commenter: Charles L Simons **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 Comment Id: 39496 Coder's Initials: JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: We see no reason to be concerned that construction and maintenance of the eelways will have any negative effect on other natural resources. We encourage the National Park Service to pursue the construction of these eelways and support other measures to improve

and open eel habitat in the Potomac River Basin.

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Commenter: Stephanie Flack **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 39494 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: On behalf of The Nature Conservancy we would like to voice our support for the construction of eelways on Dams #4 & 5 on the Potomac River to promote restoration of American eel to more of their historic range, provided that continued safe downstream passage at the dams is ensured as well. The American eel is a long-lived, catadromous fish species which occupies a significant and unique niche in the Atlantic coastal drainages. The American eel is a panmictic species that appears to be in decline throughout its entire range. In the 2000 management plan for the American eel, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission set objectives to restore eel to waters where they had historical abundance by providing access. This plan reports that, as of 2000, only 11% of historic eel habitat (in river miles) in the Potomac River Basin were fully accessible to eel.

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Commenter: Stephanie Flack **Page:** **Paragraph:**

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Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 39491 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: Limit ladder evaluation study to one or two years with possible follow up every 5 years. Environmental researches tend to over-study nature in an attempt to make a perfect prediction-something that remains an impossible task when dealing with Mother Nature.

Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

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Organization:

Commenter: Ed Enamait **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 6 **Comment Id:** 39485 **Coder's Initials:** JEANNETTE_DAWSON

Comment Text: I frequently ride a bike along the Canal and enjoy resting at the dams before returning. I picnic at the dams on occasion too. I would love to have picnic tables insted of eelways.

Organization: C & O Canal Association

Commenter: Gary P McGinnis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 3 **Comment Id:** 39308 **Coder's Initials:** LYNNE_WIGFIELD

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