



Native Fish Coalition

www.NativeFishCoalition.org

MA@nativefishcoalition.org

July 19, 2022

Dear Natick Charles River Dam Advisory Committee,

The Massachusetts chapter of [the Native Fish Coalition](http://www.NativeFishCoalition.org) (NFC) joins the Charles River Watershed Association (CWRA) in calling for the immediate removal of South Natick Dam. [Native Fish Coalition](http://www.NativeFishCoalition.org) (NFC) is a non-profit grassroots conservation organization whose mission is to protect, preserve, and restore wild native fishes. We are a 501(c)(3) national organization with state chapters in eleven states, including Massachusetts.

NFC's mission is especially relevant to the Charles River watershed since our focus is not limited to native salmonids but includes all our freshwater and diadromous native species. Including short-nosed sturgeon, American eels, river herring, American shad, lamprey, redbfin pickerel, and darters, to name just a few.

On December 3, 2021, the Town of Natick downgraded the rating of the South Natick Dam to poor. In its current state, the dam has Multiple mature trees and woody shrubs throughout the earth embankment on the right side of the spillway and erosion with exposed tree roots on the embankment and parts of the downstream slope.

The South Natick dam restricts migratory fish from reaching their feeding and breeding habitats. It also degrades the river ecosystem and is susceptible to failure as climate change brings more frequent severe weather events.

We urge the Charles River Dam Advisory Committee and the Town of Natick to remove the spillway of the Charles River Dam in South Natick Dam.

Sincerely,

Will Friedland, MA NFC Vice Chair

CC: MA NFC Board
National NFC Board