JOINT COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

2015 Webinar Series

WHY DID THE DAM CROSS THE RIVER? GETTING TO THE OTHER SIDE OF SMALL DAM REMOVAL

Michael Chelminski, P.E.
Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
Topsham, Maine

Dam removal is a cost-effective approach to eliminate impacts associated with small dams, including adverse impacts to natural resources and potential impacts to natural resources and infrastructure that can result from dam failure.

This 60-minute presentation addresses opportunities, constraints, and approaches to small dam removal, including the scope and scale of studies for dam removal design and permitting and differences between large and small dam removals. This topic is important because of the number of small dams, the cumulative impact of these dams on natural resources, and the potential to build on the success of larger dam removal projects by removing small dams in the large-project watershed. In recognition of limited funding for dam removal projects, this presentation also identifies and addresses the need to scope design and permitting studies for small dam removal projects based on the potential impacts — or lack therefore — of dam failure.

The Joint Committee on Fisheries Engineering and Science is hosting a free webinar series as part of its mission to engage scientists and engineers on topics related to fish passage. The Committee consists of members of the American Fisheries Society Bioengineering Section (AFS-BES) and the American Society of Civil Engineers Environmental and Water Resources Institute (ASCE-EWRI). It was established in January 2011 to foster communication between the two groups, provide opportunities for engineers and biologists to share relevant knowledge and learn from one another, and to collaborate on projects related to fish passage.