

OVERVIEW

The City of Bellingham (City), American Rivers (AR), and supporting partners are working to implement a multi-benefit project on the Middle Fork Nooksack River. The project aims to improve fish passage for three ESA-listed Puget Sound threatened anadromous fish species by removing the diversion dam while maintaining water supply diversion at the site. The project is now in the construction phase, with the Notice to Proceed issued on January 2, 2020. In-water work began June 1, 2020 and is scheduled for completion on September 30, 2020.

THIS MONTH

- **Construction Activities**
 - In-Water work began on Monday, June 1. Despite rain and seasonally high river levels, cofferdam placement, dewatering of isolated work areas, and fish handling and rescue activities were successfully conducted throughout June.
 - Differing subgrade conditions than those interpreted by the consultant design team during the planning phase required design of a revised shoring system for further excavation of the new water intake and fish screen facilities. The project team is working closely with Walsh Construction to examine and negotiate cost and schedule impacts associated with these unanticipated conditions.

- **Outreach**
 - A [press release](#) was published on June 17.
 - A social media toolkit and media toolkit is now available on a publicly accessible platform so project partners and supporters can amplify outreach on their platforms.
 - North Fork Studios and Earthscape Productions, Ltd. will be collecting film footage of the dam demolition and channel restoration elements. This will result in high quality time lapse and video footage that will be used in multiple film products, including short films funded by American Rivers and the City, and is expected to be featured in BBC's upcoming Planet Earth III series and Netflix's Earthscape series.
 - Recent construction [photos](#) were uploaded to the project webpage.

July 2020

- Dam demolition, existing facility equipment removal, and water supply intake construction work will be conducted throughout July.