United States Environmental Protection Agency

This document is one of the project summaries from the EPA's Targeted Watershed Grants 2005 Annual Report published in December 2005. The reference number is EPA 840-R-06-001. You can find the entire document at **http://www.epa.gov/twg**.

EPA'S TARGETED WATERSHED GRANTS 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

December 2005

2003 Grantee

UPDATE

Narragansett Bay

RI, MA

MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

- Land and coastal development
- Toxic metals and bacterial pollution
- Hypoxic conditions due to nutrient overloading
- Fishery declines
- Loss of shellfish and other aquatic organisms

Fish ladder at Bradford Dam will help restore migratory fish runs. (Wood-Pawcatck Watershed Association)

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The Partnership of Narragansett Bay is reducing sediment and nutrient loadings to improve water quality by focusing projects on fish run sustainability and restoration as well as on research and education. To date, achievements include:

- Funding a mariculture facility that has produced 26,000 seedlings planted over four acres at two sites, seedlings that will support eelgrass restoration without additional pressure on natural eelgrass beds
- Securing additional mariculture funding from project partners
- Donating numerous plants to support an elementary school's eelgrass program
- Completing a fish passage feasibility study to support anadromous fish and ecosystem restoration
- Conducting pre-project monitoring to evaluate numerous treatment technologies for reducing excess pathogens and nutrients
- Engaging project partners and volunteers in site monitoring activities

Eelgrass seedlings counted and ready for transplant. (Univ. of Rhode Island Coastal Institute and Graduate School of Oceanography)

"Hundreds of years of industrial development have virtually destroyed migratory fish runs on the river. The Targeted Watersheds Grant is helping watershed communities to repair this damage by providing funding to restore native shad and herring runs to the lower Pawtuxet River. The project will benefit the entire bay ecosystem, as well as Rhode Island's commercial and recreational fisheries."

– Tom Ardito
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management