

Champlain-Hudson Environmental Trust (CHET)

Hudson River Foundation

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Trust “Mission”

The Hudson River and Lake Champlain Habitat Enhancement,
Restoration and Research/Habitat Improvement Project Trust

...the Trust shall be established solely for the purposes of protecting, restoring and improving aquatic habitats and fisheries resources in the Hudson River Estuary, the Harlem and East Rivers, Lake Champlain and their tributaries, (collectively, the “Trust Area”) in order to minimize, mitigate, study and/or compensate for the short-term adverse aquatic impacts and potential long-term aquatic impacts and risks to these water bodies from construction and operation of the Facility.

- (A) to make a contribution to the long-term protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife species and habitats in the Hudson River Estuary, the Harlem and East Rivers, and/or Lake Champlain and their tributaries;
- (B) to have a strong scientific foundation;
- (C) to achieve identified environmental goals;
- (D) to be consistent with applicable State and Federal natural resource management plans;
- (E) to address impacts associated with the construction, operation, maintenance or security of the Facility, and;
- (F) to be feasible from an engineering perspective;

Preference to projects that: (1) achieve multiple environmental goals; (2) involve multi-stakeholder collaboration; (3) feature matching funds; and/or, (4) are cost effective;

Structure

NYS PSC

Environmental Trust
Governance Committee

Grantor
CHPE LLC

Trustee
BNY Mellon Bank

Trust Administrator
Hudson River Foundation

\$117.15 M
35 Years

Environmental Trust Governance Committee

- NYS Department of State
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- NYS Department of Public Services
- The City of New York
- Adirondack Parks Agency
- Riverkeeper
- Scenic Hudson
- Trout Unlimited
- Champlain Hudson Power Express, Inc. (TDI)

“Priority Projects” - Research and Restoration identified in Certificate Condition 165

- 75% of funding for the first 15 years of the project allocated to “Priority Projects”
 - 9 out of 23 projects selected for implementation in the first 5-year Implementation Plan
 - 5 years of funding across 3 regions - \$13.2M (2024-2028)
 - Defines general project objectives and budget guidelines by project
- Process and plan for allocating the other 25% is underdevelopment

5-Year Implementation Plan

Priority Project	Project Title	5-Year Allocation
Case Statement A	Preferred Habitat Characteristics for Migratory and Resident Larval and Juvenile Fish: Reference Conditions for Habitat Restoration	\$ 1,225,000
Case Statement B	Restoration of Adult and Juvenile Fish Habitat in the Upper Hudson River Estuary- Schodack Island Side Channel	\$ 3,700,000
Case Statement C	Harlem River Designing the Edge Project (A Restoration Implementation Project)	\$ 3,450,000
Case Statement D	Development of Design Guidelines for Shoreline Enhancements	\$ 300,000
Case Statement E	Bronx River Aquatic Connectivity	\$ 750,000
Case Statement F	Oyster Bed Development and Restoration	\$ 230,000
Case Statement G	Lake Champlain Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Management	\$ 2,000,000
Case Statement H	Academic Research Focused on Lake Champlain Fish Habitat Assessments	\$ 950,000
Case Statement I	Lake Champlain Fish Population Assessments	\$ 552,000

Project I. Lake Champlain Fish Population Assessments

- **Allocated:** \$552,000 over 3 years
- **Overview:** Survey important fish species in Lake Champlain and calculate abundance indices to facilitate long-term monitoring
- **Status:** Request for Proposals open on HRF website:

bit.ly/lc-fish-rfp2024

- Letters of Intent due November 8, 2024
- Proposals from select applicants due January 10, 2025
- Award expected March 2025

Project H. Academic Research Focused on Lake Champlain Fish Habitat Assessments

- **Allocated:** \$950,000 over 5 years
- **Overview:** Working with a team led by UVM/USGS/LCBP
 - A synthesis of long-term water quality and habitat data
 - Expansion of acoustic telemetry monitoring of fish species
 - Expansion of water quality monitoring
- **Next Steps:**
 - Working with Project Lead to develop detailed project plans and timelines
 - Work expected to start next year

Project G. Lake Champlain Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Management

- **Allocated:** \$2 million
- **Overview:** Several project designed to assess AIS introductions to Lake Champlain and design AIS deterrent systems
 - **Permitting and design of interim AIS deterrent system on Champlain Canal**
 - **Assessment of AIS transport through the Chambly Canal and evaluation of deterrent systems**
 - Design and testing of AIS early detection monitoring system for Lake Champlain
 - Economic analysis of AIS impacts within the Lake Champlain Basin
- **Status:**
 - Working with NYPA/Canals to fund/cost share design study and permitting work for an AIS deterrent system in the Champlain Canal
 - Developing Project Advisory Group for Chambly Canal AIS Assessment Study