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Dams impede the natural flow of rivers and stream causing a build up of silt behind them and the stagnant water becomes warmer. This allows the growth of harmful algae and parasites that harm fish and interfere with natural plant life. Dams encourage flooding.

Dam removal allows rivers and stream to reclaim their natural flow. The water is cooler and more oxygenated, freer of sediment and healthier to fish and other wildlife. Dam removal also reduces flooding. Migratory fish such as salmon and shad, blueback herring, and alewives need open rivers and streams to complete their life cycles and spawn.