



Protecting nature. Preserving life.

Advocacy Plan
Alabama River Project
(October 2022)

The Nature Conservancy has identified that habitat and species loss on the Alabama and Cahaba Rivers, in Alabama, are occurring due to navigation structures on the Alabama River. To protect and grow the biodiversity on these rivers, alternatives are needed. There is a need to increase resiliency and conservation of freshwater ecosystems that allow fish passage up and down the river to and provide critical habitat for species growth and expansion, as well as an increased recreational value and increased economic impact.



The Nature Conservancy's goal is to achieve funding sources for construction of the preferred alternative outlined in the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Feasibility Study for Claiborne and Millers Ferry Locks and Dams (Fish Passage), Lower Alabama River, Alabama. A signed USACE Chief's Report is due by 2024. As a part of the feasibility study to arrive at a Chief's Report, funding for Claiborne and Millers Ferry Locks and Dams must be identified in advance of the publication of the final report. The feasibility study will be complete by December 31, 2024.

The proposed fish passage project incorporates nature-based solutions to promote both aquatic ecosystem and community resilience. By determining the most feasible alternative to the current in-stream barriers at the project site, the outcome will improve water quality,

reduce flood hazards, and provide access to fish species to freely pass upstream and downstream -fostering healthy populations of native, migratory, and recreational fish species.

Actions needed for protection success

WRDA 2022, Section 126 language must pass to afford the opportunity for new cost-sharing alternatives to mix Federal funding sources to achieve conservation and protection objectives

NOAA and USACE support must be secured at the regional and Washington D.C. levels

Seek Federal funding opportunities through the Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act implementation. Additionally, support for state and local funding mechanisms to match/leverage federal IIA investments

Using the Inflation Reduction Act programs, seek funding opportunities to undertake Alabama River Project components

Secure the support of the Alabama Congressional Delegation

Secure the support of the Alabama Legislature

Tours for local, state, and federal officials and stakeholders will be conducted