



Ecological Impacts of Dam Removal

Dam removal can have a positive impact on ecosystems. Find out more by doing this crossword puzzle where each clue refers to how removing dams restores previously interrupted ecology and helps bring obstructed rivers back to life.

ACROSS

3. Restores this type of habitat known for being flooded or saturated by water.

4. Allows natural downstream transport of _____. Solid material that is moved and deposited in a new location.

7. Promotes a habitat's variety and variability of life, or _____.

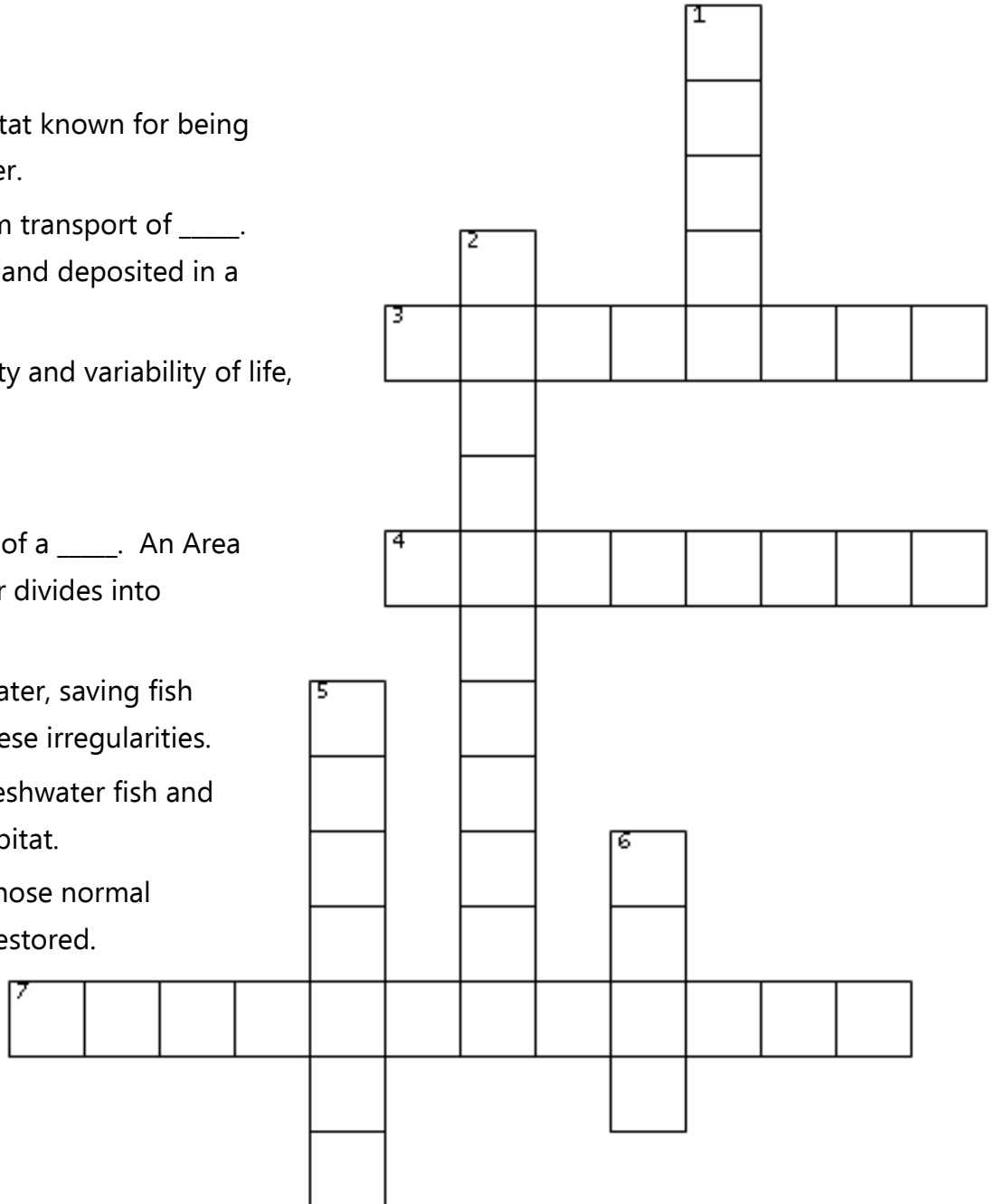
DOWN

1. Restores normal creation of a _____. An Area of low, flat land where a river divides into several smaller rivers.

2. Regulates _____ of the water, saving fish that are often sensitive to these irregularities.

5. Encourages recovery of freshwater fish and other aquatic _____ to a habitat.

6. Type of aquatic animal whose normal migration patterns may be restored.



Word Bank			
Biodiversity	Fish	Species	Wetlands
Delta	Sediment	Temperature	



Mill Creek Dam Removal

The first Mill Creek dam was built by Samuel Dexter in 1825. He harnessed the power to build a sawmill. Henry Ford bought and rebuilt the dam in 1920 but died before it could be completed. The Village of Dexter removed the dam in 2008. Many possibilities for the restored Mill Creek ecosystem include improved water flow, restored streams and wetlands, reduced erosion of streambanks and stabilized water temperature. Also, an improved habitat for fish and wildlife for indigenous species is possible. The Dexter community has benefited from the dam's removal.



Huron River Watershed Council

Dexter's Mill Pond, before the removal of Mill Creek Dam. An overabundance of vegetation dominated the impounded area.



Huron River Watershed Council

Mill Creek in Dexter after dam removal. Removing Mill Creek Dam restored fish passage between Mill Creek and the Huron River and enhanced recreational opportunities in downtown Dexter.

Source: City of Ann Arbor Michigan, (2009) *Planning Along the Huron : Huron River and Impoundment Management Plan*
https://www.a2gov.org/departments/sustainability/Sustainability%20Natural%20Resources/Documents/HRIMP_Plan_Final.pdf

Source: Gajewski , et. al. (2010, April) *Restoration of a Multi-Functional Landscape: Mill Creek After Dam Removal*
<https://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/handle/2027.42/69246>

Source: Shackman, Grace. (2001, Spring) Pulling the Plug on Mill Creek, Community Observer.