



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

# Salmon River Natural Resource Damages Restoration

## Orwell Brook Pulaski, Oswego County

From the 1960s to the early 2000s, the Novelis/Alcan facility near Oswego released contaminated cooling water into natural and manmade wetlands, ponds, soils, and a stream, at their facility. PCBs were discharged from 1960-1970 into manmade ponds, marshes, and a small tributary and on the grounds of the facility. Additionally, PCB contamination occurred from an onsite landfill that contained PCB contaminated materials.

Releases impacted surface water, soils, sediments and biota with PCBs, hydrocarbons and other hazardous substances.

## Restoration Efforts

Using funds obtained through a settlement with Novelis, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) implemented a restoration project at Orwell Brook, a tributary to the Salmon River, which is located near the facility and is a popular site for recreational fishing. This section of the river was highly eroded, contributing to decreased water clarity. Water quality was also impacted by local agriculture and farm animals entering the stream. To improve habitat quality and fish populations, the DEC's Natural Resource Damages restoration project installed fencing to prevent livestock intrusion, inserted toe wood into the streambank to reduce erosion and create habitat, and laid boulders to make a J-hook in the stream to control steam velocity and create in-stream habitat.



### Contaminants of Concern

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

### Restoration Project

- Livestock exclusion fencing
- Toe-Wood:
  - Streambank habitat
  - Erosion Control
  - Stream Velocity
- J-Hook
  - In-Stream Habitat
  - Stream Velocity
- The project was funded through an NRD settlement reached with Novelis as a result of the historic release of PCBs into tributaries and wetlands for Lake Ontario.

