

The Catch

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Restoration

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Restoration

—in commemoration of June 11, 2012

The dawn the dam removal begins
rises as an ancient salmon-pink current
rivering the East, given again.

A woman downriver, born
to its flood, wakes at four knowing
that eagle feathers are being lifted
to pray in a day of praisegiving.

While her mate dreams, she strikes her flame
and listens outside in bird and insect singing,
blossom and new leaf smell, as darkneses
give way to a new day in every sense.

Ancestral fish-urges to return
power her thrust she must go.

Without constraint, she slips in
and begins to swim home.

No dam can stop her.
She will hurl herself with the others
until she dies.