

## **Decommissioning, discontinuation and abandonment of dams: is there a case for a national strategy?**

C. S. MCCULLOCH, University of Oxford

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**SYNOPSIS.** Dam removal has excited much interest in the United States in the last decade. Many small dams have been removed and a start on removing two large dams in Oregon is scheduled for autumn 2008. Valuable lessons relevant to England and Wales are drawn from the burgeoning scientific literature. Multi-disciplinary inspections are needed to assess dams for decommissioning and discontinuance based on aesthetic, ecological and recreational values as well as safety and utilitarian economic considerations. A case is made for a national strategy.