

#7

## CORRESPONDENCE

## REGARDING HERRING FRAMEWORK 3





May 29, 2013

Howard King, MSB Committee Chairman  
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
800 North State Street, Suite 201  
Dover, DE 19901

**RE: River Herring/Shad Cap in MSB Specifications**

Dear Mr. King,

Wild Oceans (formerly the National Coalition for Marine Conservation) is pleased to provide the following recommendations for implementing river herring and shad (RH/S) cap alternatives approved in Amendment 14 to the Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish (MSB) Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Three critical issues have come to our attention: 1) lack of clarity on the goals for the RH/S cap; 2) potential inclusion of an option that would allow directed mackerel fishing to occur after the RH/S catch cap has been hit; and 3) the definition of a directed mackerel trip.

During the Monitoring Committee webinar held on May 28<sup>th</sup>, a great deal of discussion centered on the Council's goals for the RH/S cap. Amendment 14 is clear on this issue. The goal is to **reduce** bycatch of river herring and shad in the mackerel fishery. The baseline for establishing a reduction goal must be grounded in recent data in accordance with the actual landings realized by the mackerel fleet. We object to any alternatives derived from a U.S. mackerel quota that is set magnitudes higher than average mackerel landings over the last three years.<sup>1</sup> We reiterate that the primary goal of the cap is not to accommodate for full utilization of the mackerel quota; it is to contribute to the restoration of river herring and shad by reducing bycatch from previous levels.

To implement effective catch caps for river herring and shad, the cap must be structured such that once a designated level of river herring and shad mortality has occurred, the mackerel fishery closes. To allow directed mackerel fishing to occur *after* the RH/S catch cap is reached is contrary to the intent of Amendment 14, which is to place a hard ceiling on river herring and shad removals. Options discussed in the most recent webinar that would allow 10,000 mt or 15,000 mt of directed mackerel fishing to occur, prior to closure but after the RH/S cap is exceeded, would undermine any efforts to limit river herring and shad catch in most years. U.S. landings have not exceeded 10,000 mt since 2010. The perceived concern over potential early season RH/S bycatch rates that are relatively high, which is apparently driving this concept, can

and should be addressed through the extrapolation methodology (for example, current butterfish cap methodology carries catch ratios over from the end of the previous fishing year to create a smoothed average) or through seasonal splits in the cap. A seasonal split can prevent early shutdown and under-utilization of mackerel without undermining the essence of a cap, as a minimum mackerel catch threshold would do. Subdividing the cap by area and/or season may also increase conservation benefits by preventing concentrated RH/S removals that may disproportionately impact a distinct population segment. Finally, failure to close the fishery if the cap is reached would undermine another important benefit of a cap, which is incentivizing RH/S bycatch avoidance.

For consistency between the mackerel and herring fisheries, we have previously recommended an incidental limit of 2,000 pounds in both fisheries; however, we appreciate the additional analysis Mr. Didden performed to determine that a directed mackerel trip could appropriately be defined as one in excess of 20,000 pounds. We ask that going forward, in order to ensure that this limit does not change fishing behavior or cause a directed fishery, this definition be reviewed annually by the Monitoring Committee and the SSC. Once the cap is implemented, the dynamics of the fishery may very well change, creating an incentive to direct on mackerel within the 20,000-lb incidental allowance.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Pam Lyons Gromen  
Executive Director

Cc\Rick Robbins, Dr. Chris Moore, Jason Didden

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<sup>1</sup> Current U.S. quota (DAH) is around 34,000 mt. Average annual landings from 2010-2012 are just over 6,000 mt.

Recent articles regarding River Herring stock Rebounds  
Submitted by Jeff Kaelin, Lund's Fisheries (May 23, 2013)





## Years of sound fishery management has Alewives return in numbers to Mass's North Shore

SEAFOOD.COM NEWS [Gloucester Times] by Dave Sartwell - May 21, 2013

This could be a banner year for the return of alewives to the North Shore. Although we are still early in the run, all indications are that the work being done by a host of different governmental agencies and volunteer organizations and the restrictions being put in place on the commercial take is really starting to pay off.

To put this into perspective it is important to understand the history. Using the Merrimack River watershed as an example, a cursory examination of the passage records tells the story. In 1983 and 1984 there were 4,794 and 1,176 herring and alewives counted at the dam in Lawrence. In the years 1987-1992 the numbers ballooned to 77,209; 361,012; 378,973; 254,242; 379,588; and 102,166.

Then the bottom dropped out. In 1993 the count went down to 14,027 with a low of only 51 in 1996. Since that time the counts have varied, ending with 740 in 2011 and 1,809 last year. However, this year the number has already risen to 16,799 with the migration far from being over.

Similar numbers are being reported on the Parker River at the Woolen Dam on Central Street in Newbury. Runs used to be as high as 20,00 a year there, but the counts have fallen to lower than 500 over the past few years. There have been at least 7,000 up the fishway this year with more coming every day.

Folks viewing the run from the Apple Street Bridge looking over Alewife Brook in Essex that runs out of Chebacco Lake report in that the fish are returning there in numbers as well. And, the tiny fish are coming into Annisquam River to the Little River trying to make their way up to the Lilly Pond.

"We are very happy with the results this year," said Joe Mckeon, Supervisory Fishery Biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "We are setting records in the Lamprey River and the rest of the rivers along the whole New England Coast seem to be experiencing a nice recovery."

In a recent interview he told me of the history of the efforts of a whole lot of folks to get these runs back to balance all around the Gulf of Maine. Their role in the natural process was not well understood and competing interests served to almost destroy the runs. Dams, pollution, housing developments need for water, and commercial fishing all formed a perfect storm aimed at this little food fish so important to a whole host of predators.

For example, in the 1980's the St. Croix River in Maine that marks the New Brunswick/Maine border, played host to a run of more than 2.6 million alewives a year. Local smallmouth bass fishing guides and area locals without any supporting scientific data, convinced the Maine Legislature to close the passageways for them to migrate up river. Less than 1,000 fish got by.

"The return of alewives to the St. Croix River offers new hope for the health of the Gulf of Maine and its fisheries. The St. Croix can now become the largest alewife run in the nation, over time," said Lisa Pohlmann, Executive Director of the Natural Resources Council of Maine. "NRCM has been working to reopen this river to its native fish since 2001, to make this ecosystem whole again. As the alewife population rebounds, it will help rebuild Maine's groundfish stocks and supply bait for Maine's lobster industry, which is now importing expensive bait from away."

"In the early 1980's we started to transport alewives into Lake Winnisquam in New Hampshire," McKeon continued. "They would grow there and then migrate down river to the ocean. In a few years worth of work we saw the numbers rocket upwards. We stopped doing that and the results were the dismal returns in the 1990's."

"However, several years ago we started hauling alewives overland again and planting them in small ponds and brooks that feed the Merrimack River," he continued. "For example, we stocked 25,00 fish last year and have already planted over 10,000 fish this year and will be doing a lot more. We have found that putting them into big dam impoundments does not work very well. These fish seem to do best in small streams and ponds. I think we are starting to see the results of our efforts this year."

Alison Bowden, Director of Freshwater Conservation for The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts agrees with the need to expand the numbers.

"Alewives and blueback herring are really important to the health of our rivers," he said recently. "They're the connection between land and sea that keeps our ecosystems vibrant here in coastal New England."

Last summer, the Conservancy joined with partners to remove the Hopewell Mills Dam in Taunton, and researchers are already seeing fish return to reaches of the river which they have been unable to access since 1818. An underwater camera recently photographed the first alewife to pass the site this spring. This "pioneer" fish was soon followed by the early waves of the spring herring run, according to a research effort being jointly funded by the Conservancy and the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries.

During the past year, the New England Fisheries Management Council adopted new rules for commercial fishermen in the ocean to minimize river herring by-catch (unintended harvest) in the Atlantic herring fishery off the coast of northeastern states. A ruling by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on whether or not to list both species of river herring under the federal Endangered Species Act has yet to be acted on.

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Source: Seafood.com News



## Mattabeset River Fishway opens in East Berlin

From The Nature Conservancy | Posted: Friday, May 17, 2013 6:00 am

For the first time 100 years, American shad—the Connecticut state fish—river herring, and other migratory fish can move past High Pond Dam on the Mattabeset River in East Berlin, thanks to a new fishway at the dam.

The fishway — that officially was opened during a May 9 ceremony — was built by The Nature Conservancy’s Connecticut Program in partnership with Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection with full support from the dam’s owner, StanChem, an East Berlin-based polymer company. It opens 50 miles of habitat – including tributaries to the Mattabeset – to migratory fish.

“The completion of the fishway on the Mattabeset River is the result of partners working together for the common goal of restoring critical upstream habitats for migratory fish,” said Daniel C. Esty, commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. “DEEP’s monitoring station at the site will provide critical interest for DEEP’s fisheries biologists, who will collect data on the fish runs and determine the extent of fish activity over the coming years.”

“I see this project as a model for conservation because it depends on support from the worlds of business, nonprofits and government. Each played an absolutely crucial role,” said Frogard Ryan, the Conservancy’s Connecticut state director. “The project is also a reminder that conservation is made possible by people. For me, today’s celebration is a celebration not only of nature—but also of the value of our collective commitment to strengthening our stewardship of it.”

High Pond Dam creates a pond that is important for StanChem because it can be tapped as a water-supply for emergency fire suppression. A fishway—rather than dam removal—protects this safety function while also providing important ecological benefits.

“All of us at StanChem have been very supportive of this,” said StanChem President Jack Waller. “Doing our part to help the state of Connecticut and environment is a corporate goal, and we’re thrilled to have done our part.”

The Mattabeset River is a tributary of the Connecticut River. The four-state Connecticut River watershed is one of the nation’s most obstructed river and tributary systems with more than 2,700 dams and 44,000 road/stream crossings.

The DEEP is maintaining a fish-run monitoring station at the site. During spring spawning season, the DEEP will utilize video monitoring equipment positioned in a counting house with a window into the fishway to gather information on the timing of the runs, the species using the fishway, and the number of fish passing through it. This information will be included in the Department’s

weekly "No Fish Left Behind" reports, which provide information on the monitored fish runs across the state.

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May 18, 2013

## Outdoors: Alewives return in numbers

*Outdoors*

Dave Sartwell

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## Alewives swimming up Maine's St. Croix River

AP / May 13, 2013

BAILEYVILLE, Maine (AP) — Alewives are expected to swim upriver of the Grand Falls dam on eastern Maine's St. Croix River this week for the first time in 22 years.

Lawmakers passed a law this spring allowing the fish, also known as river herring, to swim upriver of the dam, overriding an earlier law that closed a fish passage at the Grand Falls dam to alewives. The earlier law was passed at the request of fishing guides who maintained the fish posed a threat to smallmouth bass populations in waters upriver of the dam.

As of Monday, more than 600 alewives had swum past the Woodland dam, about 10 miles downriver from the Grand Falls dam. With the fish passage open once again, the St. Croix — which serves as the border between Maine and New Brunswick, Canada — in time could have the largest alewife run in the country, according to supporters of the new law.

“Our ancestors would be very proud today. The arrival of alewives at the Grand Falls flowage of the St. Croix River is a historic event for the Passamaquoddy people, and for all of our neighbors in Maine and Canada,” said Brian Altvater, head of the Passamaquoddy tribal group, Schoodic Riverkeepers, which has worked to restore alewives to their ancestral spawning grounds.

Opening the St. Croix River watershed to alewives will benefit the Passamaquoddies, Maine's commercial fishing industry, and fish and wildlife throughout the Gulf of Maine, he said.

Alewives were effectively barred from the river for more than 150 years because of dams and pollution. But with cleaner waters and fish passages on the dams, millions of fish returned to the river in the 1980s, with the annual run growing to more than 2.5 million fish.

But legislators in 1995 enacted a law ordering the fish passages at the Grand Falls dam and the downstream Milltown dam to be closed to alewives. The guides maintained that alewives posed a threat to smallmouth bass populations, and by extension to the guides' livelihoods, in lakes and streams in the St. Croix River watershed.

The Milltown dam was reopened to alewives in 2008, but it wasn't until this spring that lawmakers passed a law reopening the Grand Falls dam.

Although the Legislature blockaded the dam in 1995, alewives haven't swum upriver of the dam since 1991, according to Lee Sochasky, who operates the fish passage at the Woodland dam. The alewives were stopped at Grand Falls beginning in 1991 for a research study, she said.

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**From:** Maggie Raymond <maggieraymond@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 05, 2013 7:04 AM  
**To:** Maggie Raymond  
**Subject:** Restoration efforts put spotlight on once plentiful alewives

Bangor Daily News

## [Restoration efforts put spotlight on once plentiful alewives](#)

By [Tom Walsh](#), BDN Staff  
Posted May 04, 2013, at 11:38 a.m.

Despite alewives being the focus of sometimes contentious efforts to improve their access to Down East Maine freshwater spawning habitats, these migratory fish remain something of a mystery to many, while at the same time remaining a favorite food for wide variety of Maine wildlife.

Alewives as a meal for Mainers themselves? Not so much. At least not anymore. Once a dinner-table staple in Maine, alewives are now more likely to be chopped up for lobster bait.

In addition to osprey and bald eagles, which have perfected dive-bombing fishing techniques in feasting upon the annual spring run of "river herring," alewives are prey for a long list of critters. Alewife predators include not only raptors, but other fish, among them bass, bluefish, tuna, cod, haddock, halibut, eel, trout, landlocked salmon, pickerel, pike and perch. Other predators include great blue heron, gulls, terns, cormorants, seals, whales, otter, mink, fox, raccoon, skunk, weasel, fisher and turtles. Maybe even bears.

An 1852 history of Kennebec County recounts that in Gardiner and Pittston "alewives were so plentiful at the time the country was settled that bears, and later swine, fed on them in the water. They were crowded ashore by the thousands."

Before the 20th century advent of refrigeration, which allowed a wide variety of fish species as options for dinner entrees, alewives were popular because they kept well when smoked or packed in salt. They were also plentiful, as each May and June hundreds of thousands of the 10-inch silver fish migrated from the sea into virtually all of Maine's freshwater rivers and streams to spawn. Alewives were also cheap, as in free for the taking.

For thousands of years Native Americans and, centuries later, Maine's early European settlers relied heavily on alewives for subsistence. So did the poor, according to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service history of alewife migration. When one Maine river town built a dam that blocked the fish from their spawning habitat, settlers upstream were outraged.

"It was difficult to persuade the aggrieved people to forbear using violence to open a passage for ye fish," one report of the incident relates. "The cry of the poor every year for want of the fish ... is enough to move the bowels of compassion in any man that hath not a heart of stone."

Guided by their keen sense of smell, alewives migrate from the ocean to upstream rivers, streams, ponds and lakes to spawn. Males return to freshwater when they are 3 years old, while females usually return at age 4 or 5. Although one female alewife can produce as many as 100,000 eggs, very few juveniles — as few as three — survive to adulthood.

While some die after spawning, most adult alewives make their way back to the ocean shortly after spawning, with many returning the following spring to spawn again. Juvenile alewives grow to be as large as six inches. From mid-July through October, they migrate downstream to the ocean, where they grow to adulthood before returning to freshwater estuaries.

**Alewives making news**



Alewives have been making news in Maine since the 1980s, when it was first claimed that their migratory habits were undermining sport fishing in Spednik Lake, one of the Chiputneticook Lakes upstream from the Washington County community of Vanceboro. As a result, and with little debate, legislation was enacted in 1995 that blocked fishways at Grand Falls Dam near Princeton and at Woodland Dam in Baileyville. The Woodland Dam barrier was removed in 2008.

Passamaquoddy tribal members in Washington County and in New Brunswick who fish the St. Croix River that defines a 71-mile stretch of U.S.-Canadian border have been pushing for years to restore alewife passage to watershed spawning grounds far upstream from Calais. [New science shows](#) there is no viable reason to maintain St. Croix barriers established due to a now-debunked claim that alewives were undermining the smallmouth bass population important to a small but lucrative sport fishing industry.

A law that took effect last month required state officials to remove barriers in fishways at Grand Falls Dam in Washington County by May 1 to provide alewives with unrestricted access to the entire St. Croix River watershed for the first time since 1995.

The lingering debate over removing the barriers shifted into high gear last fall when the Portland-based Conservation Law Foundation filed suit in U.S. District Court. That suit claimed the Grand Falls Dam barrier blocked alewives and other fish species that migrate within the St. Croix River from accessing 98 percent of their spawning habitats. As a result, the suit claimed, the alewife population in the river had been "decimated" from millions of alewives in 1995 to an estimated 900 by 2002.

The CLF lawsuit named two state officials as defendants: Patrick Keliher, commissioner of the state's Department of Marine Resources, and Chandler Woodcock, commissioner of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries. That suit was dismissed at the request of the Conservation Law Foundation in April with the approval of the new law.

### **'It's a business'**

As the price of herring keeps going up, alewives remain a popular and affordable May-June bait alternative for the Down East lobster fishery. Ralph Cahoon, a Hancock-based lobsterman, said that herring bait is now selling for as much as \$25 a bushel, while he can buy a bushel of alewives harvested from the Union River in Ellsworth for about \$15.

Other lobstermen, like Robert Hudson of Hancock, avoid alewives as bait. "I've fished with them," Hudson said. "But all I ever caught was crabs."

Hancock's Herb Hodgkins has been working for years to develop an affordable, artificial lobster bait as an alternative to herring. He said lobstermen find alewives attractive not only because they are less expensive, but because they last longer as lobster trap bait than herring.

"I don't think alewives fish as good as herring, but it's a handy alternative," Hodgkins told the Bangor Daily News. "One reason why alewives are a popular bait in the spring is that, due to weather and other factors, fishermen like to set their traps for more days. Herring is gone in about three days, whereas alewives will stay on two or three more days."

According to the Maine Department of Marine Resources, 21 Maine communities are approved to harvest alewives this spring. Most of the towns involved take bids in selling the harvesting rights. Although the revenue generated is not huge, with cutbacks in state revenue sharing subsidies, every dollar of income matters to Maine's communities, large or small.

The towns and the waterways involved in this spring's alewife harvest include: Alna (Sheepscot River), Bath (Winnegance Lake), Benton (Sebasticook River), Cherryfield (Narraguagus River), Dresden (Mill Creek), East Machias (Gardner Lake), Ellsworth (Union River), Franklin (Grist Mill Stream), Gouldsboro (West Bay Pond), Jefferson (Dyer-Long River), Newcastle (Damariscotta Mills), Nobleboro (Damariscotta Mills), Orland (Orland River), Perry (Boyden Lake), Phippsburg (Winnegance Lake), Steuben (Tunk Stream/Lake), Sullivan (Flanders Stream), Vassalboro (Webber Pond), Warren (St. George River), West Bath (Winnegance Lake) and Woolwich (Nequasset Stream).

In Ellsworth, alewives are harvested as they cluster beneath the Union River hydroelectric dam, with thousands trapped and 1,100 bushels trucked upstream for release in the Green Lake and Graham Lake estuary that feeds the dam. Last year another 8,000 bushels were sold to lobsterman like Cahoon at prices that buffer the higher cost of herring bait.

"It's a business," says Richard Welch, the alewife harvester who has been authorized by Ellsworth to trap and sell Union River alewives for the last 17 years. "We run it, in terms of prices, to sell the fish and to make it worth the while of people who come from a distance to buy them."

## Alewives underappreciated

Among Maine's resident experts on alewives is Doug Watts of Augusta. Quite literally, Watts wrote the book on river herring. Simply titled "Alewife," his 2012 book traces the complexity and history of the alewife migration cycle in Maine and Massachusetts.

"Most people in Maine don't know what alewives are, which is strange," Watts said. "It's like some red bird showing up in your yard and you call the DNR [Department of Natural Resources] and ask 'What is it?' ... only to learn it's a cardinal."

Asked what three things Mainers don't know or appreciate about alewives, Watts said, "Alewives exist in far more numbers in Maine than people could imagine.

"Second, alewives are not just lobster bait," he said. "If people see and watch alewives, they will see that they are as colorful and fascinating as brook trout. They shouldn't be viewed just as something to chop up for lobster bait.

"Third would be that the biggest impediment to alewife restoration is Patrick Keliher, the commissioner of the Maine Department of Marine Resources," he said. "Under state law he has the power to tell owners of non-hydro dams to ensure that alewives can get upstream, but he's consistently said 'No,' that he's not going to require fish ladders that will allow that to happen."

Keliher told the Bangor Daily News by email on Thursday that Watts' criticism is unfounded.

"Mr. Watts' assertion is simply wrong," he said. "I have a 20-plus year track record of advocacy and hands-on work to restore alewife runs. As commissioner I have supported alewives' passage on a number of fronts and keep restoration as priority within the Department."

Sean Mahoney, executive vice president of the Conservation Law Foundation that named Keliher in its 2012 lawsuit, also refutes Watts' critical assessment of state efforts to restore alewife habitat.

"The biggest impediment for alewives is their inability to access habitat, and that inability is principally due to the lack of fish passage at dams, big and small," Mahoney said. "The state of Maine has made big strides on a number of rivers to try to address that, and a big reason for that progress is the efforts of Pat Keliher, both when he was the head of Coastal Conservation Association and since he's been a part of DMR.

"While we don't agree with everything that the DMR does, we don't doubt Pat Keliher's personal and professional commitment to restoring native anadromous fish like alewives, salmon and shad."



## Herring's Acushnet River comeback leaves environmentalists hopeful

By [Ariel Wittenberg](#)  
awittenberg@s-t.com  
April 27, 2013 12:00 AM

ACUSHNET — You might call river herring nature's underdog.

Attracted to rushing water, the fish swim upstream, darting over rocks and ledges to the ponds of their birth where they will reproduce.

"You just think about these tiny little poor fish trying to swim against the current and dodge the fish and the birds that are pecking at them," Buzzards Bay Coalition Vice President of Advocacy Rachel Jakuba said. "It's just so impressive to see these little fish come back. It's an amazing feat."

River herring's tenacity is something state and national environmental groups are banking on as they try to save a species whose population has dropped 90 percent in the past 90 years.

River herring spend most of their time in the Atlantic Ocean but come to fresh water to breed. The 6-inch-long fish are caught commercially and also are a food source for other commercial fish such as cod.

The largest threat to herring is dams and other blockages to their migration.

"If they can't swim upstream, they can't reproduce, and that knocks your population down pretty fast," Jakuba said.

That's a problem environmentalists say they have already taken steps to fix in the form of a three-stage restoration effort in the Acushnet River.

There, herring migration was blocked for years by three dams that kept herring migration to below an average of 400 fish per year.

From 2002-07, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Division of Marine Fisheries teamed up using funds from the New Bedford Harbor Trustee Council to remove the dams and replace them with "nature-like fishways" to ease the fish migration.

For example, at the Acushnet Saw Mill site, an 89-inch-tall dam once stopped herring in their tracks. That dam was deconstructed into a fish ladder of nine 9-inch-tall steps that curve around the river bend.

According to NOAA's Jim Turick, the steps were specially designed to attract the fish and help them up the river, with the stone steps arranged specifically to make the water flow at certain speeds.

The ladder rungs are spread out so as to allow the fish room to rest before darting over the steps in order to make it to their spawning ground.

"We don't want them to exhaust themselves," he said.



From 2007-11, the number of herring migrating through the Acushnet River increased by 1,140 percent, to 3,679.

That number has already increased, with the Division of Marine Fisheries' monitoring system already counting 5,000 fish this season alone, according to DMF's John Sheppard.

Sheppard said the large jump seen this year is in part due to the herring life cycle. After a herring hatches, it spends three to five years at sea before it comes back to its birthplace to spawn for the first time.

"This is either the first or second wave of herring that were born here returning here," he said.

Turick said in the past decade, NOAA has built 15-20 nature-like fishways in the Northeast in order to help fish migration.

He said the results in the Acushnet River, though very positive, are "not unique."

"It's something we hoped for but expected," he said. "You'll see. These numbers will shoot right up."

# Enterprise news.com

## Herring return to Taunton after removal of Mill River dam

By Marc Larocque  
[Taunton Daily Gazette](#)

Posted Apr 30, 2013 @ 06:00 AM  
Last update Apr 30, 2013 @ 08:47 AM

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TAUNTON — Alewife are swimming again at a city dam for the first time in many years.

The river herring are running through the former site of the Hopewell Mills Dam, according to the Nature Conservancy.

Over the last nearly two centuries, dams in the river clogged up the waterway, impeded migration and made the area uninhabitable for the fish, the environmental group said.

The dam was demolished last year by a partnership of state, federal and nonprofit entities working to restore the Mill River.

The Nature Conservancy, involved with the collaborative Mill River Restoration project, reported an underwater camera recently photographed the first alewife to pass the site this spring.

The group says fish are back at reaches of the river they have been unable to access since 1818.

"To have that fish come back is a symbol of nature's resilience," said Alison Bowden, director of the Nature Conservancy's freshwater initiative in Massachusetts. "We can restore the rivers and fish even when they've been gone for a long time."

The fish are being monitored through a research project being jointly funded by the Conservancy and the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, as part of the effort to remove the dam and restore the river system in the Taunton area.

Bowden said the monitoring has been going on since April 1. She said that on the first day, an alewife was seen.

This so-called "pioneer" fish, as the Nature Conservancy phrased it, was soon followed by the early waves of the spring herring run.

"We've been seeing quite a few alewife come through right now, but it's hard to put a number to it," said Mike Bednarski, biologist for Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, who regularly monitors the fish at the site. "But passage rates have been as high as 40 fish per minute."

Pictures and video of the fish coming back to the Mill River can be found at [www.millriver.blogspot.com](http://www.millriver.blogspot.com).

Bowden said the next steps in the Mill River Restoration project will be the removing the Whittenton Dam this year and the Reed and Barton dam next year.

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Again, you need to check your facts-the Whittenton Dam has been removed for many years now - there is nothing there but large boulders to slow the flow of water and ETW the potential to flood downtown Taunton again and that is why the Mill River is in the low water level state since then. It's a disgrace.

No more projects until you restore the water resources of Mill River and lake Sabatia-you have done far more damage to those water resources and it is very apparent to anyone who looks.

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**Get Involved:** **BOSTON, MA | April 24, 2013**  
From April until June, the coastal streams of Massachusetts will teem with millions of river herring.

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Alewives and blueback herring, collectively known as river herring, spend the majority of their lives in the ocean and only return to their freshwater birthplaces to spawn. River herring can be found along the Atlantic coast of North America, but the **phenomenal Massachusetts run** (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0Ro3CRQnFo>) is one of the largest in New England, despite the herring's shrinking population.

**See a video of the first herring passing up-river!**  
(<http://millriver.blogspot.com/2013/04/watch-mill-river-herring-in-action.html>)

Pollution, climate change, predation and dams have contributed to habitat and population loss in many areas, and in fact, the region's river herring are currently under consideration for federal endangered species protection.

"Alewives and blueback herring are really important to the health of our rivers," said Alison Bowden, director of freshwater conservation for The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts. "They're the connection between land and sea that keeps our ecosystems vibrant here in coastal New England."

Last summer, the Conservancy joined with partners to **remove the Hopewell Mills Dam in Taunton** (</ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/massachusetts/newsroom/hopewell-mills-dam-removal-begins-in-taunton.xml>), and researchers are already seeing fish return to reaches of the river which they have been unable to access since 1818. An underwater camera recently photographed the first alewife to pass the site this spring. This "pioneer" fish was soon followed by the early waves of the spring herring run, according to a research effort being jointly funded by the Conservancy and the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries.

The Division also installed video-monitoring that will be used to document the recovery of river herring to the river over the next several years.

"We are excited to reopen one of the largest spawning grounds in the state," said Paul Diodati, Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries. "This project has the potential to add hundreds of thousands of river herring to the coastal population."

Famed fisheries scientist David Belding wrote nearly a century ago of Mill River, "Since it is badly polluted by manufacturing wastes and obstructed by dams, the re-establishment of the old fishery is an impossibility." This week, conservationists celebrated the impossible.

**Contact information**

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"There's a long way to go to re-establish a population, rewilding a fishery, but I'd like to think Dr. Bowden would be pleased. Impossible in his lifetime, but perhaps not in ours!" Bowden said.

The Hopewell Mills dam removal was completed in December 2012, and the partners intend to remove two more dams on the Mill River in the next year, including the Whittenton Dam, which infamously failed in 2005, resulting in a mass evacuation of part of downtown Taunton.

"We have dams all over New England that were built to power mills in the 19th century, and they're no longer necessary," Bowden said. "They're just sitting there, deteriorating and causing problems for both migratory fish and for the people who live nearby."

However, Massachusetts has been a leader in protecting river herring, and thanks to strict regulations, populations are rebounding. Several opportunities to see the herring migration exist.

([http://www.mass.gov/dmfele/dmf/publications/river\\_herring\\_viewing\\_guide.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/dmfele/dmf/publications/river_herring_viewing_guide.pdf)), including fish ladders in Weymouth and Middleboro.

**NOTE: Bowden is available for interviews, either by phone or on-site in Taunton.**

The Nature Conservancy is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. The Conservancy and its more than 1 million members have protected nearly 120 million acres worldwide. Visit The Nature Conservancy on the Web at [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org) (<http://www.nature.org>).

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Jeff Kaelin

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**From:** Maggie Raymond <maggieraymond@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2013 6:25 AM  
**To:** Maggie Raymond  
**Subject:** Westbrook fishway opens to alewives this week

Portland Press Herald

April 28, 2013

## **Westbrook fishway opens to alewives this week**

### **Bigger populations of alewives, shad and herring will mean better fishing in the Presumpscot River.**

By [Leslie Bridgers](mailto:lbridgers@pressherald.com) [lbridgers@pressherald.com](mailto:lbridgers@pressherald.com)  
Staff Writer

The fishway, which the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in 2009 ordered Sappi Fine Paper to build at its dam, was constructed over the past two years and required to be completed by May.

"As a result of significant collaborative efforts and teamwork, Sappi expects to complete the fishway on time, within budget, and most importantly, safely," the company said in a statement. Sappi declined to comment further about the fishway.

The company has two more years to create a fish passage at Saccarappa Falls, a mile upriver, and is considering removing the dam entirely instead of building a fish ladder -- possibly because it would be cheaper. The company has said the fish ladder at Cumberland Mills cost \$5 million.

Eventually, Sappi will have to create passageways at its four dams farther upriver, the timing of which depends on how quickly the fish come back.

The Maine Department of Marine Resources has been stocking 600 alewives per year above Saccarappa Falls since 2009, so a good number of the fish -- which take four years to mature -- would return to spawn just in time for the opening of the fishway at Cumberland Mills, said Gail Wipplehauser, a scientist for the department.

Wipplehauser said Friday she expected the run to start in about a week and for about 1,000 alewives to pass through the dam over a three-week period.

Once the Saccarappa Dam is open, she said she expects about 24,000 alewives, as many blueback herring and about 10,000 shad to come through.

The purpose of allowing the fish to swim farther upstream is to give them access to habitats that are conducive to spawning, said Michael Shaughnessy, president of the Friends of the Presumpscot River.

Bigger populations of alewives, shad and herring will make for better fishing in the river, where salmon and striped bass are expected to follow, and in the ocean, where cod and tuna will have more to eat, Shaughnessy said.

There's a broader purpose, too, he said -- our "basic obligation to the planet" to keep it in good condition.

The Friends of the Presumpscot River and other conservation groups have been fighting to get Sappi to build fish passages on the Presumpscot since 1996, when the licenses for its five hydroelectric dams on the river were up for renewal from the [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission](#).

The commission granted the licenses on the condition that Sappi build fish passages -- a decision the company appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court and lost in 2006.

But construction of the fishways wasn't required to start until there was passage at the Cumberland Mills Dam, the lowest dam on the river, which is regulated by the state, not FERC, because it is used to draw water for cooling, not to generate power.

Eventually, the state required that Cumberland Mills have a fishway, too.

The design is called a Denil fish ladder and is about 300 feet long with a 4-foot-wide passageway for the fish, Wipplehauser said. It is lined with 72 baffles, which slow the water as it flows down the ladder, giving the fish a chance to get up and over the dam.

The mile stretch of river between the Cumberland Mills and Saccarappa dams doesn't have a prime habitat for spawning, Shaughnessy said.

But, he said, "they're not going to get anywhere else if they don't get up through here."

He called the expected opening of the passage this week a milestone.

"We want to leave the place as well as we found it, which is a long way to go," he said, "but this is a short step in that direction."

*Leslie Bridgers can be contacted at: 791-6364 or at*

[lbridgers@pressherald.com](mailto:lbridgers@pressherald.com)



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## River Herring are Back!



April 18th, 2013 | by Ryan



Our annual herring count is underway and last Thursday, April 11th, we had a confirmed sighting of FIVE river herring. Only one crossed over into the upper river while the other four remained inside the top of the fish ladder during that particular count. Last year we saw 49 herring after volunteers conducted over 300 individual ten minute counts from April to June. That number translates to a total run size of about 750 river herring. Certainly not good numbers since herring used to run up the Ipswich river to spawn by the millions during pre-industrial times. They were an important source of food for early peoples and settlers and are a vital link in the foodweb from the oceans to our inland waterways.

Many factors have led to their decline all along the east coast including loss of spawning habitat, overfishing at sea and predation. Counting even as few fish as we do is important to document the state of the river herring population in hopes of taking the steps needed to restore their numbers to healthier levels. Thanks to all the counters past and present who have helped make this program a great success!

It is not too late to get involved with the herring count. This is a fun and easy activity for individuals and families alike. If you have not participated before and would like to find out how, contact Ryan at [rodonnell@ipswichriver.org](mailto:rodonnell@ipswichriver.org) or call our office at (978) 412-8200.

To see what river herring look like and other fish you might see, view this [video](#) that was taken at the top of the fish ladder when there was a trap in place to count everything entering the river.

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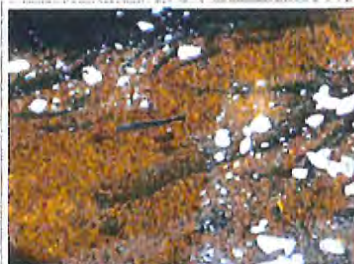
## The Fish Are Back!



**Brian Graber**, Director, River Restoration Program, Northeast Region  
April 19, 2013 | [Dams & Dam Removal](#)

*This blog is a reprint from Rachel Calabro's blog on [Mill River Restoration](#).*

After 200 years, river herring have been spotted in the Mill River above the Hopewell Mills dam. The Division of Marine Fisheries recently set up a video monitoring station at Reed and Barton, and have been recording a stream of video footage. Many fish use the river, and from what has been reviewed, these fish include yellow perch, chain pickerel, trout and our first river herring!



River Herring swimming above the Hopewell Mill Dam, MA for the first time in 200 years! | © Rachel Calabro

Because this is a large project that includes removal of three dams and building a fish ladder, it provides a perfect opportunity to study the response of this river system to restoration efforts. Monitoring will continue with each removal, and a monitoring system will be put in place at the fish ladder as well. We will post video when it becomes available, and will continue to provide updates of fish sightings. For now, we are looking forward to seeing the new channel when grass begins to grow.

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These "nature-like" fishways are stone structures that allow herring to better navigate past two dams on the river. Fish now have much better access to habitat along the Acushnet River, which runs 8.5 miles from the spawning areas of the New Bedford Reservoir into New Bedford Harbor and empties into Buzzards Bay. This means more opportunities for herring to grow, thrive, and spawn.

Herring are caught commercially and are also important prey fish for other commercial and recreational fish species, such as cod. But, due to very low numbers, there is currently a moratorium on the take of river herring from Massachusetts waters.

Between the 1940s and the 1970s, electrical parts manufacturers discharged wastes containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and toxic metals into the harbor, resulting in high levels of contamination. NOAA worked with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Department of the Interior to fund the design and construction of these fishways. They are part of a restoration plan developed through our [Damage Assessment Remediation and Restoration Program](#) in response to decades of industrial pollution in New Bedford Harbor. So far, 34 projects—including these fishways—have been completed to restore natural resources that were injured or lost due to the contamination. [Read more on the case](#) and the latest restoration updates.

This spring, scientists are hoping to see even bigger runs of herring on the Acushnet. Want to see them in person? The third and fourth weeks of April are expected to be peak herring migration. Check out this [viewing guide](#) for more information.

Posted April 8, 2013



Sawmill Dam before construction



Sawmill Dam after construction

## Useful Links

- [Commonwealth of Massachusetts study on Acushnet herring runs](#)

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## Highlights

### Astounding Increase in Herring Numbers Thanks to New “Fishways” on the Acushnet River, MA

In 2007, we helped to install two fishways on the Acushnet River in Massachusetts. Since then, there has been an astounding 1,140% increase in migrating herring able to access prime spawning grounds, according to data collected by the state.



May 21, 2013

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RE: Catch Caps for River Herring and Shad

Dear Jason and Lori:

I am writing on behalf of the Herring Alliance<sup>1</sup> to provide recommendations for use in developing alternatives for implementation of the river herring and shad catch caps approved in Amendment 14 to the Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish (MSB) Fishery Management Plan (FMP),<sup>2</sup> and Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Herring FMP.<sup>3</sup> The most recent stock assessments and peer reviews show that river herring and shad are in dire need of conservation and management, that ocean bycatch is an issue, and they recommend that actions be taken to conserve and manage these species in federal waters.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>The Herring Alliance includes 59 organizations representing nearly 2 million individuals. The Herring Alliance is concerned about the Atlantic coast's forage fish, such as Atlantic herring, river herring and shad, and the impacts of forage fish fisheries on the ecosystem through food web depletion and bycatch of non-target species. Forage fish are critical to the diets of a large number of predators, many of which support valuable recreational and commercial fisheries. A current list of members is attached to this letter.

<sup>2</sup> On June 14, 2012, the MAFMC selected Alternatives 6b, 6c, and 6f as preferred alternatives in Amendment 14. Motion Carried 10/3/1.

<sup>3</sup> On June 20, 2012, the NEFMC voted to select Section 3.3.5 as the preferred alternative in Amendment 5. Motion Carried 14/0/1/1.

<sup>4</sup> See ASMFC. May 2012. Stock Assessment Report No. 12-02 of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission: River Herring Benchmark Stock Assessment, Volume 1, Section A Terms of Reference & Advisory Report of the River Herring Stock Assessment Peer Review, at p. 10-12; Section C - River Herring Stock Assessment Report for Peer Review, at 8, 11, 12, 17-20, 56-58; see also ASMFC American Shad Stock Assessment Peer Review Panel. Stock Assessment Report No. 07-01 of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Terms of Reference &



In addition, National Standard 9 requires that FMPs minimize bycatch to the extent practicable. The catch caps are the only river herring and shad bycatch minimization measures contemplated for these fisheries for the 2014 fishing year. Thus, they are required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and in New England by the Courts' Opinion and Remedial Order in *Flaherty*.<sup>5</sup> Although the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) is working on Amendment 15 to the MSB FMP to add river herring and shad as federally-managed stocks in the MSB FMP, also required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act, this amendment is unlikely to be completed in time for the start of the 2014 fishing year. Similarly, in November 2012 the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) prioritized an amendment to add river herring and shad to the Atlantic herring FMP, but has since taken no further action to advance the amendment. Developing these catch caps in time for the start of the new fishing year on January 1, 2014 is both necessary to provide a minimum level of protection for river herring and shad, and supported by a large and diverse group of stakeholders.

To implement effective catch caps, based on the best scientific information available, the Herring Alliance recommends the following:

#### Classification, areas, and timing

Initially, the Herring Alliance recommends one interim catch cap that combines all four river herring and shad species (an alosine cap).<sup>6</sup> This should be coupled with an explicit goal of transitioning to species-specific caps in the future as scientific research and improved monitoring provides improved data. As new scientific techniques to identify individual species and distinguish among sub-populations become available, this information should be incorporated into the process.

The cap should make clear that once a designated level of river herring and shad mortality has occurred, the Atlantic herring and mackerel fisheries must close. If determined feasible and appropriate, the Herring Alliance supports subdividing the cap by area and / or season to increase conservation benefits, to reduce the likelihood of early closure of the coastwide directed herring and mackerel fisheries, and to provide for improved coordination between the two fisheries. For example, an area or seasonal cap could help ensure that directed herring fishing early in the calendar year in Southern New England, a known river herring bycatch hotspot, does not limit directed mackerel fishing later in the winter. Alternatives for spatial approaches similar to the four management areas used in the Atlantic Herring FMP, and seasonal approaches similar to the butterfish trimester cap in the MSB FMP, should be considered.

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Advisory Report to the American Shad Stock Assessment Peer Review, at 16, 18-20-; *see also* June 24, 2009 Letter from MAFMC Chairman Richard B. Robins, Jr. to Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke; *see also* comments submitted by the Herring Alliance on Amendment 15 for a complete explanation of the biological need and legal requirement for conservation and management of these species. "Scoping Comments on Amendment 15 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan (RIN 0648-XC329)," December 5, 2012, available at: [http://herringalliance.org/images/stories/2012\\_12\\_05\\_herring\\_alliance\\_a15\\_%20scoping.pdf](http://herringalliance.org/images/stories/2012_12_05_herring_alliance_a15_%20scoping.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> *See Flaherty v. Bryson*, 850 F. Supp. 38, 59 (D.D.C. 2012) (holding NMFS violated MSA by failing to minimize bycatch in Atlantic herring fishery to extent practicable); *see also* Remedial Order at p. 12.

<sup>6</sup> An interim cap combining all four species would include: 1) blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*), and 2) alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) (collectively "river herring"); and 3) American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*), and 4) hickory shad (*Alosa mediocris*) (collectively "shad").



### Methodology

The catch cap should be computed based on the most recent five-year average of all river herring and shad catch (including bycatch and discards), as reduced by applying one of the well-developed scientific methods designed for species with limited data and that are appropriate for vulnerable schooling species like river herring and shad. We specifically recommend the Only Reliable Catch Stocks (ORCS) approach because it is widely accepted as best available science (peer reviewed NOAA Technical Memorandum), and is relatively simple to apply.<sup>7</sup> ORCS has received considerable attention by the South Atlantic and Caribbean Councils. However, other methods including the Probability Susceptibility Approach (PSA) and an Ecological Risk Assessment for the Effects of Fishing (ERAEF) could also be considered.<sup>8</sup> It is critical that the Councils take advantage of the scientific effort that has gone into developing methods for stocks like the alosines that are data-limited and which are vulnerable due to life history characteristics and a long history of over-exploitation and habitat impairment. The cap level should be adjusted annually as scientific information becomes available and as data are improved through better monitoring.

### Accountability

The Councils should establish a proactive threshold that closes the directed mackerel and herring fisheries when a percentage of the cap is reached. The closure threshold should seek to prevent the cap from being exceeded, while minimizing the risk of early fishery closures. For example, in the Atlantic herring fishery, where quota is allocated by management area, if 92 percent of an area quota is reached the management area closes. In the mackerel fishery, directed fishing ceases when 95 percent of the coastwide quota is harvested. These closure thresholds were determined based on analyses of management uncertainty and seek to prevent significant overages that result in costly paybacks in subsequent fishing years.

Any overages that do occur should be deducted from the catch cap in the subsequent year. Because of the severely depleted status of these critical forage species, any underages should not be carried over to subsequent years. Catch should tally towards the cap based on a fleet-wide estimate of total catch (landed incidental and discarded bycatch) of river herring and shad that is extrapolated from the catch on those vessels that carried a federal observer. These extrapolation techniques should be consistent with the techniques utilized for the haddock catch cap in the Atlantic herring fishery and the butterfish cap in the loligo squid fishery. Once the cap is implemented, experience may demonstrate a need to adjust the closure level in future years, and these adjustments should be considered as part of the herring and mackerel specifications.

Finally, to provide for consistency between the fisheries, alternatives should be included to modify the definition of directed mackerel fishing in order to ensure that all directed fishing activities stop upon attainment of the river herring and shad catch cap. This would more effectively limit the potential for discarding to continue or increase, and ensure that river herring and shad catch ends when the cap is reached. The current mackerel incidental trip allowance of

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<sup>7</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Technical Memorandum NMFS-SEFSC-616, "Calculating Acceptable Biological Catch for Stocks that Have Reliable Catch Data Only (Only Reliable Catch Stocks – ORCS)," May 2011, [http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/tech/NOAA\\_Tech\\_Memo\\_SEFSC\\_616.pdf](http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/tech/NOAA_Tech_Memo_SEFSC_616.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> For more information about these methods, please see: MRAG Americas, "Use of Productivity-Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) in Setting Annual Catch Limits for the Federal Fisheries of the United States," Report to the Lenfest Ocean Program. March 18, 2009, [http://www.lenfestocean.org/PSA\\_methodology.4.09.pdf](http://www.lenfestocean.org/PSA_methodology.4.09.pdf); *Hobday et al.*, "Ecological risk assessment for the effects of fishing," *Fisheries Research*, Volume 108, Issues 2–3, March 2011, pp. 372–384, <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0165783611000324>.



20,000 pounds does not sufficiently deter directed fishing, thus it should be reduced to 2,000 pounds, consistent with the Atlantic Herring FMP. The Atlantic herring FMP uses its 2,000 pound incidental Atlantic herring limit to define, deter, and close directed herring fishing, including for the purposes of enforcing herring ACL's and sub-ACL's.<sup>9</sup> This has proven effective in Atlantic herring management<sup>10</sup> and would provide for more consistent regulation of the mixed herring and mackerel fisheries, especially for the purposes of implementing the river herring and shad catch caps. Further, the implementing language for the incidental limit should be consistent with the language in the Herring FMP such that the 2,000 pound limit would apply to vessels "fishing for, catching, possessing, transferring, or landing more than 2,000 lb (907.2 kg) of herring per calendar day in or from the specified management area for the remainder of the closure period."<sup>11</sup>

#### Role of the Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSC)

River herring and shad must be added as stocks in the MSB and Atlantic Herring FMPs, which would require that the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) be determined by the SSC. In the mean-time, the catch cap serves as a proxy catch limit and the SSCs (NEFMC and MAFMC) should review the catch cap methodology and the level of mortality chosen annually with the same level of oversight. Similar to the butterfish cap, the review should include: 1) the scientific uncertainty of the catch cap estimate; 2) estimates of river herring and shad mortality; and 3) status and trends of the species. Caps are catch limits and should be guided by the best scientific information available, as required by National Standard 2.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments. Please contact me at 978-846-0612, or [rfleming@earthjustice.org](mailto:rfleming@earthjustice.org) should you have questions.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Roger Fleming

Attorney

Earthjustice

*On behalf of the Herring Alliance*

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<sup>9</sup> The 2,000 pound limit used to close the directed fishery was approved in Amendment 4 to the Herring FMP as part of the sole proactive Accountability Measure for preventing ACL overages. It is described at [http://www.nefmc.org/herring/planamen/final\\_a4/AM%204%20DOCUMENT%20FORMAL%20SUBMISSION\\_100423.pdf](http://www.nefmc.org/herring/planamen/final_a4/AM%204%20DOCUMENT%20FORMAL%20SUBMISSION_100423.pdf), p. 29).

<sup>10</sup> While there have been numerous sub-ACL overages in the herring fishery demonstrating the inadequacies of the existing Amendment 4 AM regime, these have typically been the result of a failure to close the directed fishery by implementing the 2,000 pound limit in a timely fashion, rather than as a result of any failure of the 2,000 pound limit to adequately end directed fishing, and are being revised.

<sup>11</sup> See e.g., <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/frdoc/12/12HerAear2ClosureTR.pdf>.

## Herring Alliance Member List

Alewives Anonymous  
Rochester, Massachusetts  
[www.plumblibrary.com/alewives.html](http://www.plumblibrary.com/alewives.html)

Blue Ocean Institute  
Cold Spring Harbor, New York  
[www.blueocean.org](http://www.blueocean.org)

Buckeye Brook Coalition  
Warwick, Rhode Island  
[www.buckeyebrook.org](http://www.buckeyebrook.org)

Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Annapolis, Maryland  
[www.cbf.org](http://www.cbf.org)

Choptank Riverkeeper  
Easton, MD  
[www.midshoreriverkeeper.org](http://www.midshoreriverkeeper.org)

Conservation Law Foundation  
Boston, Massachusetts  
[www.clf.org](http://www.clf.org)

Delaware Audubon Society  
Christiana, Delaware  
[www.delawareaudubon.org](http://www.delawareaudubon.org)

Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association  
Hellertown, Pennsylvania  
[www.drfsfa.org](http://www.drfsfa.org)

Earthjustice  
Washington, DC  
[www.earthjustice.org](http://www.earthjustice.org)

Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating  
Committee  
Haddam, Connecticut  
[www.eightmileriver.org](http://www.eightmileriver.org)

Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2)  
Boston, Massachusetts  
[www.e2.org](http://www.e2.org)

Environment America  
Washington, DC  
[www.environmentamerica.org](http://www.environmentamerica.org)

Environment Connecticut  
West Hartford, Connecticut  
[www.environmentconnecticut.org](http://www.environmentconnecticut.org)

Environment Maine  
Portland, Maine  
[www.environmentmaine.org](http://www.environmentmaine.org)

Environment Massachusetts  
Boston, Massachusetts  
[www.environmentmassachusetts.org](http://www.environmentmassachusetts.org)

Environment New Hampshire  
Concord, New Hampshire  
[www.environmentnewhampshire.org](http://www.environmentnewhampshire.org)

Environment New Jersey  
Trenton, New Jersey  
[www.environmentnewjersey.org](http://www.environmentnewjersey.org)

Environment New York  
New York, New York  
[www.environmentnewyork.org](http://www.environmentnewyork.org)

Environment North Carolina  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
[www.environmentnorthcarolina.org](http://www.environmentnorthcarolina.org)

Environment Rhode Island  
Providence, Rhode Island  
[www.environmentrhodeisland.org](http://www.environmentrhodeisland.org)

Environment Virginia  
Washington, DC  
[www.environmentvirginia.org](http://www.environmentvirginia.org)

Farmington River Watershed Association  
Simsbury, Connecticut  
[www.frwa.org](http://www.frwa.org)

Float Fishermen of Virginia  
Roanoke, Virginia  
[www.floatfishermen.org](http://www.floatfishermen.org)

Friends of the Rivers of Virginia  
Roanoke, Virginia  
[www.forva.giving.officelive.com](http://www.forva.giving.officelive.com)



## Herring Alliance Member List

Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational  
River Council  
Newtonville, New Jersey  
[www.gehwa.org/river.html](http://www.gehwa.org/river.html)

Greater Boston Trout Unlimited  
Boston, Massachusetts  
[www.gbtu.org](http://www.gbtu.org)

Greenpeace  
Washington, DC  
[www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org)

Hackensack Riverkeeper  
Hackensack, New Jersey  
[www.hackensackriverkeeper.org](http://www.hackensackriverkeeper.org)

Ipswich River Watershed Association  
Ipswich, Massachusetts  
[www.ipswichriver.org](http://www.ipswichriver.org)

Island Institute  
Rockland, Maine  
[www.islandinstitute.org](http://www.islandinstitute.org)

James River Association  
Richmond, Virginia  
[www.jamesriverassociation.org](http://www.jamesriverassociation.org)

Jones River Watershed Association  
Kingston, Massachusetts  
[www.jonesriver.org](http://www.jonesriver.org)

Juniata Valley Audubon  
Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania  
[www.jvas.org](http://www.jvas.org)

Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust  
Lowell, Massachusetts  
[www.lowelllandtrust.org](http://www.lowelllandtrust.org)

Massachusetts Baykeeper  
Watertown, Massachusetts  
[www.massbaykeeper.org](http://www.massbaykeeper.org)

Mystic River Watershed Association  
Arlington, Massachusetts  
[www.mysticriver.org](http://www.mysticriver.org)

National Audubon Society  
Washington, DC  
[www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

National Coalition for Marine Conservation  
Leesburg, Virginia  
[www.savethefish.org](http://www.savethefish.org)

Natural Resources Defense Council  
Washington, DC  
[www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org)

Neponset River Watershed Association  
Canton, Massachusetts  
[www.neponset.org](http://www.neponset.org)

Neuse Riverkeeper Foundation  
New Bern, North Carolina  
[www.neuseriver.org](http://www.neuseriver.org)

New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance  
Middleboro, Massachusetts  
[www.necwa.org](http://www.necwa.org)

North and South River Watershed Association  
Norwell, Massachusetts  
[www.nsrwa.org](http://www.nsrwa.org)

NY/NJ Baykeeper  
Keyport, New Jersey  
[www.nynjbaykeeper.org](http://www.nynjbaykeeper.org)

Oceana  
Washington, DC  
[www.oceana.org](http://www.oceana.org)

Ocean River Institute  
Cambridge, Massachusetts  
[www.oceanriver.org](http://www.oceanriver.org)

Pamlico-Tar River Foundation  
Washington, North Carolina  
[www.ptrf.org](http://www.ptrf.org)

Parker River Clean Water Association  
Byfield, Massachusetts  
[www.businessevision.info/parker\\_river](http://www.businessevision.info/parker_river)

## Herring Alliance Member List

Peconic Baykeeper  
Quogue, New York  
[www.peconicbaykeeper.org](http://www.peconicbaykeeper.org)

PennEnvironment  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
[www.pennenvironment.org](http://www.pennenvironment.org)

Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and  
Rivers  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
[www.pawatersheds.org](http://www.pawatersheds.org)

Pew Environment Group  
Washington, DC  
[www.pewenvironment.org](http://www.pewenvironment.org)

Riverkeeper  
Ossining, New York  
[www.riverkeeper.org](http://www.riverkeeper.org)

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut  
Litchfield, Connecticut  
[www.riversalliance.org](http://www.riversalliance.org)

Shark Angels  
New York, New York  
[www.sharkangels.org](http://www.sharkangels.org)

Shenandoah Riverkeeper  
Washington, DC  
[www.shenandoahriverkeeper.org](http://www.shenandoahriverkeeper.org)

South River Federation  
Edgewater, MD  
[www.southernriverfederation.net](http://www.southernriverfederation.net)

West and Rhode Riverkeeper  
Shady Side, MD  
[www.westrhoderiverkeeper.org](http://www.westrhoderiverkeeper.org)

Waterkeepers Carolina  
Washington, North Carolina  
[www.waterkeeperscarolina.org](http://www.waterkeeperscarolina.org)

