**12:45PM - 1:20PM Panel Discussion**

**Stream Clearing to Prepare for River Herring Upstream Migration**

*Moderator: John Sheppard, MA Division of Marine Fisheries
Heinz Proft, Town of Harwich Natural Resources Director
Amy Croteau & Martin Wunderly, Town of Barnstable Natural Resources Dept.
Carl Pawlowski, Fore River Watershed Association (Quincy/Braintree/Weymouth)
Brad Chase, MA Division of Marine Fisheries*

*The goals of the discussion were to explore the similarities and differences in clearing practices in runs across the Cape and Southeastern MA, and to see if there are common areas where folks think more guidance and/or research is needed.*

John Sheppard began with an overview of Massachusetts laws pertaining to stream maintenance for *Diadromous Fish runs. (See Powerpoint Presentation)* ***Question: Please describe the work you do in your herring run to prepare for the arrival of the fish. (For example: How long does it take, how often, what tools do you use?)***

***Barnstable*** *-* Check for obstructions in each run, continual maintenance, 4-8 days per stream-2 people clearing
***Braintree*** - Volunteer success in clearing, culverts
***Harwich*** - Americorps major removal in January wasn't effective due to weather patterns. If it's not major let it go until March and then clear it.

***Question: Do you involve the Conservation Commission or any other town committee when deciding what work to do?***

***Barnstable*** *-*Depends on scope, for average annual clearing work closely with conservation department – give a call to let them know work is being done. If creating something new must file an RDA*.* Barnstable Land Trust organization also figures out what needs attention.
***Braintree*** *-* Clean up is supported by Braintree DPW. Work with Town Council, Planning Department, and Mayor’s office
***Harwich*** *-* Long term approval through an Notice Of Intent (NOI)?

***Question: Do volunteers help you with the work? How do you recruit them?***
***Barnstable*** *-*Invited shellfish volunteers to be herring volunteers, outreach email, phone, some runs not volunteer friendly, must be aware of safety, high school students need community service hours
***Braintree*** *-*Volunteers dropped off because they didn't see tangible results (fish)
***Harwich*** *-*AmeriCorps proposals, prioritized what is needed use force where necessary, local newspaper, engage homeowners

***Question: Is funding required to do the work? If yes – where does it come from?***

***Barnstable*** *-*Funded by Barnstable, materials are budgeted up to a certain cost then town improvements budgets, help from state, depends on scale of project, focus on smaller more budget manageable projects
***Braintree*** *-* No funding, donation of materials and equipment, little need for funding**Harwich** - have a line item for equipment in the Dept of Natural Resources budget.

***Question: What’s the biggest challenge to doing this work?***

**Barnstable** - Rainfall/fry unable to get through when there is increased sediment and little rainfall
Time-stretched thin across entire town, also with shellfish, rely on volunteer base
**Braintree** - Getting the funding and keeping the managing the flow and release of fish
**Harwich** - Water levels, keeping flow going, time-stretched thin between shellfish and herring duties
**DMF** – Available to help towns make yearly maintenance plans (time of year specific)
Sediment management and can help with work with private property owners