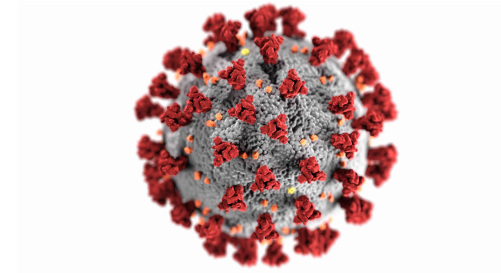


COVID-19 and Volunteer Herring Counts on Cape Cod: What Happened in 2020 and Recommendations for 2021



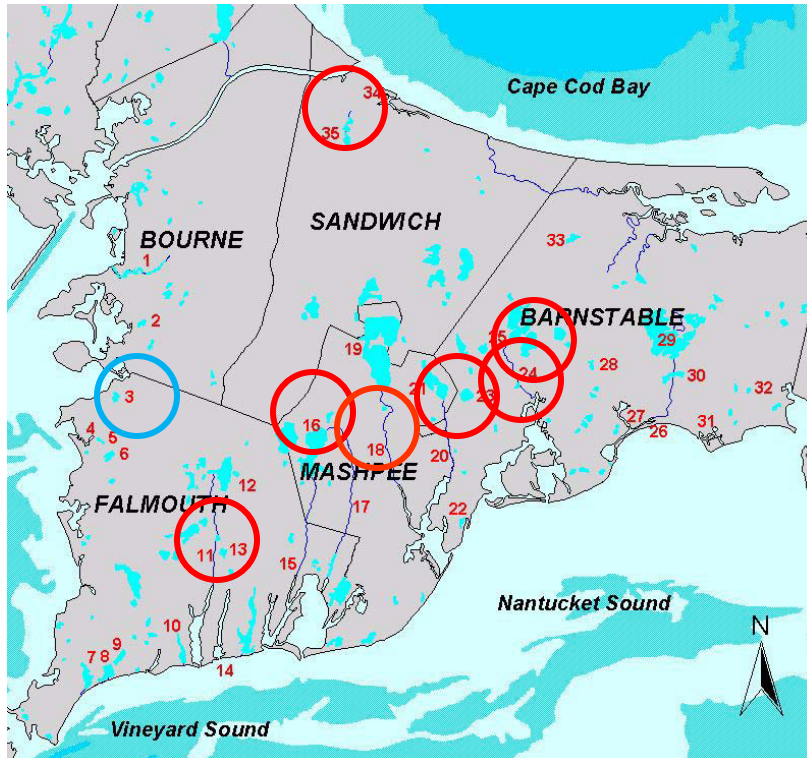
River Herring Network webinar
February 23, 2021



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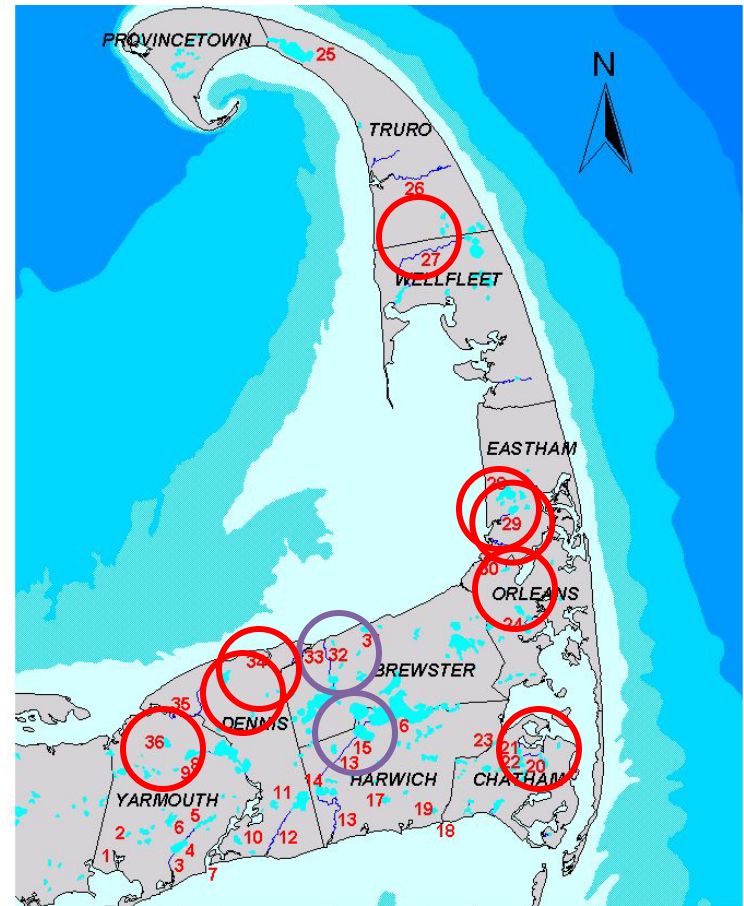


Cape Cod Herring Counts



Major streams and ponds of Western Cape Cod.

Stream/Pond Names:		
1 - Pocasset River	12 - Coonamessett Pond	24 - Marstons Mills River
2 - Red Brook Pond	13 - Flax Pond	25 - Middle Pond
3 - Cedar Lake	14 - Green Pond	26 - Centerville River
4 - Wild Harbor River	15 - Childs River	27 - Bumps River
5 - Dam Pond	16 - Johns Pond	28 - Lumbert Pond
6 - Wing Pond	17 - Quashnet River	29 - Wequaquet Lake
7 - Oyster Pond	18 - Mashpee River	30 - Long Pond
8 - Salt Pond	19 - Mashpee - Wakeby Pond	31 - Halls Creek
9 - Siders Pond	20 - Santuit River	32 - Aunt Bettys Pond
10 - Little Pond	21 - Santuit Pond	33 - Mill Pond
11 - Coonamessett River	22 - Rushy Marsh Pond	34 - Mill Creek
	23 - Lovells Pond	35 - Shawmee Lakes



Major streams and ponds of eastern Cape Cod

Stream/Pond Names:			
1 - Mill Creek	10 - Kelleys Pond	19 - Skinequit Pond	28 - Great Pond
2 - Little Sandy Pond	11 - Fresh Pond	20 - Frost Fish Creek	29 - Herring River
3 - Parkers River	12 - Swan Pond River	21 - Stillwater Pond	30 - Rock Harbor Creek
4 - Seine Pond	13 - Herring River	22 - Lovers Lake	31 - Cobbs Pond
5 - Long Pond	14 - West Reservoir	23 - Muddy Creek	32 - Stony Brook
6 - Plashes Pond	15 - Hinckleys Pond	24 - Pilgrim Lake	33 - Quivett Creek
7 - Bass River	16 - Long Pond	25 - Pilgrim Lake	34 - Sesuit Creek
8 - Mill Pond	17 - Grass Pond	26 - Pamet River	35 - Chase Gardens Creek
9 - Miss Thatchers Pond	18 - Red River	27 - Herring River	36 - Matthews Pond

COVID-19 and 2020 Volunteer Counts: Timeline

- **1/25/20: MA DPH: “Safer at home” advisory;**
- **3/10/20: Governor Baker declares state of emergency due to COVID-19;**
- **Early March, 2020: Large public events on Cape Cod were cancelled;**
- **3/23/20: Governor Baker directs MA DPH to issue “Stay at home” advisory and orders non-essential businesses to close for 2 weeks;**
 - **APCC emails recommendation to Cape Cod counting groups to observe state’s “Stay-at-home” advisory. Most groups did this.**
- **3/31/20: Governor extends non-essential closures to 5/4/20;**
- **4/28/20: Governor extends non-essential closures to 5/18/20;**
- **5/1/20: Governor issues face mask order for public settings;**
- **5/11/20: Governor issues phased opening plan based on meeting health metrics and issues mandatory workplace safety standards;**
- **6/1/20: Volunteer herring count season ends;**
- **11/4/20: Governor issues revised face mask order requiring face masks indoors and outdoors in public settings.**

Some Volunteer Counting Efforts Continued

On Cape Cod, several groups conducted visual counts to a greater or lesser degree along the following runs:

- **Herring River, Wellfleet (Friends of Herring River) – obtained enough counts for a run size estimate;**
- **Mill Creek, Sandwich (volunteers);**
- **Bound Brook, Dennis (town staff);**
- **Scargo Lake, Dennis (town staff);**
- **Tom Mathews Pond, Yarmouth (Bass River Rod and Gun Club);**
- **Coonamessett River, Falmouth (Coonamessett River Herring Monitoring Group and Coonamessett Trust)**

Friends of Herring River: They were able to count at an isolated counting site far from public view, used social distancing, and used an in-stream thermometer visible to all so equipment didn't need to be shared.

Statewide, Some Counting Efforts Continued

2020 Massachusetts River Herring Monitoring Summary

Stream	Watershed	Method	N(2019)	N(2020)	Change
Connecticut	Connecticut	Lift	5,052	163	D
Merrimack	Merrimack	Lift	143,541	257,564	I
Shawsheen	Merrimack	Visual	475	927	I
Parker	North Coast	Video	39,321	29,925	D
Little	North Coast	Visual	57	7	D
Essex	North Coast	Counter	9,505	4,722	D
Mystic	Boston HBR	Video	652,463	369,108(P)	D
Back	Boston HBR	Counter	396,503	283,749	D
3rd Herring Brook	South Coast	Visual	3,365	13,613	I
Herring (Pembroke)	South Coast	Counter	476,609	187,776	D
*Jones (Forge)	South Coast	Visual		938	N/A
*Furnace (Soules)	South Coast	Visual		4,247	N/A
*Furnace (Bryant)	South Coast	Visual		3,486	N/A
Town Brook	South Coast	Visual	230,860	190,810	D
Monument	South Coast	Counter	526,929	302,095	D
Herring (Wellfleet)	Cape Cod	Visual	46,009	13,267	D
Herring (Harwich)	Cape Cod	Counter	1,223,263	887,724	D
Herring (Aquinnah)	Islands	Video	36,822	37,293	I
Cedar Lake	Buzzards Bay	Counter	831	461	D
Agawam	Buzzards Bay	Counter	102,105	73,934	D
Wankinco	Buzzards Bay	Counter	14,055	23,709	I
Sippican	Buzzards Bay	Counter	384	574	I
Mattapoissett	Buzzards Bay	Counter	18,156	16,049	D
Acushnet	Buzzards Bay	Counter	14,385	3,254	D
Nemasket	Taunton	Visual	714,951	811,568	I
Mill	Taunton	Video	6,831	13,138	I
Town River	Taunton	Counter	7,943	15,067	I

* New sites

P - Preliminary estimate

Summary:

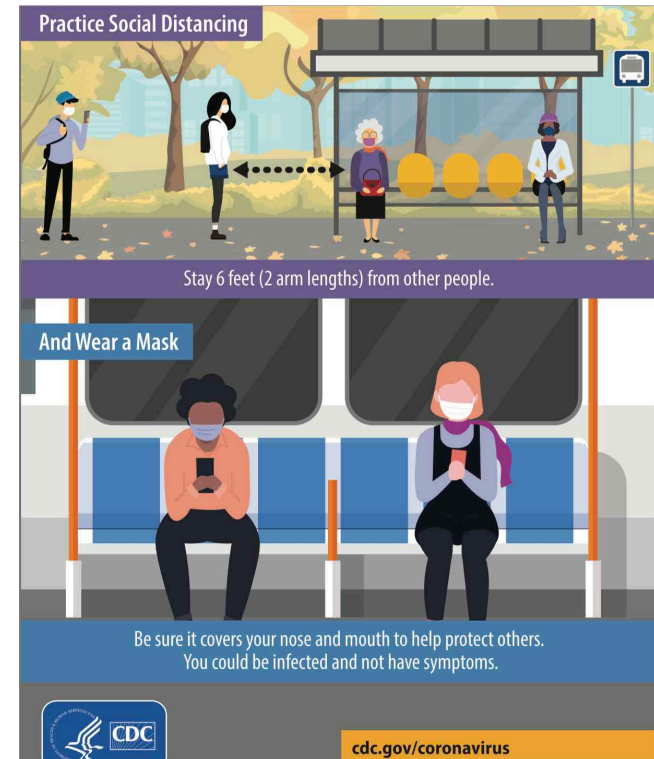
- **9 volunteer (visual) counts**
- **12 electronic counts**
- **4 video counts**
- **2 lifts**

Total: 27 counts

Table from John Sheppard, MA Division of Marine Fisheries, February 2021

Recommendations for Counting in 2021

- Observe all local, state and federal requirements;
- Socially distance – at least 6 feet apart, or more;
- Wear a face mask at all times;
- Avoid crowds and count alone, or only with members of your “pod” or family;
 - Some sites may not be suitable due to their popularity;
- Don’t share counting equipment: each person should have their own kit; or install an in-stream thermometer or water temperature datalogger;
- Stay home or go home if you feel ill, are uncomfortable counting, if crowds are present, you are in a high-risk category, or you can’t observe the measures above;
- For towns, signage at popular herring run sites would be useful.
- It is OK if you don’t count this year – your health is more important!
- See “Recommendations” for more tips.



For more information:

Visit APCC's website at <https://apcc.org/our-work/science/community-science/herring/>

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- **River Herring Warden Network**
- **Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance**
- **Cape Cod Salties**
- **Eastham Herring Monitors, Eastham Conservation Trust**
- **Stony Brook Herring Monitors**
- **Friends of Herring River, Wellfleet**
- **Harwich Conservation Trust, Harwich**
- **Dennis Conservation Trust, Dennis**
- **Bass River Rod & Gun Club, Yarmouth**
- **Coonamessett River Trust, Falmouth**
- **Mashpee Herring Monitors**
- **Mill Creek Herring Monitors, Sandwich**
- **NOAA's Habitat Restoration Center**
- **Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Partnership**
- **Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries**
- **Massachusetts Environmental Trust**
- **North and South Rivers Watershed Association**
- **Orleans Waterways & Shellfish Advisory Committee**
- **Gulf of Maine Council**
- **Eddy Foundation of Brewster**
- **Friendship Fund**
- **Dolphin Trust**
- **Prospect Hill Foundation**
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- **Many other organizations**