

Massachusetts River Herring Network Annual Meeting

Thursday October 23, 2025 9:00AM-3:30PM
Pollard Memorial Library 401 Merrimack St., Lowell, MA 01852

9:00AM Coffee and Breakfast Snacks

9:30AM Welcome River Herring Network Members and Attendees

9:40AM **Orientation to Concord & Merrimack Rivers**

Jane Calvin, Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust & Heather Conkerton, OARS for the Sudbury, Assabet & Concord Rivers

10:00AM **MassDOT: Incorporating Natural Resource Priorities into Transportation Planning**

David Paulson, Supervisor of the Wildlife and Endangered Species Unit, MassDOT Highway Division

10:20 AM **Announcements**

10:35AM 15 minute Coffee & Stretch Break

10:50AM **Updates from the MA Division of Marine Fisheries Diadromous Project**

*Joe Holbeche, Fisheries Biologist, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Brad Chase, Senior Fisheries Biologist, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries*

11:45 Pizza Lunch Break 45 Minutes

12:30 **In the shadow of drought: monitoring for lost connectivity and population impacts**

Adrian Jordaan, Professor of Fish Population Ecology & Conservation, University of Massachusetts Amherst

1:00 **Orientation to Field Trips**

1:15 PM – 3:30PM **Guided Field Trip to Centennial Falls Fish Ladder and Talbot Mills Dam on the Concord River**

Meeting sponsored by the MA Division of Marine Fisheries, Barnstable County Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Sea Grant, Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust, OARS for the Sudbury, Assabet & Concord Rivers

Marine Fisheries
Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Activities & Goals of the River Herring Network

1. Facilitate communication among herring wardens, herring count volunteers, watershed organizations, and state and federal agencies.
2. Provide forums to hear and discuss management issues, research updates, and local projects from relevant local, state, and federal agencies and organizations.
3. Gather useful information from academic institutions, state and federal agencies, and non-profit groups, and distribute it to wardens and volunteers

The ultimate goal is to do work that will increase the numbers of alewife and blueback herring in the waters of Massachusetts.

River Herring Network Steering Committee Members

Tom Barron	Middleborough-Lakeville Herring Fishery Commission
Bill Boulter	Pembroke Herring Fisheries Superintendent
David Cavanaugh	Middleborough-Lakeville Herring Fishery Commission
Heather Conkerton	OARS for the Assabet, Sudbury, & Concord Rivers
Jon Honea	Andover Conservation Commission
David Gould	Town of Plymouth, Department of Marine & Environmental Affairs
Alex Mansfield	North & South Rivers Watershed Association & Mass Bays Program
TBD	NOAA Habitat Restoration Center
Phil Lofgren	Weymouth Herring Warden
Chris Nappi	Town of Barnstable
Judy Scanlon	Orleans Volunteer Herring Count Program, Technical Coordinator
John Sheppard	Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries