Massachusetts River Herring Network Annual Meeting

Tuesday November 17, 2026 8:30AM – 3:30PM
Cahill Auditorium, Braintree Town Hall 1JFK Drive Braintree, MA 02184

8:30AM Coffee and Breakfast Snacks

9:00AM Welcome Remarks - Mayor Erin V. Joyce, Town of Braintree
Attendee Introductions around the room

9:20AM **Orientation to Monatiquot River/Fore River watershed**
Matthew Sisk & Carl Pawlowski and the Braintree Herring & Fisheries Commissioners

9:40AM **Community Harvest in Harwich**
Stephanie Ridenour, Director, Town of Harwich Natural Resources

10:00 **Estuarine connectivity supports juvenile herring growth**
Julian Burgoff, Warmwater Program Leader, Region 4, NH Department of Fish and Game

10:20 AM **Announcements**

10:35AM 15 minute Coffee & Stretch Break

10:50AM **Climate change and drought resources**
Viki Zoltay, *State Hydrologist, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, Office of Water Resources*

11:05AM **Updates from the MA Division of Marine Fisheries Diadromous Project**
Brad Chase, Senior Fisheries Biologist, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF)

11:45 Pizza Lunch Break 45 Minutes

12:30 **Panel Discussion on the issue of drought, herring passage, and drinking water supplies**
Moderated by Reese Dorroh, Masters of Science candidate at Umass Amherst
Panel Members: David Cavanaugh, Middleboro Lakeville Fisheries Commission,
Brad Chase, *Senior Fisheries Biologist, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries*
Waban Webquish*, Turtle Land Conservancy & Wampanoag Shells*
Samantha Woods*, Executive Director, North & South Rivers Watershed Association*
Phil Lofgren*, Herring Warden, Back River in Weymouth*

1:30 **Orientation to Field Trips**

1:45 PM – 3:30PM **Guided Field Trip to Monatiquot River dam removals lead** by Carl Pawlowski, Michael Richardi, Brad Chase (DMF), John Sheppard (DMF), Robert Thomas-Kearns (DER), Chris Hirsch (DER), and the Braintree Herring & Fisheries Commissioners Matthew Sisk, Denver Gibbs, Jeff Madeiras, Molly Fitzgerald, Pat McDonagh and student wardens Jack Drew and Maddie Burke.

Meeting sponsored by the MA Division of Marine Fisheries, Barnstable County Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Sea Grant, MA Division of Ecological Restoration, and Town of Braintree

Poster Presentations

Investigating the effects of drought on river herring populations in Connecticut and Massachusetts.
Reese C Dorroh, Adrian Jordaan, and Allison H. Roy.

Intra- and inter-annual dynamics of juvenile river herring and zooplankton populations based on a ten-year dataset. Abigail N Blair, , Adrian Jordaan, and Allison H. Roy.

Not just for the birds: Integrating river herring and waterfowl management within an impounded tributary of the Skutik River. Becca Cusick, Adrian Jordaan, Allison Roy, John Magera, and Chris Federico.

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 Superintendant
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 Partnership
Brian Kelder	NOAA Habitat Restoration Center
Phil Lofgren	Weymouth Hering Warden
Chris Nappi	Town of Barnstable
Judy Scanlon	Orleans Volunteer Herring Count Program, Technical Coordinator
John Sheppard	Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries