



Bank Building, 20 Centre Street, Middleborough, Massachusetts 02346

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LAKEVILLE TOWN CLERK

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2022

Location: Middleboro Town Hall Selectmen's Room

Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM

Wardens Present: Bill Orphanos, David Cavanaugh, Emily Ryan, Bruce Chase, Tom Barron

Absent: Brad Day, Carol "Krill" Carson

Observers Present:

Visitors: Brad Chase (Mass DMF), Patrick McGee (RI DEM)

### **Unanticipated:**

### **New Business:**

1. Dave made motion to accept minutes.  
Tom Second. Unanimous.

2. Brad Chase stated he would like to discuss the SFMP, stocking, and sediment issue.  
SFMP:

The plan was sent to the Commission prior to today's meeting. The Commission had decided not to harvest after 2016, however the plan is expiring this year. The plan that was sent prior to today's meeting was updated, but with very little changes since 2016. This plan allows the Commission to make an educated decision about harvesting by using sustainability target.

Wareham, Pembroke, and Harwich have all discussed harvesting herring in the past. Wareham is not harvesting based on the outcome of their SFMP. Pembroke decided to allow harvesting, but their herring numbers have dropped significantly from 250,000 to 38,000 two years in a row. Because of this the DMF will suggest they stop harvesting and will pull their support. Harwich is looking good to harvest and is looking at a plan this year.

Overall, there is fair amount of interest in harvesting, but requires good counts and the ability to have SFMP like Middleboro.

Dave asked about monitoring the harvest and how other towns are handling that.

Brad Chase responded that other towns that have allowed harvesting have wardens that are able to monitor and also use a locked gate on conservation land.

Dave suggested keeping the SFMP with updates and send it out to the rest of the Commission not present today. Then vote on the plan at the next meeting.

Bill agreed.

Continued discussion surrounding Middleboro's counts so far this year compared with other towns. And other town's interests in allowing harvesting.

Patrick McGee added that herring harvest is closed completely in Rhode Island and are mostly hearing about people wanting the harvest for bait or fertilizer.

Further discussion about herring harvest and possible reasons for interest. As well as logistics of allowing harvesting.

Sediment Issue:

Brad Chase explained that he was asked to participate in the APC sediment committee and submitted a plan regarding the sediment issue without knowing about the Herring Commission's engineering plan.

He stated he will be on board with the Herring Commission and apologized for crossing wires. Discussion surrounding the Herring Commission sediment trap plan and the hopes on what will happen.

Further discussion about the history and actions that should be taken.

Tom explained the history of how the Herring Commission's plan came to be and why the problem is so bad.

Brad Chase mentioned the water management plan should be submitted by December of 2022 for the whole river complex. He suggested it should be looked at and tied into the fish passage. Tom added that the SRPEDD is planning for year 2050, and the Herring Commission's plan is ready now. Each year we have juveniles being killed.

Bill asked who would be responsible for getting an excavator and maintaining the river each year?

Brad Chase believes it should be the dam owner, and not knowing who is responsible could be the reason the project has not moved.

Further discussion about the plan the Herring Commission has in place.

Brad Chase mentioned he will speak to Bill Napolitano about where SRPEDD is and support the Herring Commission plan.

Brad Chase also stressed that it is important to be mindful of the water management plan submittal date of December 2022.

### 3. Patrick McGee (RI DEM)

**(See attached power point slides)**

RI DEM has done a lot of work in the last 10-15 years, referenced power point slides with various photos of systems.

Discussion of work done to systems and how it has improved the herring numbers.

Monitoring efforts were discussed, a lot of work with the watershed coalition since they do not have wardens.

The first camera was installed at Potter Hill and the second at Narrow River, this camera allow live feeds into the museum.

Discussed PIT and radio tagging efforts and results.

They found herring getting through systems pretty well and getting caught up at areas that were expected.

Some shad tagged are not going as far as expected and found where they stopped was good spawning habitat, which could be the reason they stopped.

Prior to leaving, Brad Chase asked if there was anything DMF should be aware about.

Tom and Bill mentioned the weeds that are filling in at the Wareham Street ladder.

Brad Chase stated that Plymouth County will be purchasing a hydro-dredge and wants DMF to run it. DMF agreed as long as it can be used for fish passage locations as well. It can be towed and can grab weeds. Hydro-dredge is out to bid right now.

Discussion about getting rid of phragmites at Wareham Street.

Dave mentioned to Brad Chase that the seams at Wareham Street are starting to pull apart.

Brad Chase said that a crew was done there a few years ago and will look again to do more work.

Discussion about Bascule Dam and its impact on the fish passage.

Discussion of herring numbers and possible explanation for low counts at all systems and runs.

Overall, unsure why numbers are low this year.

Patrick McGee and Brad Chase left at 8:27pm.

## **Old Business**

1. Tom said there was not much of an update.

2. Dave said we are at a stand still right now until we see the weed growth. And there will be a site walk tomorrow (5/11/22) at Oliver Mill at 1:00pm with a priority on the 'A' Channel.

## **Communications and Bills**

Tom paid electric bill.

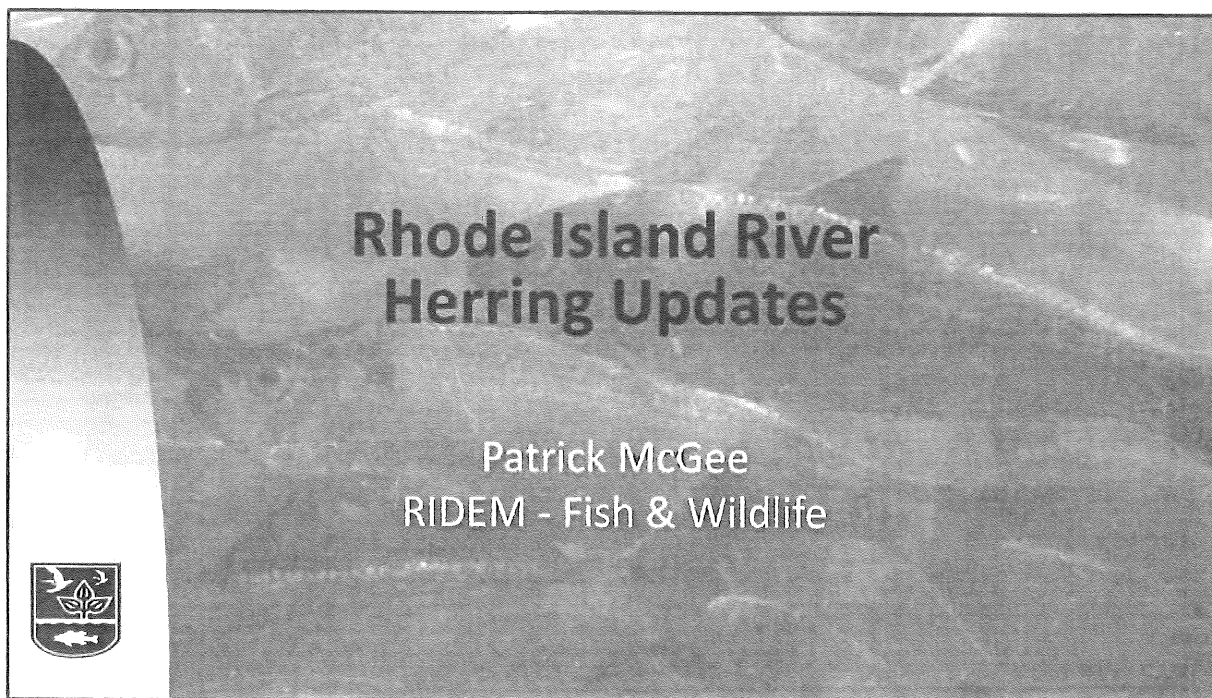
Dave mentioned the Town Accountant is retiring at the end of June, the Economic/Community Development Director will be retiring, and the Town Manager will be retiring in October.

Tom made motion to adjourn.

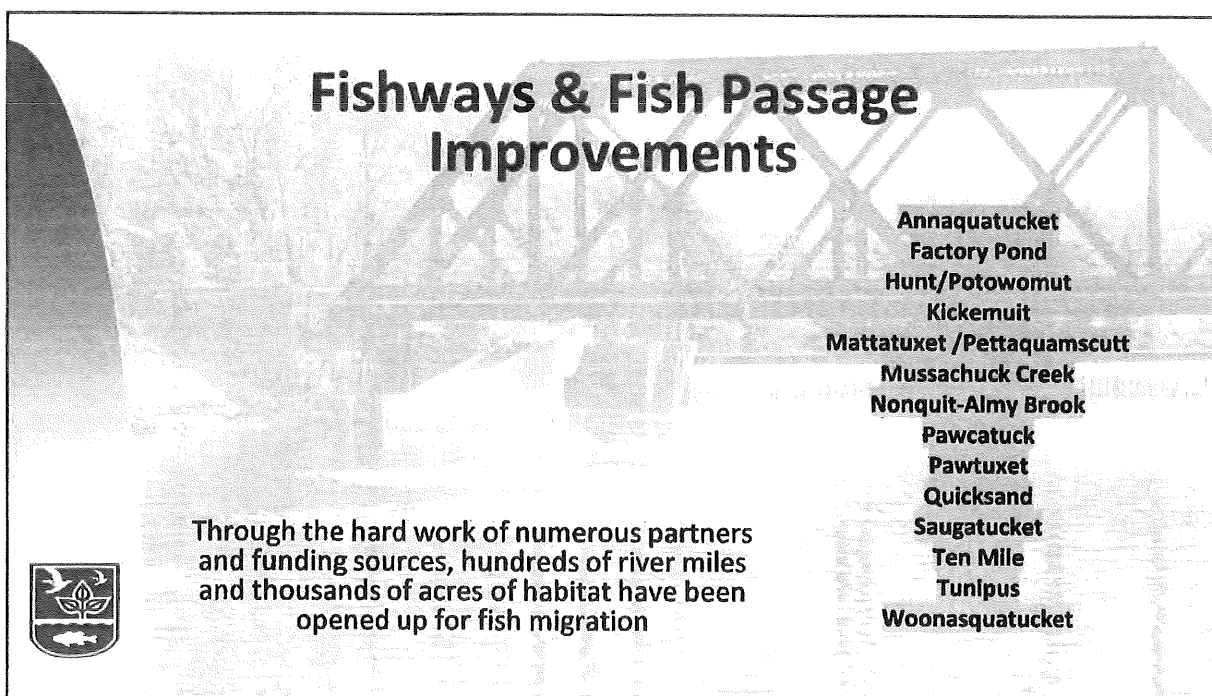
Second by Bruce. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm

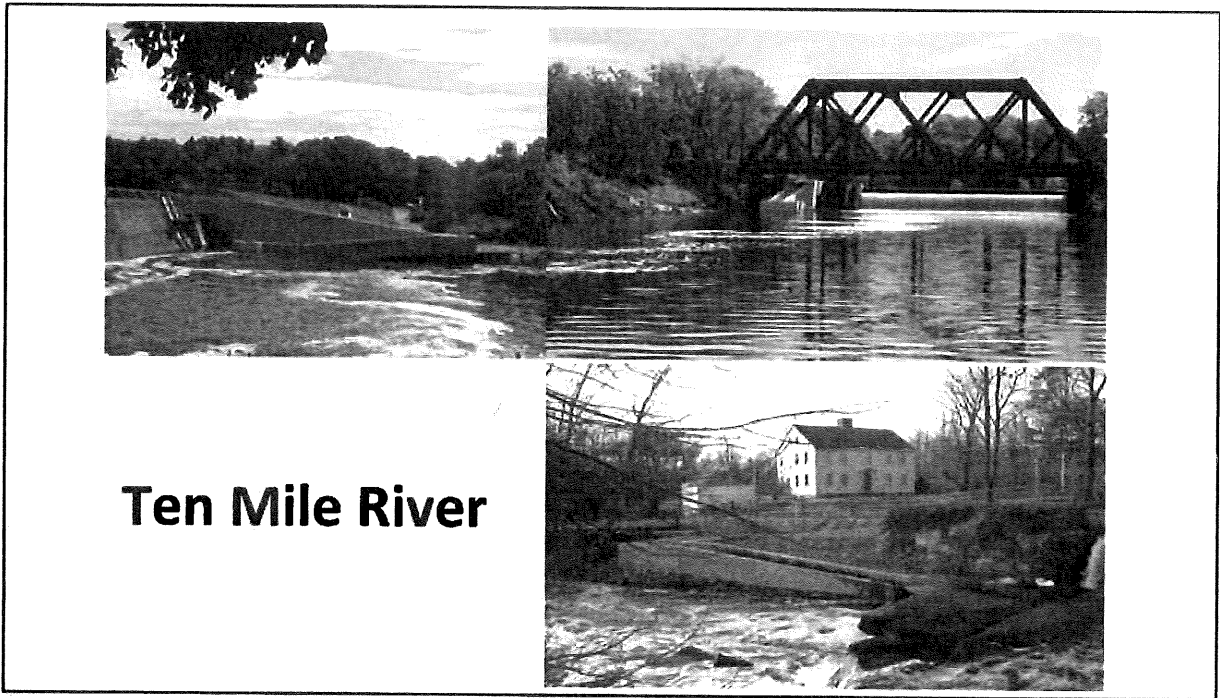




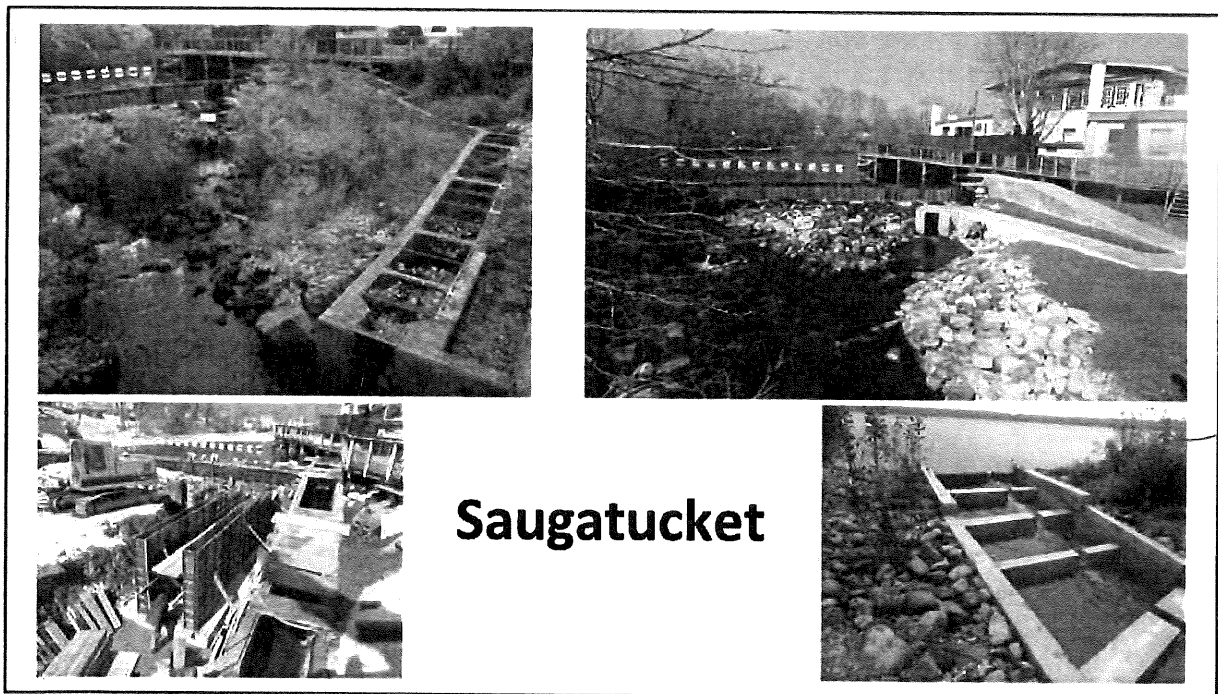
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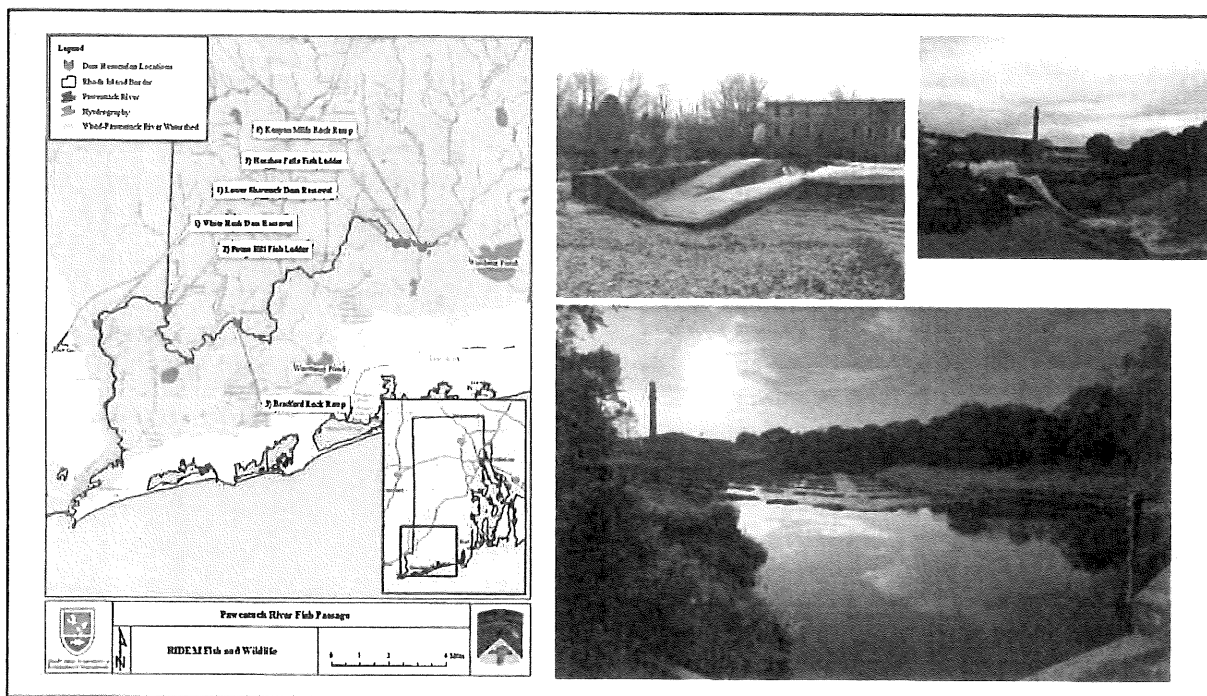
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## Annaquatucket

Some storms damaged dams and were not rebuilt the same causing water level issues -  
These dams were corrected to adjust water levels and

5 herring were stocked



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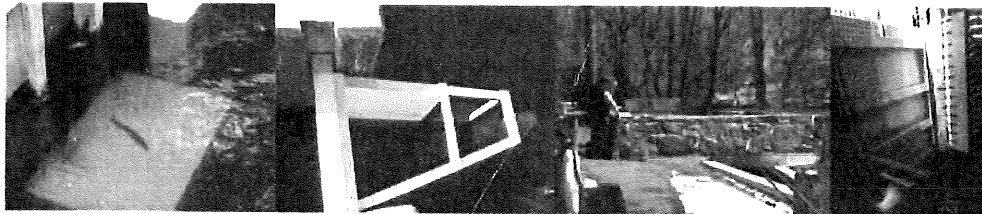
## Monitoring River Herring Runs

Spring - Adults - Spawning Stock Size

Electronic Fish Counters

Direct Counts

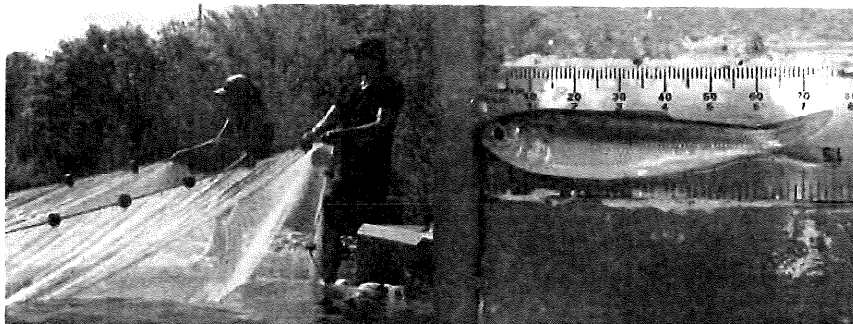
Video



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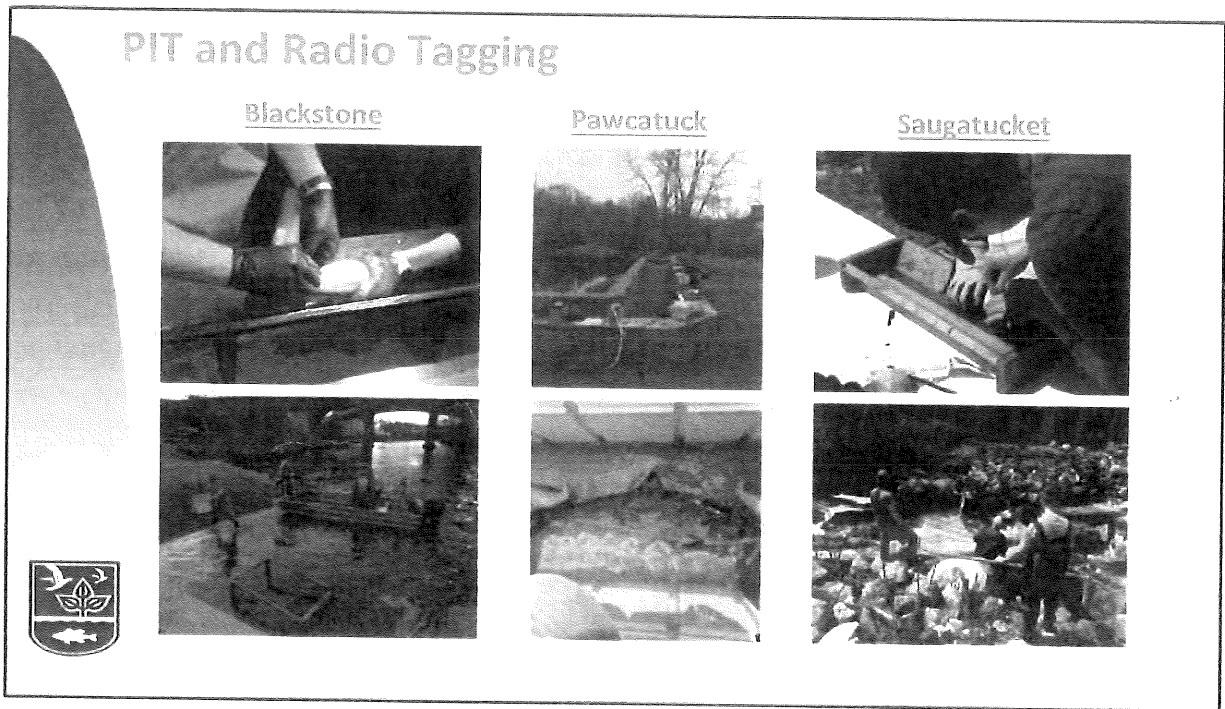
## Monitoring Juvenile Shad & Herring

- Summer & Fall  
Juvenile Abundance Indices  
Seine Surveys  
Trap Nets  
Electrofishing

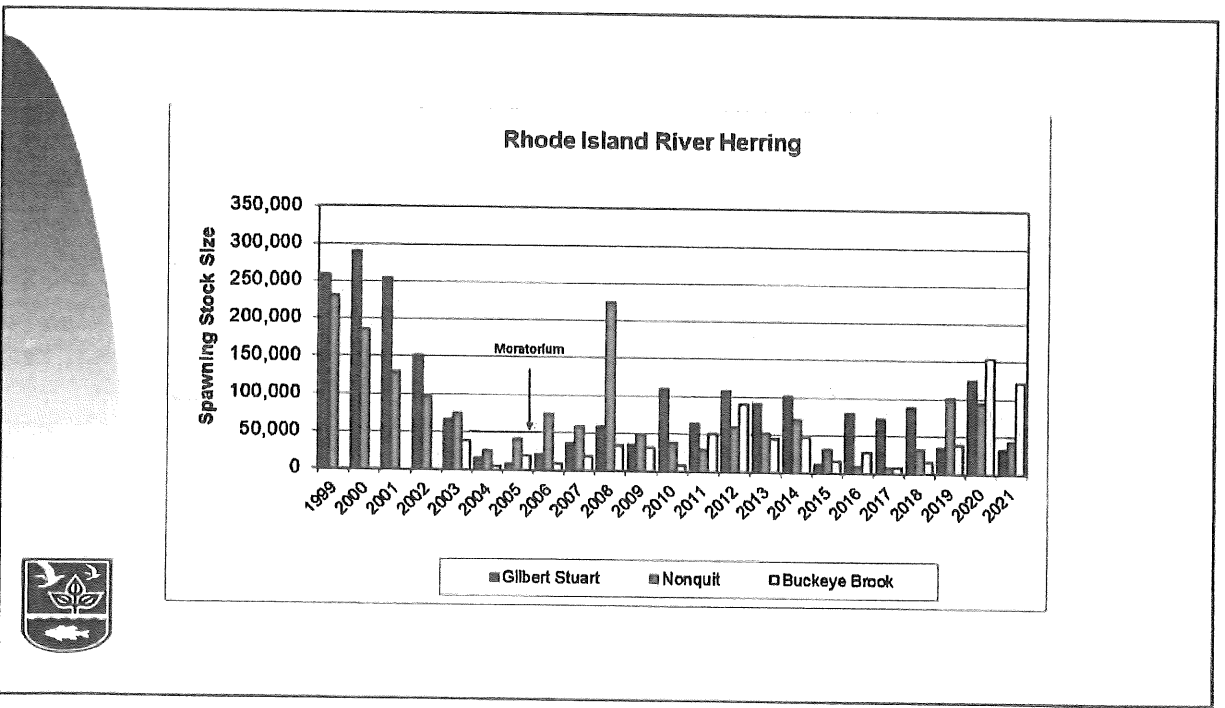


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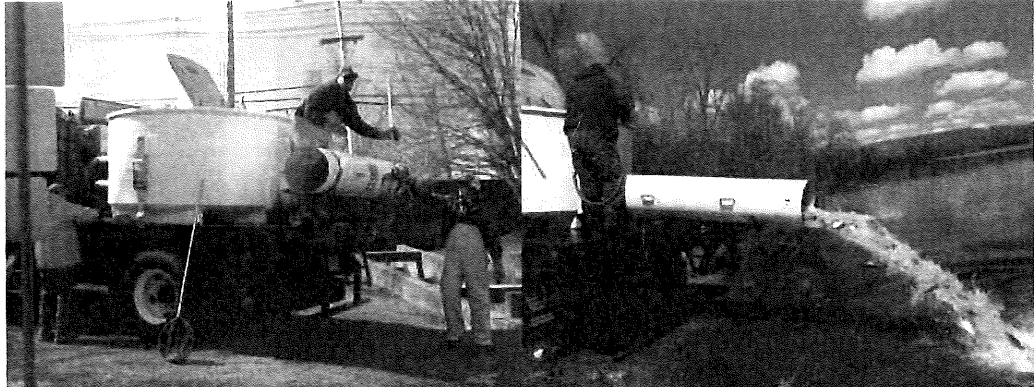


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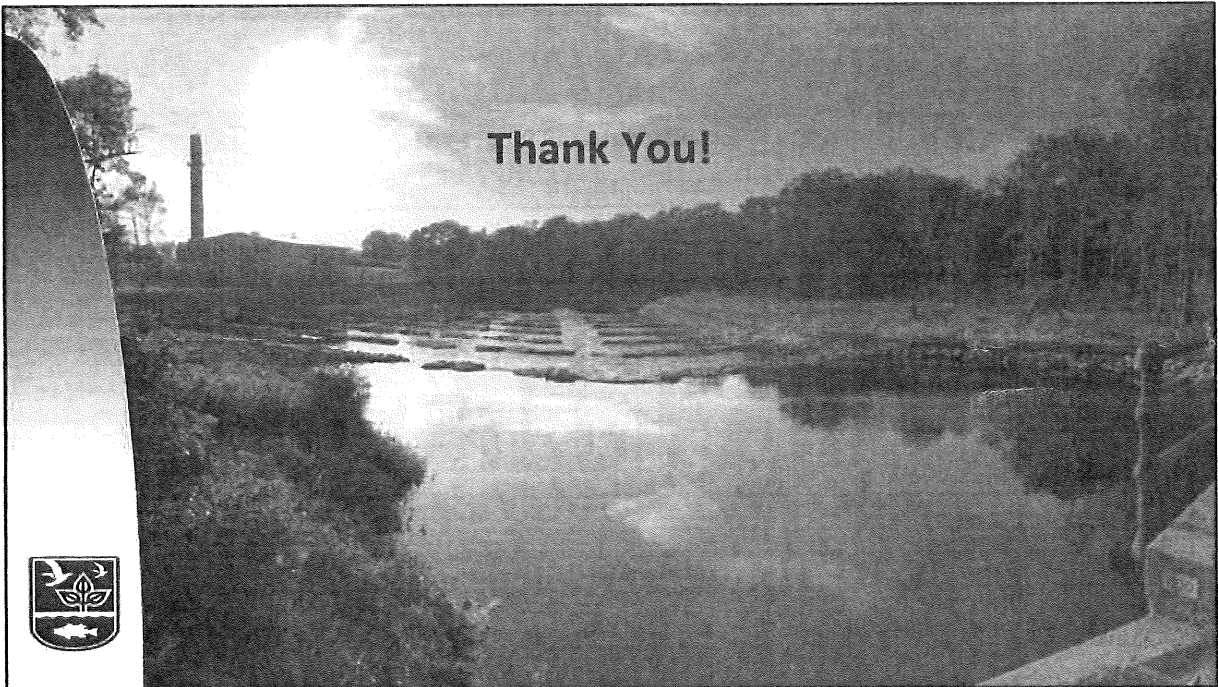
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Continue to re-establish & supplement local river herring runs with assistance from Massachusetts and the Middleborough-Lakeville Herring Fishery Commission as well as Connecticut DEEP



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Thank You!



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