

Louis Berger   Friends of Herring River   Welfleet and Truro, Massachusetts	Herring River Restoration Project		
	Locus Map		W S E
	Source: ESRI	1 inch = 12,000 feet	April 2017



- Maximum extent of Phase 1 restoration (mean high water spring tides)
  - Project Area/Extent of Full Restoration pending future permits and landowner agreements
  - **CCNS Boundary**

#### **Herring River Restoration Project Overview**



# Natural Herring River Channel Width

## Chequessett Neck Road Dike 18-foot-wide Opening



#### HISTORIC MARSH VS. PRESENT DAY



#### **On-Going Effects of Tidal Restriction**



Loss of Estuarine Productivity

Fecal Coliform Bacteria Pollution = closed shellfish areas



RECENT DATA = COLLECTED AND ANALYZED THROUGH 2017 CONFIRM AND FURTHER SUBSTANTIATE THE DEGRADED CONDITION OF THE HERRING RIVER FLOODPLAIN

Degraded Habitat for River Herring; Acidification





Poor Water Quality / Low Dissolved Oxygen = Fish Kills

### **HERRING RIVER TODAY**

- CNR dike designated point source for bacterial contamination – shellfish closures
- Classified as "impaired waters" under CWA standards (low pH, metals, path.)





- Marsh subsidence & acid sulfate soils –fish kills
- Loss of salt marsh replaced by invasive species, loss of resiliency

Phragmites and other invasive species colonized the marshes within the Herring River estuary, replacing native vegetation. An approximately 40-acre stand of Phragmites that currently releases methane will die off when tidal excahnge is restored. An Invasive Species Control Plan will be prepared for submittal with the Wetlands Pritection Act applications.

Date & Time: Sat Apr 29 13:26:47 EDT 2017 Position: 19 N 411469 464434 Altitude: 3m Datum: NORTH AMERICAN 1983, CONUS Azimuth/Bearing: 001° NO1E 0018mils (True) Zoom: 1X HRVS-2017-DH-01



Invasive upland species colonized the former salt marsh. NPS will clear, burn or otherwise manage vegetation within the Seashore boundary prior to each incremental increase in tidal exchange, to ensure that conditions favor establishment of salt marsh vegetation when restored tidal flow reaches any given area.

Existing causeway across the marsh plain, including culvert at Herring River crossing, will be removed to eliminate a hydrologic restriction to restored tidal exchange.



# Blue Carbon in the Herring River: Can We Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Wetland Restoration?

Kevin D. Kroeger

**USGS Woods Hole Coastal & Marine Science Center** 



photo: S. Baldwin

Herring River Restoration Project Society of Wetland Scientists Symposium, Friday May 31, 2019

#### Carbon burial rates and linkages to tidal hydrology and elevation in tidally restricted and unrestricted wetlands

<u>Meagan Eagle Gonneea (USGS)</u>, Kevin D. Kroeger (USGS), Jim Tang (MBL), Faming Wang (MBL), Amanda C. Spivak (UGA) USGS: Woods Hole Coastal & Marine Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey, Woods Hole, MA | MBL: Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA | UGA: University of Georgia, Athens, GA



Cores (duplicate) were collected across natural, restricted and restored marshes, age dated with 210-lead and soil carbon density measured. Elevation was determined to 2 cm.

## Project Benefits: **RESTORED ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**

- <u>Shellfishing:</u> Elimination of Bacterial Contamination of Recreational and Commercial Habitats
- ✓ <u>Other Recreation</u>: Boating, Hiking, Fishing
- Managing Sea Level Rise: Estuarine Habitats More Resilient to Coastal Flooding; Improved Drainage
- ✓ <u>Natural Mosquito Control</u>: Tidal Flushing of Breeding Areas, Larvae-eating Fish
- ✓ <u>Reduce Methane Emissions</u>: Equal to Taking Hundreds of Cars off the Road Each Year (preliminary data)
- Local Economy: \$1 Spent on Coastal Restoration = \$13 to Local Businesses (Center for Amer. Progress/OXFAM 2014)



