

River Rush!

Overview

You are a river herring and you have to find your way back home to where you were born. But be careful...the swim is long and tiring, and you need to stay away from predators, humans, and will need open water passage to help you swim home safe!

Materials

- Printed game board
- A game piece for each player. You can use different colored buttons, coins, or pasta shapes, or you can draw simple fish outlines in different colors and cut them out
- One dice OR you can make paper numbers (see setup)

Setup

Before you begin you need to connect the two pieces of the game board together. Line up the two triangles at the top of the page and tape the pieces together with clear tape. If you want, you can color the game board however you like before you start!

If you are making paper dice, cut 8 small pieces of paper and write these numbers on them:

- Two pieces of paper with 1
- Two pieces of paper with 2
- Two pieces of paper with 3
- Two pieces of paper with 4

Fold each piece of paper in half and put them in a bowl. On your turn, close your eyes and pull one piece of paper. Fold it up and put it back at the end of your turn.

Gameplay

The youngest player goes first. On your turn, roll the dice or pull a number from the bowl and move ahead that many spaces. If you land on a space with an “event” (words), follow the directions. You do not need to do anything if you land on a blank spot. The first fish to swim back home is the winner!

Background

Each spring, MILLIONS of river herring migrate from the ocean into Massachusetts waters. they are returning to their place of birth in freshwater streams, ponds, and lakes. Egg laying (spawning) happens in the same river they hatched.

Migrating fish can meet many challenges on this journey. Predators like striped bass, birds, and mammals can catch and eat them. Dried up waterways, dams, waterfalls, and locks make it difficult to swim all the way home. A fish ladder is a man-made structure (which often looks like a ladder with steps) that allows fish swimming upstream to get past these barriers. Weir pools are made up of small pools of regular length to create a long, sloping channel for fish to swim upstream. You can see pictures of ladders, pools, and fish on the next page.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries works hard to help river herring, American eels, rainbow smelt, and other migrating fish make their way back to their birth place. Building fish ladders, making habitat improvements, and monitoring fish at collection stations and with electronic fish counters (some can take underwater video of fish swimming!) are all ways DMF supports a successful migration.



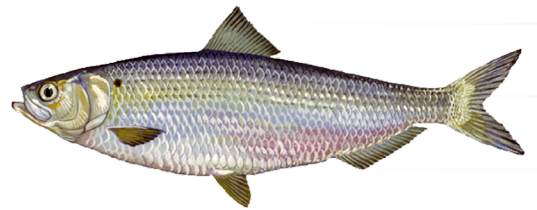
Fish Ladder



Weir pool



Alewife



Blueback herring



American eel



Rainbow smelt

RIVER RUSH!

START

The estuary is where freshwater meets the ocean

Oh no! This river has a dam with no ladder. Lose one turn.

Yay! You saw a field trip of kids watching your migration. Swim ahead one space.

Oh no! A river otter is chasing you! Swim back two spaces.

Yay! This stream runs through a town that has clean waterways! Swim ahead two spaces.

FINISH

You have safely made it back to where you were born!

