



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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April 27, 2022

Daniel McKiernan, Director
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
251 Causeway Street
Suite 400
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Director McKiernan,

I am pleased to announce that MassDEP has recently adopted (and attached) a new policy to help the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) improve fish runs and protect marine fisheries. The **Wetlands Program Policy: Diadromous Fisheries Stream Management** responds to concerns raised by DMF regarding the need for performance standards to prevent impediments to fish migration, maintain stream flows within fish runs, and preserve spawning or nursery habitats.

The policy incorporates the 2016 DMF Stream Maintenance Protocols and provides further guidance for conservation commissions when reviewing stream maintenance projects to improve fish runs. The policy provides standards of review commensurate with the level of activity proposed in stream channels. The policy encourages minor stream maintenance efforts to protect marine fisheries, including elimination of obstructions to improve surface flows, reduction of debris jams, and promotion the natural scour function of streams to reduce invasive plant growth.

Special thanks to Brad Chase of your staff for his assistance in the development of this policy. I anticipate that this policy will provide the necessary guidance for conservation commissions to help expedite DMF's effort to improve fish runs in the 46 coastal communities, and approximately 150 diadromous fish runs, in the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Lisa Rhodes
Wetlands Program Chief