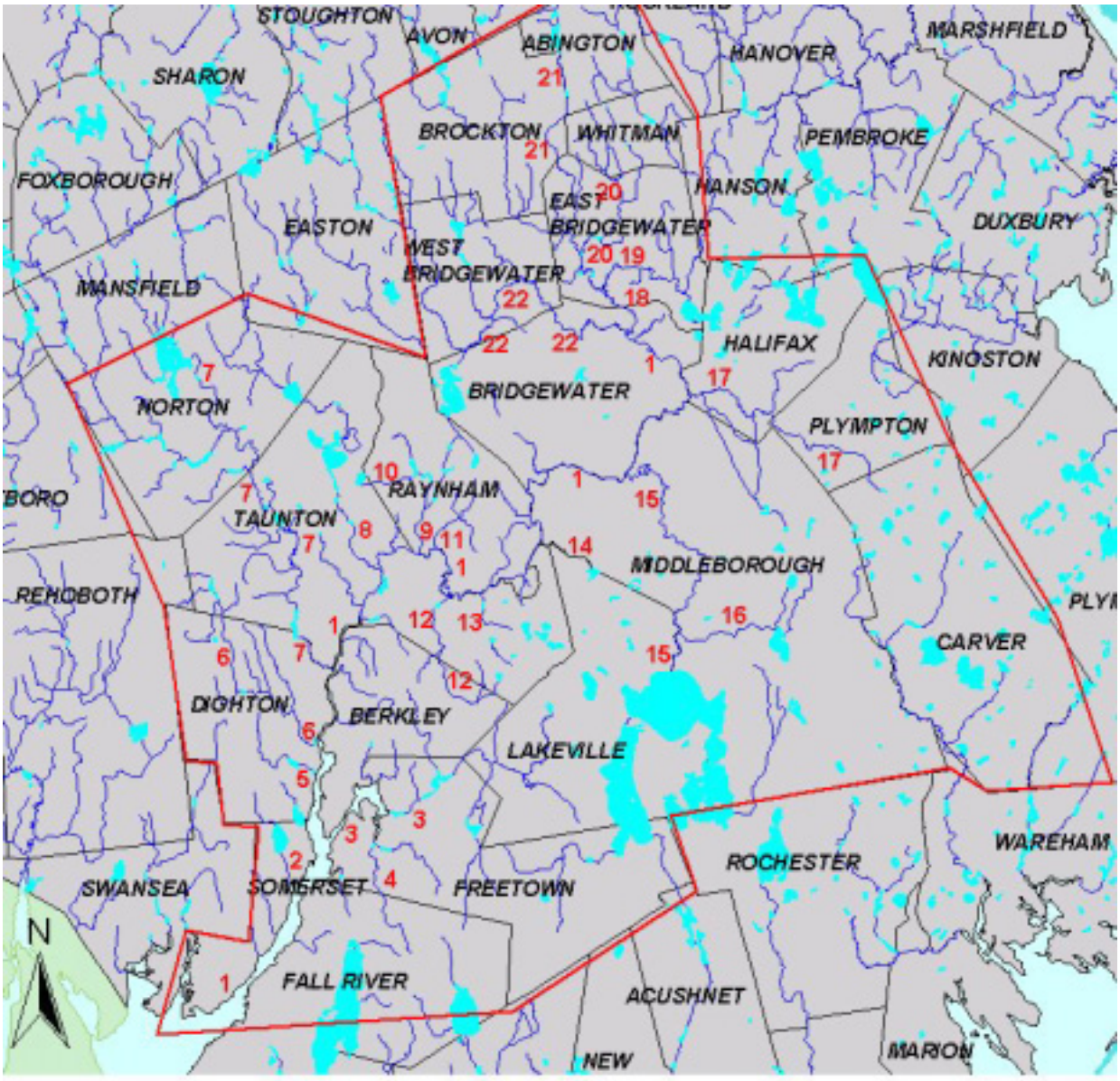
TAUNTON RIVER WATERSHED



Area outlined in red represents the towns included in this report as part of the Taunton River Watershed.

Stream Names:

1 - Taunton River
2 - Labor in Vain Brook
3 - Assonet River
4 - Rattlesnake Brook
5 - Muddy Cove Brook
6 - Segreganset River
7 - Threemile River
8 - Mill River
9 - Forge River
10 - Pine Swamp Brook
11 - Dam Lot Brook
12 - Cotley River
13 - Furnace Brook
14 - Poquoy Brook
15 - Nemasket River
16 - Fall Brook
17 - Winnetuxet River
18 - Matfield River
19 - Satucket River
20 - Meadow Brook
21 - Beaver Brook
22 - Town River

Taunton River Watershed

Taunton River Fall River, Somerset, Dighton, Berkley, Taunton, Raynham, Middleborough, Bridgewater, Halifax

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
38.5	Sixth	7.1	Alewife, blueback, American shad, smelt, white perch, tomcod, lamprey, gizzard shad, Atlantic sturgeon

Obstruction # 1 Plymouth Street Dam Bridgewater

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
38.2	Dam	Steel and wood	75	1.8	0.0	1900	Private	41º 59’ 31.909” N 70º 56’ 19.963” W

Plymouth Street Dam

Fishway Present

Design	Material	Length (ft)	Inside W (ft)	Outside W (ft)	# of Baffles	Baffle H (ft)	Notch W (ft)	Pool L (ft)	Condition/ Function
Notched weir-pool	Concrete	122	3.5	6.0	12	-		-	Poor Not passable

Remnants of Plymouth Street Fishway

Remarks:

The Taunton River is formed by the confluence of Town River and the Matfield River in Bridgewater. The only obstruction on the main stem river is immediately downstream of this point. A partially breached dam at Plymouth Street creates an impediment to fish migration during low spring flows. Under most flow conditions, however, river herring are able to pass upstream. Complete removal or further breaching of the remaining dam would insure unencumbered passage to the upper river.

The main stem river possesses considerable potential for American shad development and, beginning in 1969, fertilized eggs and adult shad from the Connecticut River were introduced by DMF into the Taunton. Subsequent monitoring revealed little or no success. More recently, other coastal programs have been able to establish shad populations using other techniques such as fry stocking. Because of the substantial quantity of unobstructed spawning and nursery habitat available in this river, it is highly recommended that Massachusetts explore and develop similar methods to create a population and fishery for American shad.

Labor in Vain Brook Somerset, Dighton

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
2.6	First	7.4	None known

Obstruction # 1 Somerset Reservoir Outlet Somerset

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
0.9	Elevation change	-	-	-	165.0	-	-	41º 46’ 38.295” N 71º 08’ 29.843” W

Dry Outlet of Somerset Reservoir

Fishway None

Remarks:

The source of this small stream is a public water supply for the Town of Somerset. Widely fluctuating water level in the impoundment, inconsistent flows and lack of access eliminate any potential for development as a river herring run.

Assonet River — Berkley, Freetown, Lakeville

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
8.9	Fourth	6.3	Alewife, blueback, smelt, white perch

Obstruction # 1 — Tisdale Pond Dam — Freetown

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
3.6	Dam	Concrete, stone core, metal and wooden boards	3.2 and 9.8	6.5 and 8.4	2.3	1710	Town of Freetown	41º 47’ 45.526” N 71º 03’ 56.750” W


Western Spillway at Tisdale Pond


Eastern Spillway at Tisdale Pond

Fishway None

Obstruction # 2 — Monument Dam — Freetown

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
4.1	Dam	Concrete, stone core	74.4	9.0	6.7	1695	Town of Freetown	41º 47’ 58.219” N 71º 03’ 33.731” W


Monument Dam

Fishway None

Obstruction # 3 Forge Pond Dam Freetown

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
4.5	Dam	Concrete and stone core with wooden boards	42	6.4	55.3	1702	Town of Freetown	41º 48’ 08.591” N 71º 03’ 07.546” W

Forge Pond Dam

Fishway None

Remarks:

The Assonet River has 3 dams which obstruct fish passage. The first is at the head of the tide and the last forms the only significant potential spawning area, Forge Pond. The Forge Pond dam is in poor condition and leaks badly resulting in the loss of most of the impounded acreage. The cost of extensive repairs to the dams and fishway construction at all three sites gives this stream a low priority for development. River herring and smelt currently spawn immediately below the first dam and an active white perch fishery is carried on in the estuary. Consideration should be given to protection of existing spawning habitat and removal or breaching of the dams in order to create a free flowing stream habitat.

Rattlesnake Brook Freetown

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
2.7	Third	5.4	River herring, smelt, white perch

Obstruction # 1a Outlet for Bleachery Reservoir (Western) Freetown

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
0.1	Dam and foundation wall	Dam - concrete; wall – stone	11.3	4.5	3.9	1872	City of Fall River	41º 46’ 50.976” N 71º 05’ 11.744” W

Bleachery Reservoir- Western Outlet

Fishway None

Obstruction # **1b** Outlet for Bleachery Reservoir (Eastern) Freetown

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
0.1	Dam and foundation wall	Concrete and stone	12.3	Varied (2.5- 5.0)	3.9	1872	City of Fall River	41º 46’ 51.270” N 71º 05’ 09.356” W

Bleachery Reservoir- Eastern Outlet

Fishway None

Remarks:

Rattlesnake Brook is a tributary to the Assonet River estuary. The stream is impounded at the Bleachery Reservoir. Although river herring and smelt have been observed just above the head of the tide, the impoundment’s small size and the unusually low pH measured in the stream makes the brook a poor candidate for development. The existing spawning area below the reservoir should be protected and harvest of existing runs managed.

Muddy Cove Brook Dighton

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
2.4	Second	6.7	River herring

Obstruction # 1 Gate under railroad tracks just below Route 138 Dighton

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
0.2	Dam control structure	Concrete with wood and steel gate	15.0	5.4	1.1	-	-	41º 48’ 42.586” N 71º 07’ 16.160” W

Gate under Railroad Tracks

Fishway None

Obstruction # 2 Dam on Zeneca Inc. Property Dighton

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
0.4	Dam	Concrete	16.0	4.0	0.0	-	Zeneca Inc.	41º 48’ 48.730” N 71º 07’ 30.860” W

Dam on Zeneca Property

Fishway None

Obstruction # 3 Muddy Cove Pond Dam Dighton

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
0.7	Dam, stepped	Concrete	19.0	17	23.1	1950	Zeneca Inc.	41º 48’ 48.658” N 71º 07’ 44.294” W

Muddy Cove Pond Dam

Fishway None

Remarks:

Muddy Cove Brook is a small tributary to the main stem Taunton River in Dighton. Several obstructions exist, two of which are passable at some tidal stages. The first, a tide gate at the stream mouth has deteriorated and allows fish to get by at higher tidal stages. The second is a concrete dam which has had its wooden stop logs removed and is passable under current water levels. A 17 foot dam blocks fish passage to a 23 acre impoundment. River herring have been reported to ascend to the base of that dam. The habitat available in the impoundment and the fact that the owner has expressed interest in installing fish passage facilities makes this system a good candidate for development.

Segreganset River Dighton, Taunton

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
8.7	Second	5.7	River herring, smelt, American shad

Obstruction # 1 First Unnamed Dam Dighton

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
0.9	Dam	Concrete	10.5	1.5	2.8	1964	Town of Somerset	41º 49’ 36.972” N 71º 07’ 40.685” W

First unnamed dam and fishway on the Segreganset

Fishway Present

Design	Material	Length (ft)	Inside W (ft)	Outside W (ft)	# of Baffles	Baffle H (ft)	Notch W (ft)	Pool L (ft)	Condition/ Function
Weir-pool	Concrete with aluminum slots and wooden baffles	5.5	3.0	7.3	2	N/A (none in at time of survey)	-	3.3	Excellent Passable

Obstruction # 2 Segreganset River Dam Dighton

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
1.2	Dam	Concrete	154	3.6	1.2	1964	Town of Somerset	41º 49’ 49.085” N 71º 07’ 38.982” W

Segreganset River Dam

Fishway None

Remarks:

The Segreganset River has two obstructions to passage in its lower reaches. The first, a low head concrete and steel structure, was equipped with a steel plate weir-pool fishway which became badly deteriorated and was removed in 2000. A new ladder has been constructed by the Town of Dighton along with volunteer help and appears to be functional. Although this dam creates a spawning habitat of only 2.8 acres, a small population of river herring appears to be maintaining itself with some success. Also, smelt eggs have been observed in the stream below the dam in past years.

A second dam, immediately upstream, blocks further passage. This obstruction creates an impoundment of only 1.2 acres which does not justify construction of fish passage facilities.

Three Mile River — Dighton, Taunton, Norton

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
12.8	Fifth	6.9	River herring

Obstruction # 1 — Dam below Harodite factory — Dighton

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
1.1	Dam	Concrete and granite blocks	74	9.0	1.0	-	Harodite Company	41º 51’ 46.323” N 71º 07’ 21.375” W

Dam below Harodite Factory

Fishway None

Obstruction # 2 — Dam above Harodite factory — Dighton

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
1.2	Dam	Concrete	25	4	0.5	-	Harodite Co.	41º 51’ 51.523” N 71º 07’ 18.755” W

Dam above Harodite Factory

Fishway None

Obstruction # 3 Dam at Draka Factory Dighton

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
1.7	Dam	Concrete	150	7.0	45.2	-	-	41º 52’ 05.835” N 71º 07’ 46.801” W

Dam at Draka Factory

Fishway None

Remarks:

This tributary to the Taunton River forms the boundary between Dighton and the City of Taunton. The lower course is impounded by two currently impassable dams. The first, at the Harodite Company was equipped with a prefabricated, wooden Denil ladder. This structure was washed away by high water during the spring of 1998. The upstream impoundment has been stocked by DMF with blueback herring in anticipation of a replacement being installed. A more permanent structure has been designed for the site and is awaiting funding. A second dam at the Harodite location appears to be avoidable by way of a bypass channel a few yards from the spillway. A railroad trestle over the bypass channel, while not forming an obstruction itself, collects a large amount of debris which could impede passage and must be cleaned annually.

A fishway has also been designed for the third obstruction, a dam at the Draka factory. This structure, a concrete and wood Denil style ladder, if funded, would make a significant amount of riverine impoundment and slow flowing river habitat available to anadromous species.

Tributary above Berkley St. Taunton

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
2.2	First	6.5	None known

Obstruction # 1 Unnamed dam above Berkley St. Taunton

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
0.3	Dam	Concrete with wooden boards	6.0	3.4	3.2	-	-	41º 52’ 30.784” N 71º 05’ 21.510” W

Unnamed dam above Berkley Street

Fishway None

Remarks:

Due to the difficulty of providing fish passage and the small impoundment size, anadromous fish development is not warranted.

Oakland Mill Ponds (or Brickyard Ponds) Taunton

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
0.3	First	7.8	River herring, white perch, gizzard shad

Obstruction # 1 Oakland Mill Ponds culvert Taunton

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
0.3	Culvert, circular	Concrete	2.0	2.0	16.9	-	-	41º 53’ 20.012” N 71º 04’ 50.273” W

Oakland Mill Ponds culvert

Fishway None

Remarks:

This 17 acre impoundment in the City of Taunton drains directly into the Taunton River through a 2 ft. diameter culvert. In the past, river herring have gained access to the impoundment and a small population has developed. Removal of river debris, periodic cleaning of the culvert and channel maintenance are required at this location. The City should petition the Director of DMF for local control and actively manage the run in order to maximize this resource.

Mill River — Taunton

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
4.2	Fifth	6.7	River herring

Obstruction # 1 — Taunton State Hospital Dam — Taunton

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
2.4	Dam	Concrete	35	5.5	5.6	-	-	41º 54’ 54.381” N 71º 05’ 49.104” W

Taunton State Hospital Dam

Fishway None

Obstruction # 2 — West Brittania Dam — Taunton

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
2.8	Dam	Concrete with wooden boards	29	3.5	0.7	-	-	41º 55’ 08.760” N 71º 06’ 05.229” W

West Brittania Dam

Fishway None

Obstruction # **3** Whittenton Street Dam Taunton

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
3.4	Dam	Wood, concrete, asphalt and stone	118	12	20.1	1832	L & O Realty Trust	41º 55’ 27.921” N 71º 06’ 22.845” W

Whittenton Street Dam

Fishway None

Obstruction # **4** Morey's Bridge Dam Taunton

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
4.2	Dam	Wood	28	10	266.4	1832	L & O Realty Trust	41º 56’ 02.684” N 71º 06’ 28.348” W

Morey's Bridge Dam

Fishway None

Remarks:

Mill River flows from its source in Lake Sabbatia through the center of the City of Taunton to the Taunton River. This heavily industrialized river is obstructed by four impassable dams each of which presents difficult fishway installation problems. Although Lake Sabbatia’s 266 acres offer considerable potential for river herring development, the lower impoundments are quite small and the cost of providing fish passage to Sabbatia keeps this stream a low priority for future work.

Forge River Raynham

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
5.5	Third	6.9	River herring

Obstruction # 1 Unnamed dam at Raynham Department of Parks & Recreation Office Raynham

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
1.1	Dam	Concrete with wooden boards	24.0	3.7	1.0	-	-	41º 54’ 54.029” N 71º 03’ 42.535” W

Unnamed dam at Raynham Department of Parks & Recreation Office

Fishway None

Obstruction # 2 Johnson Pond Dam Raynham

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
2.1	Dam	Concrete with wooden boards	3.3	9.0	13.3	-	Town of Raynham	41º 55’ 27.287” N 71º 03’ 10.562” W

Johnson Pond Dam

Fishway None

Obstruction # 3 Tracy Pond Dam Raynham

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
3.0	Dam	Concrete with wooden boards	3.3	5.0	3.1	-	-	41º 56’ 11.154” N 71º 02’ 45.771” W

Tracy Pond Dam

Fishway None

Obstruction # 4 Hewitt Pond Dam Raynham

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
3.7	Dam	Concrete with wooden boards	4.0	5.0	13.8	-	Town of Raynham	41º 56’ 47.341” N 71º 02’ 38.044” W

Hewitt Pond Dam

Fishway None

Remarks:

Forge River flows through the center of Raynham to its junction with the Taunton River. The first obstruction, at river mile 1.1, forms a one acre impoundment. The second dam, at river mile 2.1, impounds the 13 acre Johnson Pond and creates a reasonable amount of potential river herring habitat. However, the spillway configuration at the dam is not conducive to fishway installation. With no abundance of spawning area upstream, the potential for anadromous fish development is poor.

Pine Swamp Brook Raynham

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
3.4	First	6.2	Unknown

Obstruction # 1 King's Pond Dam Raynham

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
1.4	Dam	Concrete	12.0	10.0	12.7	1950	Town of Raynham	41º 55' 57.727" N 71º 03' 12.043" W

King's Pond Dam

Fishway None

Remarks:

This small stream is a tributary to Forge River which it enters below Johnson Pond. It is impounded near Main Street forming Kings Pond. The dam at Kings Pond is 10 feet high, creating another difficult fishway construction challenge and associated costs which negate the potential that the impoundment's 13 acres provide.

Dam Lot Brook Raynham

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
2.2	First	6.3	Unknown

Obstruction # 1 South Street Culvert Raynham

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
0.2	Culvert, rectangular	Concrete	10	0.0	0.0	Replaced 1999	-	41º 54’ 29.538” N 71º 03’ 04.140” W

South Street Culvert

Fishway None

Obstruction # 2 Orchard Street Dam Raynham

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
1.0	Dam	Concrete with wooden boards	5.0	4.3	2.8	-	-	41º 54’ 56.174” N 71º 02’ 36.573” W

Orchard Street Dam

Fishway None

Remarks:

Dam Lot Brook is another small stream which enters the Taunton River in Raynham. It is obstructed first by a concrete culvert at South Street which has a depth of less the 0.2 feet of water due to its flat, wide floor. The second obstruction is a 4 foot dam at Orchard Street which creates an impoundment of less than 3 acres. This acreage does not justify the cost of providing fish passage.

Cotley River

Taunton, Berkley

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
6.2	First	6.9	Unknown

Obstruction # 1

Barstows Pond Dam

Taunton

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
0.4	Dam	Wood	30.0	5.0	15.1	1920	Private	41º 52’ 56.524” N 71º 02’ 55.103” W

Barstows Pond Dam

Fishway

None

Remarks:

This small stream flows 5.5 miles from swamplands in South Taunton to enter the Taunton River near the village of East Taunton. A 5 foot wooden dam, approximately 0.4 miles from the confluence, forms a 15 acre impoundment called Barstows Pond. The privately owned reservoir appears to provide suitable habitat to develop a river herring population in this tributary. The possibility of fishway construction and stocking of adult alewives should be investigated.

Richmond Pond

Taunton (East Taunton)

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
0.3	First	6.7	Unknown

Obstruction # 1

Richmond Pond Dam

Raynham

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
0.3	Dam	Concrete with wooden boards	7.0	5.0	5.9	-	-	41º 52’ 57.694” N 71º 01’ 27.605” W

Richmond Pond Dam

Fishway

None

Remarks:

Richmond Pond drains into the Taunton River by way of a small unnamed intermittent stream. The difficulty of providing fish passage caused by the spillway/culvert configuration and the small impoundment size give this site a low priority for development.

Furnace Brook Raynham, Taunton

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
1.1	Second	7.4	River herring

Obstruction # 1 Lake Rico Dam Taunton

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
1.1	Dam	Concrete	57	14	215.2	1969	Comm.of-MA - DCR	41º 52’ 46.944” N 71º 00’ 03.382” W

Lake Rico Dam

Fishway Present

Design	Material	Length (ft)	Inside W (ft)	Outside W (ft)	# of Baffles	Baffle H (ft)	Notch W (ft)	Pool L (ft)	Condition/ Function
Weir-pool	Concrete	170.0	2.0	4.0	20	Varied	-	Varied (6 – 8)	Good Passable

Lake Rico Fishway

Exit of Lake Rico Fishway

Remarks:

This stream flows for approximately one mile from Lake Rico to the Taunton River. The dam that creates Lake Rico was constructed by the Commonwealth’s Department of Environmental Management in 1969. A fishway was installed at the time of construction but the inability to fill the impoundment to its design elevation caused the ladder to be nonfunctional. In 2000, DMF developed a design to retrofit the fishway with a new exit at the existing lake elevation. DEM funded the modifications and the fishway now passes river herring successfully. With proper maintenance and flow regulation, Lake Rico’s 215 acres should support a sizeable population. Due to the low stream gradient, channel maintenance below the ladder and to the brook mouth is also an important priority.

Poquoy Brook — Raynham, Middleborough, Lakeville

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
2.2	Second	7.1	River herring

Obstruction # 1 — First Bog Sluice at Ocean Spray Headquarters — Middleborough, Lakeville

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
1.7	Bog sluice	Concrete with wooden boards	8.4	7.0	0.0	-	Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.	41º 54’ 04.737” N 70º 58’ 06.296” W

First Bog Sluice at Ocean Spray Headquarters

Fishway None

Obstruction # 2 — Second Bog Sluice at Ocean Spray Headquarters — Middleborough, Lakeville

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
1.8	Bog sluice	Concrete with wooden boards	8.4	5.9	0.0	-	Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.	41º 54’ 01.158” N 70º 57’ 57.929” W

Second Bog Sluice at Ocean Spray Headquarters

Fishway None

Obstruction # 3 Third Bog Sluice at Ocean Spray Headquarters Middleborough, Lakeville

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
2.0	Bog sluice	Concrete with wooden boards	8.0	8.1	0.0	-	Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.	41º 53’ 52.268” N 70º 57’ 49.968” W

Third Bog Sluice at Ocean Spray Headquarters

Fishway None

Obstruction # 4 Bog Reservoir at Ocean Spray Headquarters Middleborough, Lakeville

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
2.2	Bog sluice	Concrete with metal slots and wooden boards	8.4	9.0	34.1	-	Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.	41º 53’ 45.855” N 70º 57’ 50.217” W

Bog Reservoir at Ocean Spray Headquarters

Fishway None

Remarks:

The only potential river herring spawning area on this stream is a 34 acre cranberry bog reservoir at the Ocean Spray headquarters in Lakeville. In order for fish to access this habitat fishways would have to be constructed at four obstructions which range in elevation from 6 to 9 feet.

Nemasket River Middleborough, Lakeville

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
11.2	Third	6.0	Alewife, blueback, American shad, gizzard shad, lamprey

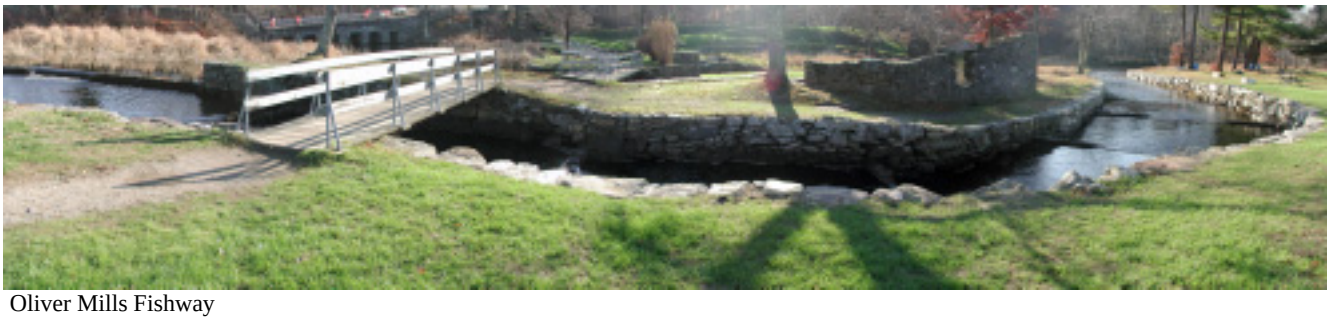
Obstruction # 1 Oliver Mills Dam Middleborough

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
5.3	Dam	Stone and concrete with wooden boards	Varied (3.9-55)	Varied (1.9-4.8)	18.6	~1800	-	41º 54’ 24.864” N 70º 54’ 49.490” W

Two of the 7 spillways at Oliver Mills Dam

Fishway Present

Design	Material	Length (ft)	Inside W (ft)	Outside W (ft)	# of Baffles	Baffle H (ft)	Notch W (ft)	Pool L (ft)	Condition/ Function
Notched weir-pool	Stone and concrete	202.0	30-50	30-50	7	2.6	9	Varied (15-20)	Good Passable



Oliver Mills Fishway

Obstruction # 2 Wareham Street Dam Middleborough

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
7.5	Dam, bascule	Concrete with metal gate	27	Variable (highest 9)	4.5	-	Town of Middle-borough	41º 53’ 25.762” N 70º 54’ 15.897” W

Wareham Street Dam

Fishway Present

Design	Material	Length (ft)	Inside W (ft)	Outside W (ft)	# of Baffles	Baffle H (ft)	Notch W (ft)	Pool L (ft)	Condition/ Function
Notched weir-pool	Concrete with wooden boards	189.0	6.0	7.5	18	4.1	3.0	11.0	Excellent Passable

Wareham Street Fishway

Obstruction # 3 Assawompset Pond Dam Lakeville

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Pond Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS	
11.5	Dam	Granite with wooden boards	43.0	4.0	2024	1904	New Bedford and Taunton	41º 51’ 07.832” 70º 55’ 07.615”	N W

Assawompset Pond Dam (with Fishway along left edge of the dam)

Fishway Present

Design	Material	Length (ft)	Inside W (ft)	Outside W (ft)	# of Baffles	Baffle H (ft)	Notch W (ft)	Pool L (ft)	Condition/ Function
Denil	Concrete with wooden baffles	29.5	2.0	4.0	9	4.5	-	-	Good Inefficient passage

Obstruction # 4 Great Quittacas Pond Dam Middleborough

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS	
11.2	Dam	Granite	40	6.5	1185.	-	City of New Bedford	41º 48’ 52.635” 70º 53’ 54.259”	N W

Great Quittacas Pond Dam

Fishway None

Obstruction # 5a Route 18 culvert (larger) Lakeville

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Pond Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
11.2	Culvert, rectangular	Concrete	8	4	1721	Replaced 1993	Mass-Highway	41º 50’ 00.018” N 70º 56’ 28.780” W

Larger culvert under Route 18

Fishway None

Obstruction # 5b Second Route 18 culvert (smaller) Lakeville

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Pond Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
11.2	Culvert, circular	Concrete	2.5	2.3	1721	1994	Mass-Highway	41º 50’ 00.358” N 70º 56’ 29.044” W

Smaller culvert under Route 18

Fishway None

Remarks:

The Nemasket River supports what is probably the largest coastal river herring population in Massachusetts. Estimates based on visual counts by volunteers have consistently exceeded one million fish per year. The primary reason for this run's large size is the total lacustrine and impoundment spawning and nursery habitat, which exceeds 5000 acres. Three dams form obstructions to passage on the river, each of which is equipped with a fishway. The first, at Oliver Mills, was incorporated into an historic site restoration project and is essentially a highly efficient set of stream baffles. The second, at Wareham Street is a large weir-pool ladder that was designed and constructed by DMF in 1996. The last fishway is at the outlet of Lake Assawompset and is a relatively small Denil type fishway.

The dam at Assawompsett is, in fact, passable for most of the early spring flows since the tailwater pool level rises sufficiently to allow herring to swim over it. When the pool level drops, the migrating herring are able to utilize the fishway. This is an important point since the dam is in poor condition and may be replaced. A dam design that would not allow fish to ascend it could have a dramatic impact on the population because the small Denil ladder is incapable of passing such a large number of fish efficiently. Emergent aquatic vegetation in the impoundment above Wareham Street and other slow moving sections of the river has caused problems for migrating fish in the past and a channel should be maintained through this growth.

A granite structure at the culvert connecting Pocksha and Great Quittacas Ponds has often blocked juvenile out migration during low water periods in late summer and fall. The City of New Bedford, which uses these ponds for a water supply, has altered the structure to allow passage under some lower water levels. The City, with the assistance of EOEA's Taunton River Basin Team has designed a system to reduce sediment build up at this location. The effectiveness of these measures should be monitored.

Two other potential obstructions to passage may be encountered once fish have entered the lake system. A culvert at Route 18 which accommodates the connector stream between Assawompsett and Long Pond was replaced in 1993. The invert elevation of the culvert was too high for downstream migration of juvenile herring and as a result a second smaller culvert was added at a lower elevation. The effectiveness of both these culverts in passing fish has never been assessed. Since Long Pond represents a substantial portion of the total spawning habitat, such an assessment should be conducted.

Lastly, it should be mentioned that the Nemasket River fishery is the only one in the Commonwealth that is under local control other than that granted by Section 94 of Chapter 130. The Towns of Lakeville and Middleborough, through an amendment to an old Special Act of Legislature, have been granted the authority to regulate that fishery. The towns, through their herring committee, have taken on that responsibility with enthusiasm in recent years and they are encouraged to continue to seek professional fisheries management assistance from DMF and or other appropriate state agencies in maintaining and managing the resource.

Fall Brook — Middleborough

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
3.8	Second	6.2	River herring

Obstruction # 1 — Fall Brook Route 28 Dam — Middleborough

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
2.3	Dam	Concrete with wooden boards	6.0	8.3	5.2	-	-	41º 52’ 10.289” N 70º 52’ 50.325” W

Fall Brook Dam (at Route 28)

Fishway None

Obstruction # 2 Happy Hollow Farm Dam Middleborough

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
2.6	Dam	Stone and granite	8.0	8.6	0.9	-	-	41º 52’ 16.358” N 70º 52’ 31.454” W

Happy Hollow Farm Dam

Fishway None

Remarks:

Fall Brook is a tributary to the Nemasket River with its source in 175 acre Tispaquin Pond. Although the potential habitat available in the headwater pond is considerable, two dams present difficult fishway installation problems. The first at Route 28 is associated with a culvert which would limit the efficiency of a ladder and the second, at a small private impoundment, is structurally not conducive to fishway construction. In addition, the amount of spawning/nursery area that this pond would add to the system is small when compared to that currently available in the Nemasket’s headwaters.

Winnetuxet River

Halifax, Plympton, Carver

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
11.6	Fourth	6.7	Unknown

Obstruction # 1

Winnetuxet Road Dam — Plympton

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
9.2	Dam	Concrete	27.0	9.5	1.1	-	-	41º 56’ 47.182” N 70º 49’ 33.339” W

Winnetuxet Road Dam

Fishway None

Obstruction # 2 Dam at 60 Winnetuxet Rd. Plympton

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
9.5	Dam	Concrete	22.0	9.0	2.0	1913	Private	41º 56’ 41.596” N 70º 49’ 19.378” W

Dam at pond below Parsonage Road

Fishway None

Remarks:

The Winnetuxet River meanders through swamp and marshland for 9 miles from the first obstruction to its confluence with the Taunton River. This 9.5 ft dam forms a small impoundment which is inaccessible to anadromous fish. A second large dam immediately upstream also blocks passage. No significant potential habitat is available to justify fishway construction at these sites. The DMF had introduced bluebacks into the 9 miles of riverine habitat to augment this system. The total number of fish stocked was 6600 during the time period 1989 to 1993. No sampling for fish presence has been conducted since due to lack of personnel and funding.

Satucket River East Bridgewater

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
5.6	Fourth	7.1	River herring

Obstruction # 1 Dam at Route 106 East Bridgewater

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
1.2	Dam	Concrete and wood	6.0	4.5	0.0	-	15 Whitman St. Corp.	42º 01’ 17.366” N 70º 57’ 03.783” W

Dam at Route 106

Fishway None

Remarks:

The Satucket River flows from 124 acre Robbins Pond for 5.6 miles to the Matfield River. One obstruction, a dam at Route 106, blocks fish passage to this significant habitat. The dam is in poor condition and has been partially breached for safety reasons thereby draining its impoundment. Fish may be able to surmount the remaining elevation but such passage would be less than adequate for the potential population that this system can produce. The current owner is faced with the options of dam repair or removal. If repair is chosen, a fishway should be included in the design. If the removal option is selected, it should be complete and leave no obstruction for migrating fish. Stream channel reconstruction and design should be performed to ensure no elevation differences create blockage at the Route 106 culvert or further upstream.

Stump Brook Halifax

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
3.8	Second	5.3	Unknown

Obstruction # 1a Robbins Pond/Bog Reservoir Connection Halifax

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
0.5	Dam	Concrete	14.2	2.8	168.7	-	-	42º 00’ 12.428” N 70º 54’ 06.034” W

Dam at Robbins Pond/Bog Reservoir Connection

Fishway None

Obstruction # 1b Bypass Channel from bogs to Robbins Pond Halifax

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
0.5	Bog sluice	Concrete with wooden boards	6.9	1.9	0.0	-	-	41º 59’ 58.547” N 70º 54’ 06.765” W

No photo available

Fishway None

Obstruction # 1c-I Bog Sluice behind Camp off Quadrille Rd. Halifax

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
0.7	Bog sluice	Steel with wooden boards	3.5	1.2	0.0	-	-	41º 59’ 59.769” N 70º 54’ 13.232” W

Bog Sluice behind Camp off Quadrille Road

Fishway None

Obstruction # 1c-II Bog T Control Structure Halifax

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
0.8	Bog sluice	Concrete with wooden boards	6.1	0.0	0.0	-	-	41º 59’ 58.390” N 70º 54’ 06.684” W

Bog T Control Structure

Fishway None

Obstruction # 1c-III Bog Reservoir Dam Halifax

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
0.8	Bog sluice	Concrete with wooden boards	6.0	4.5	168.7	-	-	41º 59’ 58.390” N 70º 54’ 06.684” W

Bog Reservoir Dam

Fishway None

Obstruction # 2 Dam at Furnace Street Halifax

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
1.4	Dam	Concrete with wooden boards	7.5	5.2	13.7	1917	Town of Halifax	41º 59’ 54.991” N 70º 53’ 15.949” W

Dam at Furnace Street

Fishway None

Obstruction # 3 Stump Brook Dam Halifax

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
3.0	Dam	Concrete	67.5	4.6	0.0	1964 -1969	City of Brockton	42º 00’ 48.570” N 70º 52’ 10.213” W

Stump Brook Dam

Fishway Present

Design	Material	Length (ft)	Inside W (ft)	Outside W (ft)	# of Baffles	Baffle H (ft)	Notch W (ft)	Pool L (ft)	Condition/ Function
Weir-pool	Concrete	19.5	2.0	4.2	6	Varied (0.6-3.0)	-	3.5	Good Passable

Fishway at Stump Brook Dam

Remarks:

Stump Brook flows into Robbins Pond from Monponsett Pond. While over 500 acres of potential habitat are available in Monponsett Pond, fish would have to navigate a complex system of cranberry bogs and reservoirs containing a number of obstructions to passage. In addition, water is diverted from Monponsett Pond to Silver Lake by the City of Brockton, raising issues of suitable flows for downstream passage. Despite the attractive acreage in Monponsett and the fact that a fishway was incorporated into the dam which impounds the pond, resources should be directed at getting adequate passage to Robbins Pond before considering further development.

Meadow Brook East Bridgewater, Whitman

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
6.1	First	6.6	River herring

Obstruction # 1 Willow Avenue Dam East Bridgewater

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
0.8	Dam	Concrete	14.0	2.0	0.0	-	-	42º 02’ 10.798” N 70º 57’ 43.058” W

Willow Avenue Dam

Fishway None

Obstruction # 2 Forge Pond Dam East Bridgewater

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
0.8	Dam	Concrete	26.0	6.6	3.0	-	-	42º 02’ 11.867” N 70º 57’ 41.926” W

Forge Pond Dam, with fishway along right edge of the dam

Fishway Present

Design	Material	Length (ft)	Inside W (ft)	Outside W (ft)	# of Baffles	Baffle H (ft)	Notch W (ft)	Pool L (ft)	Condition/ Function
Weir-pool	Concrete with wood baffles	18.0	4.0	6.0	4	N/A (none in at time of survey)	-	Varied (3-6)	Poor Not passable

Remarks:

Before it enters the Matfield River, this stream forms a 3 acre impoundment called Forge Pond. Immediately below the pond is a small dam at Willow Avenue. This 2 foot drop may be passable during spring flows with some adjustment to the notch in the crest. The dam at Forge Pond has a deteriorated fishway which is not currently functional. A population could be restored here if the ladder was repaired, although only a small spawning area would be gained.

Beaver Brook East Bridgewater, Brockton, Abington

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
6.9	First	6.6	Unknown

Obstruction # 1 Hunts Pond Dam (Mill St. Dam) Brockton/Abington line

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
5.4	Dam	Concrete spillway, earthen berm	4.0	5.5	5.3	1920	Cities of Brockton and Abington	42º 05’ 43.384” N 70º 58’ 30.901” W

Hunts Pond Dam

Fishway None

Obstruction # 2 Cleveland Pond Dam Abington

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
6.9	Dam	Concrete	43	6.0	100.0	Repaired 1992	Comm.- of Mass. - DCR	42º 06’ 51.966” N 70º 58’ 42.620” W

Cleveland Pond Dam

Fishway None

Remarks:

Beaver Brook, a tributary of the Matfield, arises in Cleveland Pond (Ames Pond) in Ames Nowell State Park. Along its 7 mile course two obstructions block fish passage. The first is a dam at 5.5 acre, Hunts Pond dam. The second is a 6 foot dam at Cleveland Pond. Both are currently impassable. However, the 100 acres of potential spawning habitat in the upper impoundment suggest that installation of fishways be considered.

Town River — West Bridgewater

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
10.5	Fifth	6.4	River herring

Obstruction # 1 — High Street Dam — West Bridgewater

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
3.8	Dam	Concrete with wooden boards	61	10.0	28.6	-	APC Corp.	42º 00’ 08.889” N 70º 58’ 55.340” W

Fishway at High Street, with dam in background

Fishway — Present

Design	Material	Length (ft)	Inside W (ft)	Outside W (ft)	# of Baffles	Baffle H (ft)	Notch W (ft)	Pool L (ft)	Condition/ Function
Notched weir-pool	Concrete	212.0	4.0	6.0	21	3.0	1.0	6.0	Fair Passable

Obstruction # 2 War Memorial Park Dam West Bridgewater

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
6.4	Dam	Concrete with wooden boards	6.0	3.4	1.8	1900	Town of Bridgewater	42º 00’ 57.591” N 71º 00’ 35.454” W

Fishway at War Memorial Park with dam in background

Fishway Present

Design	Material	Length (ft)	Inside W (ft)	Outside W (ft)	# of Baffles	Baffle H (ft)	Notch W (ft)	Pool L (ft)	Condition/ Function
Notched weir-pool	Concrete	66.0	4.0	6.0	12	1.3	2.0	Varied (3.8-6.2)	Fair Inefficient passage

Remarks:

Town River flows from 370 acre Lake Nippenicket to the Matfield River. Two dams create two small run-of-the-river impoundments along its course. Each of these is equipped with a functional fishway. The first, at High Street, surmounts a ten foot dam. The water level behind the dam was lowered in the mid-1990’s and accordingly, the fishway exit was modified by DMF to accommodate this new elevation. The weir-pool fishway and its associated barrier dam are currently providing adequate passage.

The second dam received extensive repairs in 2001 and, as part of that work a barrier dam was added to direct fish to the fishway entrance. The effect of the barrier dam on passage efficiency hasn’t been assessed as of this writing but the fishway itself, an early notched weir-pool design is inadequate for the population this system should be producing. Consideration should be given to replacement or modification with an aluminum steeppass insert.

Taunton River Watershed Recommendations:

1. Although the Taunton River watershed is currently abundant in anadromous resources, a number of things could be done to improve its capacity to support these fish. A successful American shad restoration program aimed toward developing an active sport-fishery would be of great value. Alternative techniques which have worked in other states should be employed here and a commitment made to reestablishing this species in the system.

2. Efforts should continue to achieve installation of the two fishways for which designs have been developed in the Three Mile River. Full funding for the first fishway has been secured and installation in 2004 is expected.

3. Work should continue on developing a system to prevent sediment buildup and flow reversal at the Pocksha Pond/ Great Quittacas connection in order to insure downstream passage of juveniles.

4. The possibility of modifying the Veterans Memorial Park fishway in West Bridgewater with an aluminum steeppass insert should be pursued.

5. Removal or further breaching of the Plymouth Street dam on the Taunton River should be undertaken.

6. The installation of fish passage facilities at the upper impoundment on Muddy Cove Brook should be pursued.

7. The feasibility of removal of some or all of the dams on the Assonet River in order to restore natural stream habitat should be considered.

8. Removal or partial breaching of the Cotton Mill Dam below Route 106 should be assessed for herring access into the Satucket River system.