



What is a “fish ladder”?



A manmade structure (which often resembles a ladder with steps) that allows fish swimming upstream to get past barriers like dams, waterfalls, and locks.

Baffle fishways look just like ladders! Examples include Denil and Alaskan Steppass.



Weir pools are made up of a series of small pools of regular length to create a long, sloping channel for fish to travel upstream.

River Herring swim very fast in short bursts to pass up the ladder, making for a spectacular show!

A

Woolen Mill Dam and Fishway

Parker River, Newbury

This is the 1st of six dams on the Parker River, and each has a fishway to provide passage to the headwaters in Pentucket Pond.



April 15 - May 15

B

Apple and Pond Street Bridges

Alewife Brook, Essex

DMF maintains an electronic counting station at Pond Street, with current run counts displayed! Bridges are located just off Western Avenue (Route 22).



April 1 - May 1

C

Central Falls Dam and Fishway

Aberjona River, Winchester

The ladder (located off Main Street near Mystic Valley Parkway) was installed in Fall of 2016, providing access to previously inaccessible habitat in Wedge and Horn Ponds.



May 1 - June 1

By the numbers...

There are **13** diadromous species in Massachusetts, including river herring, American eels, and rainbow smelt!

DMF designs and installs eel ramps in coastal rivers to assist their upstream migrations. **9** have been installed in Massachusetts since 2007!

There are over **100** separate river herring runs in Massachusetts!

Since 2013, **23,500** river herring have been stocked throughout the region by DMF!



diadromous, adj. [dahy-ad-ruh-muh s]
1. (of fish) migrating between fresh and salt waters.

Get Involved...

Many areas have dedicated Town Natural Resource Departments and volunteer groups who are very knowledgeable about the watershed and the local fisheries. These groups make many contributions to the conservation of river herring and other diadromous species by increasing public awareness and education.



Brochure Published in 2018 by:
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Visit our website: www.mass.gov/service-details/diadromous-fisheries-project



Rainbow Smelt

Smelt spawn at night in freshwater from early March through May.

Female rainbow smelt can lay between 5,000 and 80,000 eggs!



American Eel

The only catadromous fish in North America, meaning it lives mostly in freshwater but returns to the ocean to reproduce!

RIVER HERRING



VIEWING GUIDE

Each spring, MILLIONS of river herring migrate into Massachusetts waters, returning to their place of birth to create a new generation! This guide offers information on fifteen of our state's busiest fish passage locations.

Life Cycle of a Herring



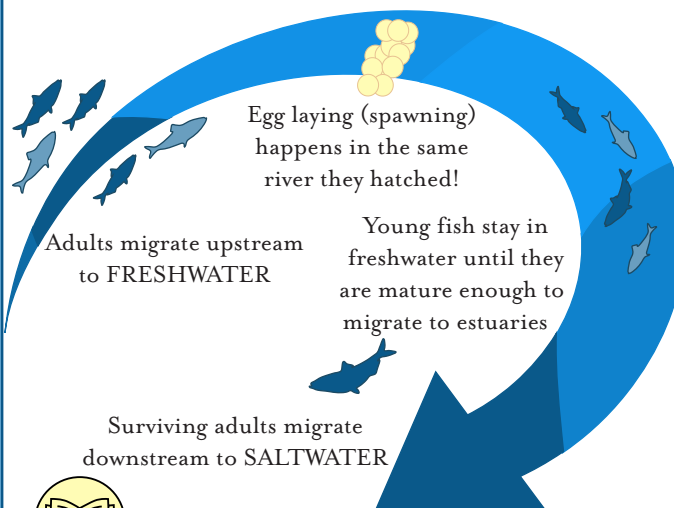
Alewife

Spawn in late March to mid-May, when water temperatures reach 51°F



Blueback Herring

Spawn in late April through June when water temperatures reach 57°F



estuary, noun. [es-tu-ary]
1. a place where freshwater meets the ocean



D **Mystic Lakes Dam and Fishway**
Mystic Lakes, Medford
River herring are counted using an underwater video camera operated by the Mystic River Watershed Association (mysticriver.org)



May 1 - June 1

E **Watertown Dam and Fishway**
Charles River, Watertown
This is the 2nd of eight dams along the Charles River - Extensive efforts from DMF and other agencies has provided 20 miles of fish passage access to upstream spawning habitats!



May 1 - June 15

F **Jackson Square Dam and Fishway**
Back River, Weymouth
The weir-pool fishway (built in the 1990's by DMF) is one of six total fish ladders, spanning 4.8 miles from Boston Harbor to Whitman's Pond.



April 15 - May 15

G **Barker Street Dam and Fishway**
Herring Brook, Pembroke
Near the Allen and High St. intersction, Herring Brook has more than 347 acres of spawning and nursery habitat. Improved passages have greatly increased fish numbers in the pond!



April 15 - May 15

H **War Memorial Park Dam and Fishway**
Town River, West Bridgewater
Town River has 354 acres of spawning and nursery habitat available in Lake Nippinicket. Run viewing is best seen on Arch street (between River and Bryant streets)



April 15 - May 15

I **Oliver Mills Dam and Fishway**
Nemasket River, Middleboro
Located on Nemasket street, just off Rt 44, the river has one of the largest spawning areas in eastern Massachusetts, at more than 5000 acres!



April 1 - May 1

J **Wareham Street Dam and Fishway**
Nemasket River, Middleboro
Located off the Wareham and Sylvan St. intersection, this large weir-pool ladder was designed and constructed by DMF in 1996.



April 1 - May 1

K **Jenny Grist Mill Dam and Fishway**
Town Brook, Plymouth
Substantial improvements have been made to the fishway (including the removal of several dams) to boost access. The Mill is located near the intersection of Summer St. and Spring Ln.



April 15 - May 15

L **Mill Pond Dam and Fishway**
Agawam River, Wareham
More than 500 acres of spawning and nursery habitat are available in the pond and impoundments, which is located just off Rt 6/28 West. Parking is available in the Elk Lodge.



April 1 - May 15

M **Monument River Fishway**
Monument River, Bourne
DMF has monitored this run for more than 30 years using electronic and visual counts to estimate population size, which has ranged from 91,000 fish in 1980 to 672,000 in 2000!



April 15 - May 30

N **Lower Mill Pond Dam and Fishway**
Stony Brook, Brewster
Located near the intersection of Stony Brook and Setucket road, this fishway is described in great detail by John Hay in his book "The Run".



April 15 - May 15

O **Mill Pond Dam and Fishway**
Marstons Mills River, Barnstable
Fish passage restoration work led by the Town has improved access to Middle and Hamblin ponds.



April 15 - May 15