Agenda

• “Return of the Natives: The Journey of River Herring”
• Project Activity & Planning Update
• Proposed Design – Chequessett Neck Road Bridge
• Incremental Restoration & Adaptive Management
• Questions and Discussion

www.friendsofherringriver.org
Organizational Participants

- Association to Preserve Cape Cod
- Cape Cod Conservation District
- Cape Cod National Seashore *
- Coastal America Foundation
- Conservation Law Foundation
- Ducks Unlimited
- Friends of Cape Cod National Seashore
- Friends of Herring River
- Herring River Technical & Stakeholder Committees
- MA Bays Program
- MA Division of Ecological Restoration *
- MA Environmental Trust
- National Park Service
- Natural Resource Conservation Service *
- The Nature Conservancy
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration *
- Town of Truro *
- US Geological Survey
- US Fish & Wildlife Service *
- Town of Wellfleet *
- Wellfleet Conservation Trust

* Herring River Restoration Committee
Herring River Restoration Committee

- Gary Joseph (Town of Wellfleet and Committee Chair)
- Hillary Greenberg (Town of Wellfleet)
- Charleen Greenhalgh (Town of Truro)
- Steve Block (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)
- Eric Derleth (US Fish and Wildlife Service)
- Tim Smith (Cape Cod National Seashore)
- Stephen Spear (Natural Resource Conservation Service)
- Hunt Durey (MA Division of Ecological Restoration)
- Margo Fenn – Project Coordinator
Friends of Herring River
Board of Directors

- Barbara Brennessel
- Lisbeth Wiley Chapman
- Debby Freeman
- Joel Fox
- Jeff Hughes
- Alice Iacuessa
- Gary Joseph

- David Koonce
- Don Palladino
- Alan Platt
- John Portnoy
- Robert Prescott
- John Riehl
- Lynn Southey
Tidal Restoration

The removal of existing restrictions in the river and its tributaries to allow controlled incremental return of natural tidal flow to and from the estuary.
Why are we doing this project?

• To restore self-sustaining tidally influenced habitats
• To achieve ecological and social benefits of a healthy and productive tidal marsh
• To stop the degradation of the marsh. With the restricted tidal flow we have today, the marsh will not stay the same
• To replace the deteriorating Chequessett Neck Road tide gates with an improved tide control structure
Ecological Benefits

• Restore nutrients that are needed for the productivity of the marsh, Wellfleet Harbor and Bay and coastal waters
• Improve water quality through tidal flushing
• Restore finfish and shellfish habitat and eel and herring runs
• Deposit sediment in the estuary to compensate for sea-level rise
• Replace existing degraded habitats with healthy tidally dependent vegetation
Social Benefits

• Reduce pollution (nitrogen, coliform bacteria)
• Improve water quality
• Restore harvestable finfish & shellfish areas lost when the dike was constructed 100 years ago
• Provide public access
• Enhance opportunities for recreation, boating, birding, fin and shellfishing
• Reestablish natural control of nuisance mosquitoes
Major Projects

CNR Dike to be replaced

Pole Dike Tide Control Structure

High Toss Road

Roadwork

Mill Creek Dike
Recently Completed Work

• Incorporation of public comments and responses in the draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report (draft EIS/R)

• Chequessett Neck Road Dike replacement planning
  – Hydrodynamic modeling
  – Geotechnical investigation
  – Proposed conceptual design

• Mill Creek Dike geotechnical investigation

• Studies and preliminary surveys of low-lying properties
Work Currently Underway

• Preparation of the final EIS/EIR
• Review of the proposed design of the Chequessett Neck Road Bridge with MA DOT
• Surveys and impact mitigation discussions with owners of low-lying structures
• Preparation of the Adaptive Management Plan
• Conceptual study of Upper Herring River Culvert Replacement
• Preparation of Third Memorandum of Understanding
New Work Planned This Year

• Chequessett Neck Road Bridge and Tidal Control Structure Design
• Mill Creek Dike Design
• Private Property Mitigation Planning
• Roadway Survey and Design
• Pole Dike Hydrodynamic Studies and Design of Tide Control Structure
• High Toss Road Concepts
• Additional Cultural Resource Assessments
New Work Planned This Year (continued)

• Draft of Adaptive Management Plan

• Project Management
  – Opening an office
  – Hiring professional staff

• Other Friends of Herring River Activities
  – Contract management
  – Continued public outreach
  – School programs
Current Year Funding Support

- Federal - $752,000 Year 2 of 3-year grant from NOAA
- State – Anticipated FY 15 Capital Funding for the Herring River
- Other Funding - $40,000
- Additional grant funding to be pursued

Average 1500 volunteer hours per year used to provide in-kind match for project grants – equates to approximately $45,000 of in-kind services
What’s Next?

• 2014 / 2015 – Final EIS & Record of Decision
• 2014 / 2015 – On-going work with low-lying property owners
• 2014 / 2017 – Continue engineering & design
• 2015 / 2016 – Prepare permit ready designs
• 2015 / 2016 – Obtain local, state and federal permits
• 2015 / 2016 – Secure project funding
• 2017 / 2018 – Begin construction