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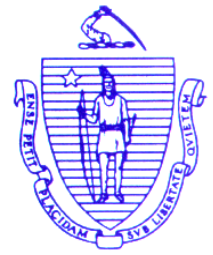
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MEMORANDUM

March 21, 2012

From: John Sheppard, *MarineFisheries*
To: River herring volunteer counting groups

We wish to thank Nicholas Tyak and Eric Hutchins of the NOAA-NMFS Restoration Center for their efforts in coordinating, processing, analysis and reporting results of herring run size estimates from several coastal river systems in Massachusetts from last year (and where available, previous years as well). Their efforts along with those of Dr. Jo Ann Muramoto of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod and the Massachusetts Bays Program were essential in organizing volunteer groups and the execution of a monitoring protocol that is consistent among each group.

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (*MarineFisheries*) has reached an agreement with NOAA to transfer the responsibilities of data collection and processing, analysis and reporting to the staff of *MarineFisheries*. The *MarineFisheries* Anadromous Fish Dynamics and Management Program is responsible for the management and investigations regarding the anadromous fish resources of the Commonwealth. As part of our management responsibilities, *MarineFisheries* is committed to long-term monitoring at various coastal rivers throughout the Commonwealth through population estimation and biological sampling. We seek to expand our monitoring efforts to obtain population estimates from all coastal watersheds and this is accomplished largely through the contributions of town officials, Natural Resource Departments, Watershed Associations, and volunteer counting groups.

MarineFisheries has the interest and resources to store and disseminate all data for each run. Using the protocols and guidelines established in the *MarineFisheries* Technical Report (TR-25; Nelson 2006: http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dmf/publications/tr_25.pdf) which is implemented in the *MarineFisheries* software program and stored in a Microsoft Access master database, *MarineFisheries* staff can process, analyze and report the results. We kindly ask that all volunteer counting groups please send their count data to *MarineFisheries* (ATTN: John Sheppard) 1213 Purchase Street, 3rd Floor, New Bedford, MA 02740. Count data can also be sent electronically (preferably in EXCEL format) to john.sheppard@state.ma.us. We thank you for your continued cooperation and look forward to working with you this spring.