

Connecticut
EMERGENCY
FISHERY CLOSURE



Anadromous
ALEWIFE
&
BLUEBACK HERRING



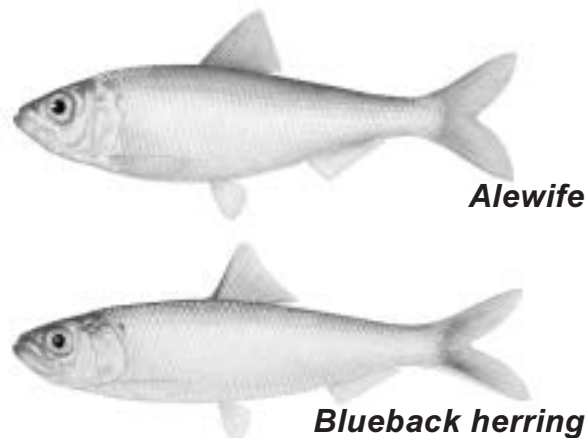
State of Connecticut
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Natural Resources
Inland Fisheries Division
Marine Fisheries Division

- EMERGENCY FISHERY CLOSURE IS IN EFFECT -

THE TAKING OF ANADROMOUS ALEWIFE & BLUEBACK HERRING IS PROHIBITED FROM ALL CONNECTICUT WATERS

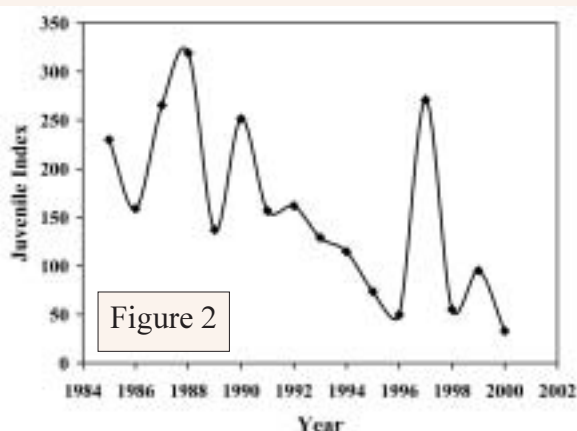
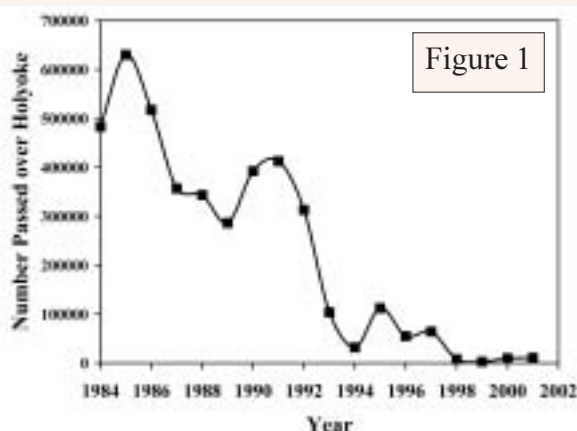
ANADROMOUS RIVER HERRING

- Alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) and blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*) are referred to collectively as river herring.
- They are also called “buckies” or “glut herring”.
- Anadromous river herring migrate as juveniles from freshwater to the ocean and back to freshwater as adults to spawn, similar to salmon and shad.
- Landlocked alewives live their entire lives in freshwater lakes.



DECLINE IN ANADROMOUS RIVER HERRING

- The number of river herring in the Connecticut River has been declining since 1985. Over a **ten year period** (1991-2001) the number of blueback herring passed over the Holyoke Dam has dropped **98%** (figure 1).
- Over the last ten years the blueback herring “juvenile index” (measures the number of young hatched in a year) has dropped **50%** (figure 2).
- River herring abundance is also declining in coastal streams.
- We believe these declines are due to predation resulting from a high abundance of striped bass. The local abundance of striped bass can not be controlled since the species is migratory and harvest is constrained by a coastwide management plan.
- As river herring abundances have declined, DEP has progressively reduced bag limits and closed specific areas.



For the latest information, check our website: www.dep.state.ct.us or contact either the Marine Fisheries Division (860-434-6043) or the Inland Fisheries Division (860-424-3474)

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INTER-CONNECTIONS

- River herring are major prey items of the restored Atlantic Coast striped bass population.
- Healthy river herring populations support many species of gamefish in addition to striped bass.
- Many other species of wildlife depend upon healthy river herring populations as a source of food.



ACTION TAKEN

- Eliminate the harvest of river herring until the stocks recover.
- The Department of Environmental Protection continues to lead in the restoration of river herring in Connecticut's rivers by:
 - ✓ Increasing river herring access to historical spawning habitat through dam removal and fishway construction.
 - ✓ Transplanting pre-spawn adults into rivers that no longer have river herring runs.
 - ✓ Monitoring health of river herring populations.



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CLOSURE AREA

All Connecticut waters, including Long Island Sound, are closed to the taking of anadromous river herring (alewives & blueback herring) by any method until further notice.

NOTE

We do not believe that closing the fishery will result in an immediate recovery.

HOWEVER

Closing the entire fishery:

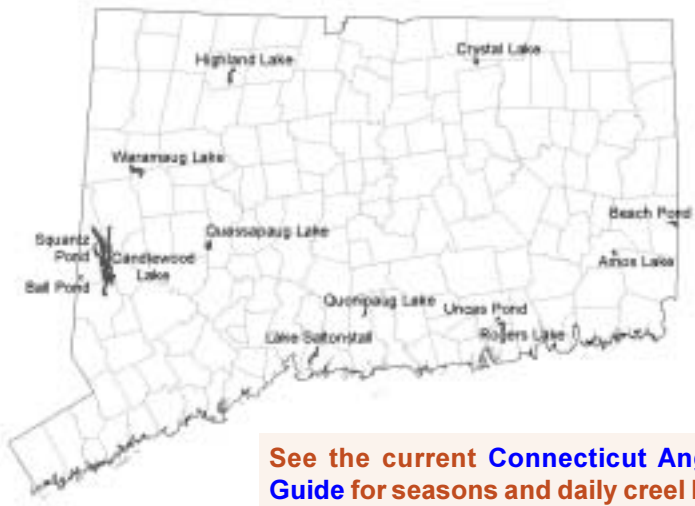
- May reduce the threat of elimination.
- May enable river herring populations to recover more quickly in years when striped bass are less abundant.
- Will avoid concentrating fishing effort and depleting herring populations in remaining areas.



LANDLOCKED ALEWIFE

Landlocked alewife may be taken by angling or scoop net from only the following lakes:

- Amos Lake
- Ball Pond
- Beach Pond
- Candlewood Lake
- Crystal Lake (Ellington)
- Highland Lake
- Quassapaug Lake
- Quonipaug Lake
- Rogers Lake
- Squantz Pond
- Uncas Lake
- Waramaug Lake.



See the current **Connecticut Angler's Guide** for seasons and daily creel limits.

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Alewife and blueback herring images Copyright by Joseph Tomelleri, more color illustrations of Connecticut fish by this world-renowned artist can be found in the Connecticut Angler's Guide. Osprey photo by Paul J. Fusco (CT-DEP).