

EPA Official Record

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From: Phil Colarusso/R1/USEPA/US

To: Ann Williams/R1/USEPA/US@EPA; Mike Marsh/R1/USEPA/US@EPA

Delivered Date: 07/05/2012 01:52 PM EDT

Subject: Fw: New Bedford Harbor

I had put in an inquiry to Mass DMF the diadromous fish question. Here is the response that could prove helpful.

----- Forwarded by Phil Colarusso/R1/USEPA/US on 07/05/2012 01:50 PM -----

From: "Sheppard, John (FWE)" <john.sheppard@state.ma.us>
To: "Chase, Brad (MISC)" <brad.chase@state.ma.us>, Phil Colarusso/R1/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 07/05/2012 01:43 PM
Subject: RE: New Bedford Harbor

Hello Mr. Colarusso:

In reference to your question, the Acushnet River harbors the following diadromous species:

1. Alewife
2. Blueback herring
3. Rainbow smelt
4. White perch
5. American eel
6. Winter flounder

A Time-Of-Year (TOY) restriction on dredging and blasting covering a period from Jan. 15 – June 30 is required to protect spawning adults and nursery habitat for juveniles. In addition, all measures to minimize the impacts of dredging and siltation (i.e. silt curtains) while allowing a sufficient channel of un-disturbed water flow (to allow adults and juveniles to migrate through the work areas) also recommended.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

John

John J. Sheppard

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From: Chase, Brad (FWE)

Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2012 5:00 PM

To: Phil Colarusso

Cc: Sheppard, John (FWE)

Subject: RE: New Bedford Harbor

Hi Phil,

Warm sounds good to me. I hope you and your family are doing well too. I am coming for the 18th-21st for a river herring workshop with my family and to visit Gloucester. I don't know for sure if I can fit a dive in. Maybe a morning or night dive on the 20th or 21st. I've got to figure out my schedule. If not then, maybe I'll come up later for a meeting and stay a night.

That information sounds about right for the Acushnet River. But I copied John Sheppard and want to respond as well. John has been leading our monitoring in the Acushnet River and is very familiar with the fish runs and restoration project. He also is our first contact for environmental review questions on sea-run fish. John, please get back to Phil on this.

Thanks and enjoy tomorrow's holiday, Brad

From: Phil Colarusso [<mailto:colarusso.phil@epamail.epa.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2012 10:09 AM

To: Chase, Brad (FWE)

Subject: New Bedford Harbor

Brad,

Hopes this email finds you well. The water on Cape Ann has been ridiculously warm this season, temps in the mid to upper 60s in June! Let me know if you are going to make it up this year and want to get in the water. I'm working on the State Enhanced Remedy for New Bedford and just wanted to check in on the status of diadromous fish activity in the Acushnet. From a DEIR, that Mass CZM put out in 1999, they list alewife and possibly rainbow smelt as being present in the Acushnet River. They did not see any evidence of shad or bluebacks. They did catch an occasional white perch. Does this assemblage sound about right to you. As part of this project, the state is proposing extensive dredging and potentially some blasting. They have proposed the use of silt curtains, but I would like them to adhere to windows as well. State imposed the winter flounder spawning window on a private dredger in the same system. Any thoughts?

Thanks

Phil