

Kevin Job Presentation/Slides Annotations

With limited time, the River Herring Rebound Team prioritized the slides that we did not get to see before the power went out. After their spring break, they'll add annotations for the rest. Once they do, if you can print these annotations out and enlarge the slides, you'll get the easiest to interpret results.

But **try it!!** The more easy-to-understand slides are closer to the beginning of the presentation anyway.

If you want the slides to be enlarged, double click on the slide box. If not, single click. Click on side Arrows to advance or reverse.

Thank you, US Coast Guard Academy River Herring Rebound Team!!

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19. In 2021, NOAA Fisheries implemented an amendment by the New England Fishery Management Council to protect Atlantic herring by prohibiting midwater trawl gear in inshore waters. Then in 2022, this policy was reversed, allowing unrestricted fishing.

20. 2022 saw the best alewife migration in centuries.

21. This slide shows the longer term efforts. There's been a 23 year recreational ban on take of Alewife and Blueback Herring in CT. This comes as a result of large state and federal tax investment toward recovery, hydroelectric restrictions and requirements, and State, federal and NGO investment.

22. Potential solutions to bring the fish back are a need for commercial fishery observers (portside at the minimum), increasing observer coverage, reinstating an avoidance program, updating the DNA data set to identify the most impacted stocks, and studying whether catch caps are geographically/time biased?

23. Next step is working on Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Herring Fisheries Management Plan to support the rebuilding of Atlantic Herring. This plan will enhance river herring and catch reduction. Upcoming meeting dates are shown.

24. Your support is vital and will help us bring back River Herring through shad avoidance and catch reduction.

25. The decline of River Herring has been in the news recently, here are some examples.

26. The more people we have to support and advocate for amendment 10, the better. In Mystic we had over 100 attendees, 34 public comments, and 11 council and committee members.

27. Written and oral comments submitted by the community about the importance of river herring to them is also important in getting this policy in place. There were almost 900 comments made from individuals and businesses on why we need amendment 10.

28. Of these comments, many addressed the need to reduce incidental catch or bycatch, which is one of the biggest threats to the river herring population. Bycatch is when fishing vessels catch an untargeted species (in this case river herring). Temporal (seasonal) and spatial closures would help fix this issue if Midwater Trawling (MWT) Vessels were restricted from areas in and around Long Island Sound where river herring aggregate before entering inland to spawn.

29. There were three motions to direct the Atlantic Herring Plan Development Team (PDT), which is part of the New England Fishery Management Council, and helps manage the fishery by setting catch limits and regulations. These three actions were to investigate time/area closures in management areas 2 and 3, assess the current catch cap program to determine its effectiveness, and provide recommendations to improve accuracy and precision of river herring catch estimates.

30. Looking at the bycatch ratios of river herring from four different fisheries, it is apparent that the cape cod midwater trawl and the southern New England bottom trawl are the two most detrimental fisheries to river herring bycatch. They have also skyrocketed since 2022 and again these are just references from what fisheries have reported but many aren't verified by observers and may not be accurate.

31. This map shows where herring fishing is concentrated in 2015 to 2016 based on Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) which is a satellite based tracking system that monitors the location and movement of commercial fisheries. As you can see the red hot spots are located right where river herring accumulate before spawning causing the bycatch issue.

32. This is why the work you all do in gathering data is so important to getting the numbers and proof to show how the river herring population is doing and in getting this amendment passed and stopping this bycatch. Thank you! Reach out to Kevin.job@ct.gov with any questions.