

Data Sharing Plan

The Town Brook Restoration Program for the Plymco Dam and Holmes Dam Removal Projects (#NA13NMF4630129), implemented by the Town of Plymouth, will generate environmental data and information, including implementation and basic effectiveness monitoring such as existing and post-removal topography; existing and post-removal channel width, slope, and maximum jump height at the barrier site; the presence/absence of river herring (alewife, blueback herring) pre- and post-removal upstream of the barrier site, and annual fish run data to calculate an estimate of the returning numbers of river herring to Town Brook during the award period. Town of Plymouth Department of Marine and Environmental Affairs staff will oversee the collection of all data.

Data necessary to estimate the number of returning river herring to Town Brook will be collected utilizing staff and volunteers using methodologies (Nelson 2006) and Visual Counts software developed by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries IDMF). Visual Counts uses a stratified random sampling method that requires randomly selected sampling units of uniform length (i.e., all 10-minute counts) to calculate mean numbers of herring migrating upstream per unit time. Count data will be entered into Visual Counts software following outlined protocols for Observation date, Observer, Start Time, End Time, Count, etc. An estimated dozen volunteers and town staff will collect between 2 - 6 ten-minute counts per day between April 1 and June 1st of each year.

Staff will be recording the information on the NOAA Restoration Center Fish Passage Barrier Removal Performance Measures and Monitoring Worksheet. Raw data will be maintained in the Department and will also be provided on an annual basis to the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries.

The data sets will include data collected by the Town of Plymouth, Milone and MacBroom, Inc., (MMI) and the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration. Data will include photographs from GPS located photo-stations, annual herring counts during spring migration. MMI will collect post-construction survey data as part of the as-built plan including topography, channel width, stream depth, etc.

Additionally, post-restoration as-built survey topography data at the dam removal site will be collected by Milone and MacBroom, Inc. within one year of implementation. Topographic data will be collected via standard survey techniques. The results will be recorded electronically and in field notebooks. All data collection will be processed in Microstation V8 format and submitted electronically. Separate files for topography, contours, text labeling will be provided. These data will be interpreted by project partners to extract the variables noted above (channel width, slope, and maximum jump height) which will be recorded on NOAA Restoration Center Fish Passage Barrier Removal Performance Measures and Monitoring Worksheet along with estimate acres/stream miles and spawning habitat made accessible.

Water quality data will be collected by Kim Tower, Environmental Technician Town of Plymouth, according to the Town's Quality Assurance Project Plan and the procedures described in the Town of Plymouth's Surface Water Sampling Standard Operating Procedures and found as Appendix F in the Nutrient Management Plan Data Reports found on the Town's website. These data will be interpreted by the Town of Plymouth and/or their partners to extract the variables noted above (channel width, slope, and maximum jump height) which will be recorded on the NOAA Restoration Center Fish Passage Barrier Removal Performance Measures and Monitoring Worksheet along with estimated acres/stream miles made accessible..

The collected data will be available to the public upon request by contacting David Gould at dgould@townhall.plymouth.ma.us for more information or to make a data request. In the past we have shared similar data through grant progress reports. Any sub-awardees or project partners will accept this data sharing plan as a condition of their related agreements with the Town of Plymouth.