

## **Slough Pond, Brewster**

### **Potential options for management of water, and of upstream and downstream passage of adult and juvenile river herring in 2025**

**Primary Management Goals:** Maximize the number of spawning-age adults returning to the ocean after spawning in the freshwaters of the Stony Brook watershed, and maximize the number of juvenile river herring that leave Slough Pond in the best condition possible to swim downstream to the ocean.

#### **Option 1 – No Action**

Take no actions at the Walkers Pond or the Slough Pond ends of the channel, nor anywhere along the Slough Pond channel. If sufficient water is present allow both adult and juvenile river herring to move wherever they want and make no interventions.

#### **Option 2 – Maintain Upstream & Downstream Passage with Sandbags, Debris Removal, & Monitoring of Water Depth**

##### **Migration of Adult River Herring – Upstream & Downstream**

Use installation of sandbags at the Slough Pond end of the channel, and positioning and repositioning of those sandbags throughout March, April and May to maintain sufficient water depth in the entire channel to allow upstream migrating adult river herring to enter Slough Pond to deposit eggs, and then to migrate back downstream into Walkers Pond to continue their journey back out to saltwater. Any leaves, pine needles, sticks, or trash can be removed from the two ends of the channel and the channel itself if they are preventing passage of adults upstream or downstream. This work will only be done by Town staff, including the Herring Wardens.

##### **Migration of Juvenile Herring June-December 2025**

Use positioning and repositioning of sandbags at the Slough Pond end of the channel to maintain sufficient water depth in the entire channel to allow juvenile river herring of any size to migrate downstream into Walkers Pond and head to saltwater.

To allow for downstream passage of juvenile river herring, visually monitor the Slough Pond end of the channel and if juvenile river herring of any size are present, and sufficient water depth is available, move sandbags to allow flow of water downstream until all juveniles seen present at that location have moved into the channel. If water depth in the channel is not sufficient to allow downstream passage to Walkers Pond, continue to use the sandbags to hold water in Slough Pond until enough is present to allow passage. This work will only be done by Town staff, including the Herring Wardens.

### **Option 3 - Maintain Upstream & Downstream Passage with Sandbags, Debris Removal AND Sediment Removal, & Monitoring of Water Depth**

#### **Migration of Adult River Herring – Upstream & Downstream**

Use installation of sandbags at the Slough Pond end of the channel, and positioning and repositioning of those sandbags throughout March, April and May to maintain sufficient water depth in the entire channel to allow upstream migrating adult river herring to enter Slough Pond to deposit eggs, and then to migrate back downstream into Walkers Pond to continue their journey back out to saltwater. **For upstream passage of adults, any leaves, sticks, or trash** can be removed from the two ends of the channel and the channel itself if the material will prevent passage. **For downstream passage of adults, in addition to leaves, sticks, and trash removal, a plan for the minor removal of sediment can be made** in coordination with the Town of Brewster Natural Resources Department staff, Town of Brewster Conservation Department staff, and the Brewster Herring Wardens. This physical work will only be done by Town staff, including the Herring Wardens.

#### **Migration of Juvenile Herring June-December 2025**

Use positioning and repositioning of sandbags at the Slough Pond end of the channel to maintain sufficient water depth in the entire channel to allow juvenile river herring of any size to migrate downstream into Walkers Pond and head to saltwater.

To allow for downstream passage of juvenile river herring, visually monitor the Slough Pond end of the channel.

If juvenile river herring of any size are present, **and sufficient water depth is available**, position sandbags to allow flow of water downstream until all juveniles seen present at that location have moved into the channel and into Walkers Pond.

**If water depth in the channel is *not* sufficient** to allow downstream passage to Walkers Pond, **the Brewster Herring Wardens will coordinate with the Town of Brewster Natural Resources Department staff, and Town of Brewster Conservation Department staff to make a plan for *minor removal of sediment* to allow downstream passage of juveniles.**

This work will only be done by Town staff, including the Herring Wardens.

### **Option 4 - Do not allow adult upstream migrating river herring to enter Slough Pond.**

Use installation of nets at the Walkers Pond end of the channel to completely block their access to Slough Pond. Monitor and maintain the nets throughout the upstream migration season. This work will only be done by Town staff, including the Herring Wardens.