

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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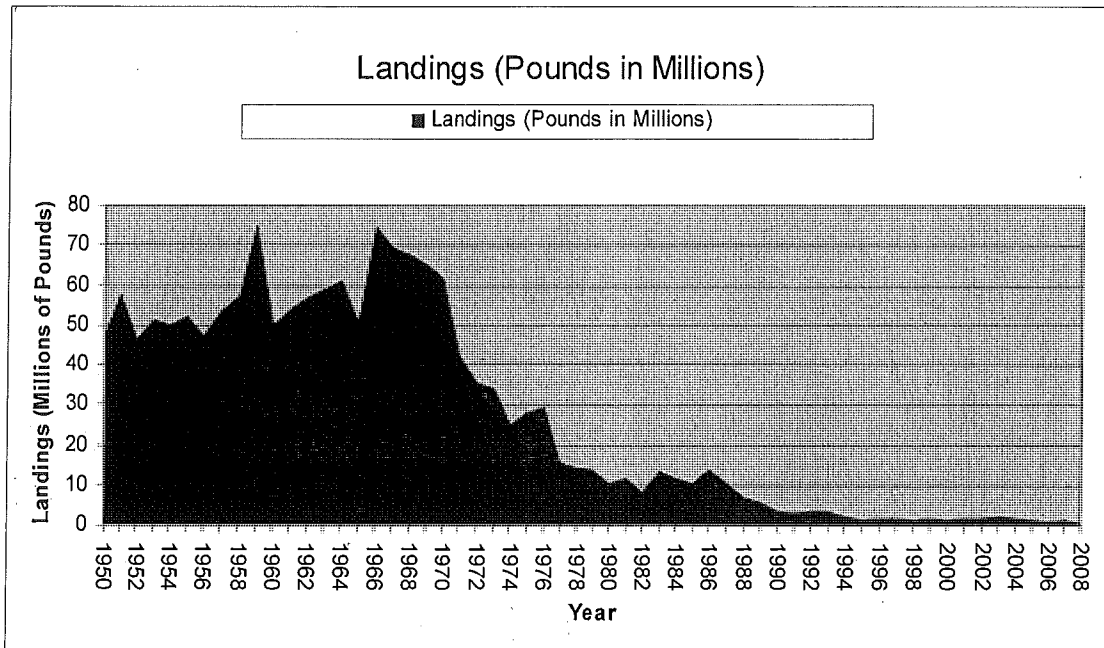


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## River Herring Update to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

### Effects of Amendment 2 of the ASMFC American Shad and River Herring Plan on River Herring Management in Maine.

The objective of Amendment 2 to the ASMFC American Shad and River Herring Plan is to address concerns that river herring populations along the East Coast, including Maine, are at historically low levels.



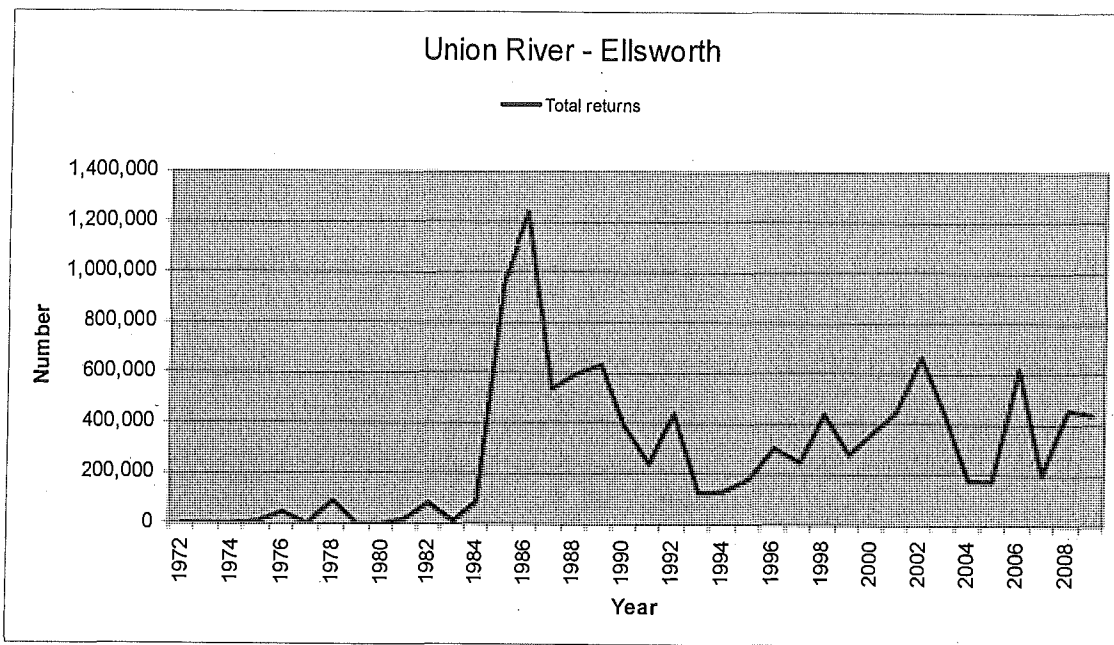
East Coast (all states)

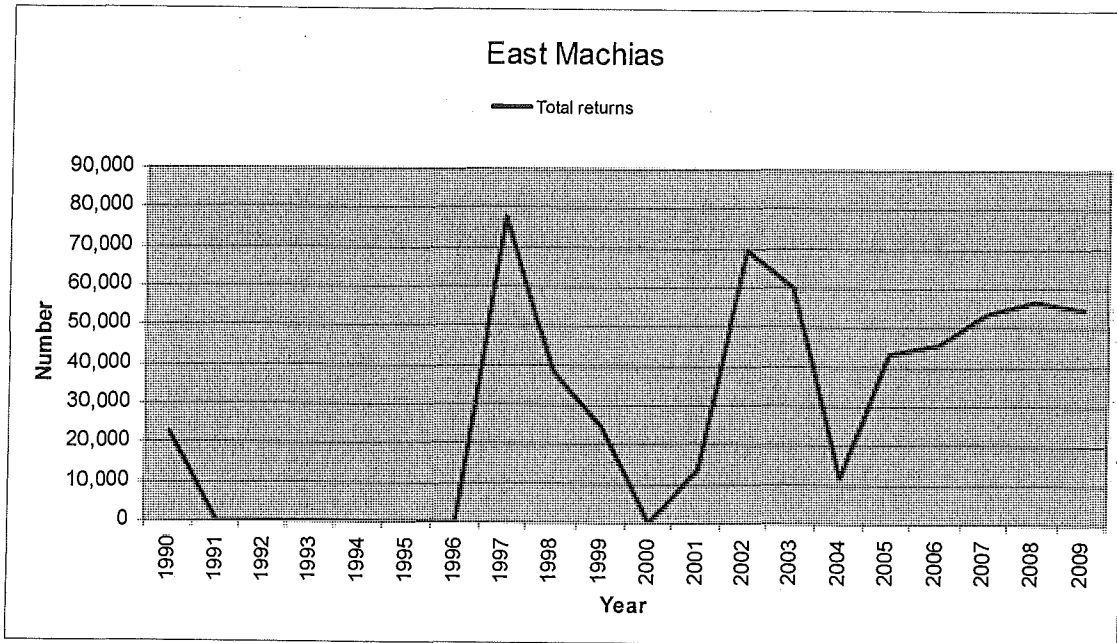
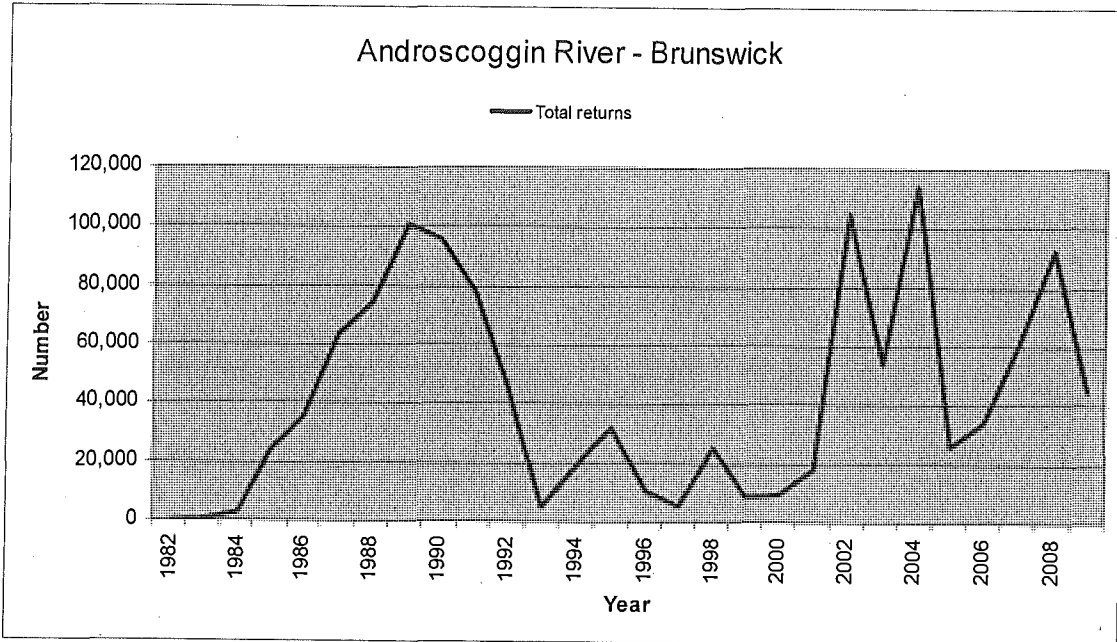
Amendment 2 is designed to do the following in Maine and other East Coast states in respect to river herring populations.

- ASMFC designed Amendment 2 to prevent further declines of river herring populations along the East Coast.
  - Address causes for declining numbers of river herring within Maine and other states.
    - Overfishing
    - Habitat Loss
    - Bycatch
- Increase our understanding of river herring fisheries, stock dynamics, and population health.
- Requires all states from Maine to North Carolina to implement additional monitoring programs to maintain current commercial fisheries (mandatory reporting and biological sampling)
- **On January 1, 2012 Amendment 2 will close all directed commercial river herring fisheries without sufficient biological data to indicate these fisheries are sustainable (approximately 70% of all Maine river herring fisheries)**
- On January 1, 2012 Amendment 2 will close all recreational river herring fisheries without sufficient biological data to indicate this fishery is sustainable.

- Requires mandatory reporting of numbers, weight, and effort for all in-river fisheries that catch river herring.
- Based on sample results will not permit any in-river fishery with a high bycatch of river herring. (This will include current seine, weir, gill net fisheries in Maine rivers)
- ASMFC will not provide funding to achieve mandatory sampling or monitoring to maintain any commercial or recreational fishery in any state affected by Amendment 2.

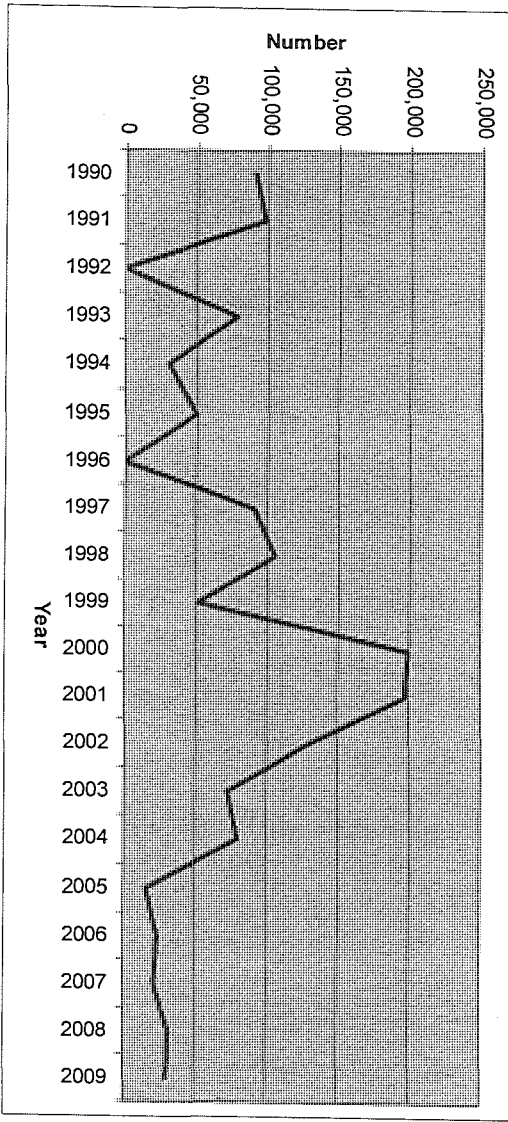
### Example of Current Runs of River Herring in Maine

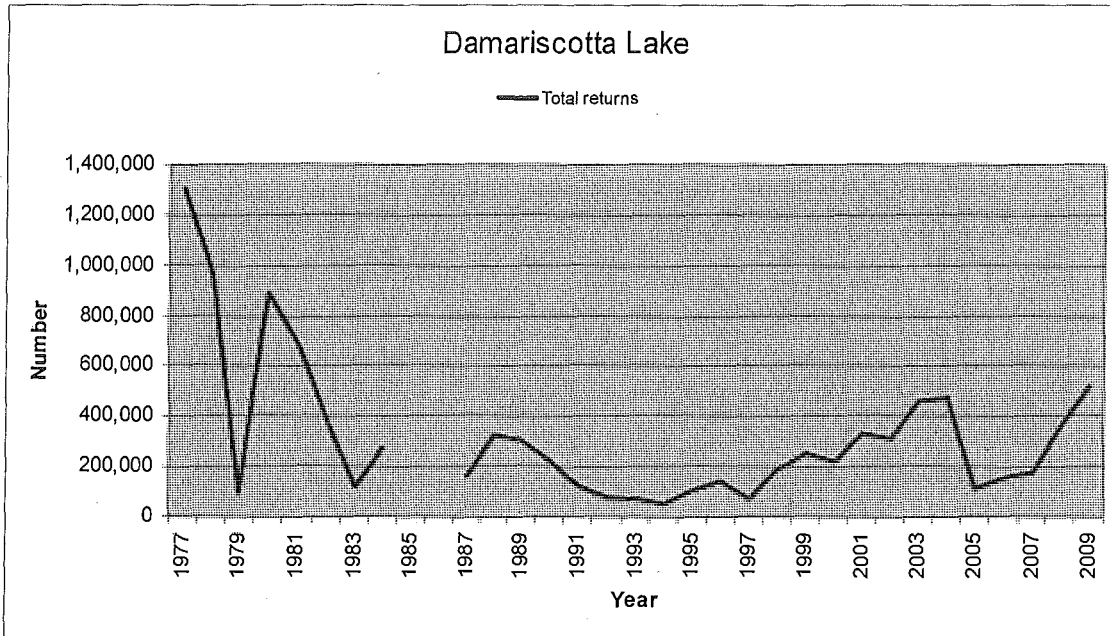




# Phippsburg

Total returns





### Sebasticook River Run

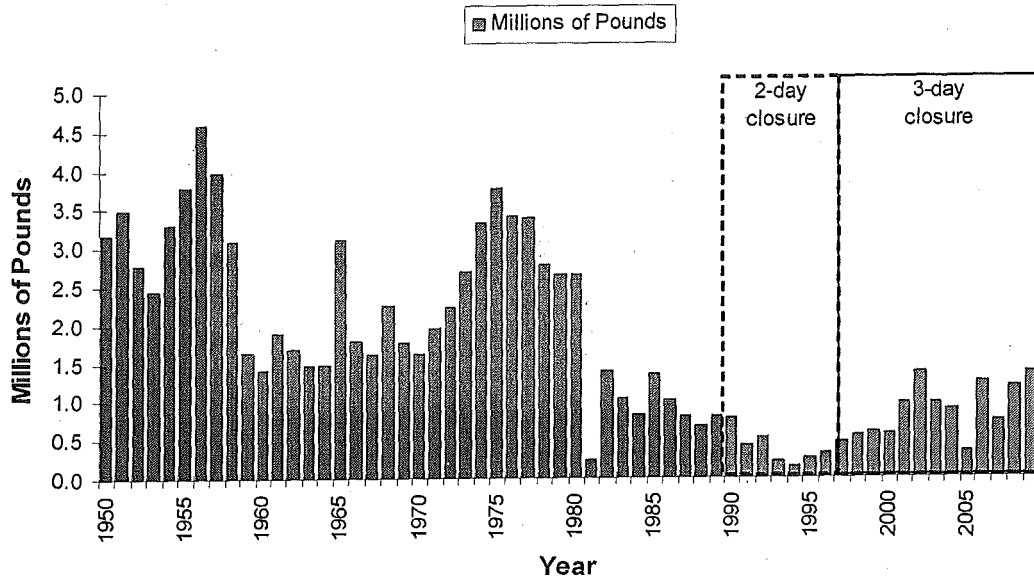
In 2008 the Sebasticook River was reopened to the harvest of river herring. DMR staff operates a fish counting station at the Benton Falls Dam in Benton, Maine. This year's run was the largest run of river herring on the east coast.

- 1.3 million fish were passed upstream of Benton Falls.
- Additionally, 600,000 fish were harvested below the dam
- **The total run in the Sebasticook River was 1.9 million river herring**
  - 180,000 of these fish made it into Sebasticook Lake in Newport, Maine



Counting Window at Benton Falls Dam

### State of Maine Alewife Landings



### **Budget Issues (related to river herring) for the Bureau**

The Bureau of Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat is under increased fiscal pressure do the lost of Federal Funds and the upcoming loss of mitigation funds that were all targeted towards shad and river herring restoration throughout the State of Maine.

- Funds Lost: Congress deappropriated the funding associated with the Anadromous Fish Restoration Act in 2009.
  - Annual impact to Bureau - \$140,000
  
- Funds to be lost: The Kennebec Hydro Development Group Mitigation Account (KHDG) current covers \$500,000 of annual expenses for the Bureau. This funding, established in 1998, will expire in 2011.