



Media Advisory

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NOAA and partners dedicate fish passages on the Acushnet River

The New Bedford Harbor Trustee Council, which includes NOAA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the state of Massachusetts, will celebrate the completion of three fish passages on Thursday, Oct. 11 and give the public and media a tour of the fishways. The \$1.4 million project included the construction of fishways at Acushnet Sawmill Dam, Hamlin Street Dam and the New Bedford Reservoir. The fishways enable river herring, eels and other migratory fish to swim from Buzzards Bay up the Acushnet River and into the New Bedford Reservoir, an important spawning area for herring. Partners include the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, the Coalition for Buzzards Bay and the town of Acushnet.

Increasing the amount of habitat for fish helps restore their populations and improves the overall health of the ecosystem. River herring are important food for species such as striped bass and bluefish.

WHEN: Thursday, Oct. 11, 11 a.m. with guided tour of Acushnet Sawmill and Hamlin Street fish passages at noon

WHERE: Acushnet Sawmill Site, 38 Mill Road, Acushnet, Massachusetts.

WHO: New Bedford Harbor Trustee Council

Kenneth Kimmell, General Counsel for the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Dale Young, Trustee representative and Natural Resources Damages Program Director for EOEEA

Christopher Mantzaris, Deputy Regional Administrator of NOAA Fisheries

Michael Bartlett, Field Supervisor for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mark Rasmussen, Coalition for Buzzards Bay

State Rep. Robert M. Koczera and State Rep. John Quinn.

The New Bedford Harbor Trustee Council is composed of trustee representatives from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the U.S. Department

of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Council administers a \$20.4 million fund derived from settlements with manufacturers that discharged polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) into New Bedford Harbor and the Acushnet River. The fund is dedicated solely to the restoration of injured natural resources and their uses. For more information about the Trustee Council, please visit their website at www.restorenbh.gov