Blueback Herring
(Alosa aestivalis)

Second species:
Alewife (Alosa pseudoharengus)

• WELCOME TO THE •

Upper Mystic Lake Dam

1864-65

1890's

1972

2009-12

2017

The Upper Mystic Lake Dam was built to enhance Charlestown's water supply

River herring spawn and hatch in freshwater, and live in the ocean until adulthood (3-5 years).

American Eels spawn and and hatch in the Sargasso Sea, and ascend streams to mature in freshwater. The use of the lake for water supply ended, but the dam remained

The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) was founded

Rehabilitation of the Upper Mystic Lake Dam



American Eel (Anauilla rostrata) The Mystic River watershed is now home to one of the most productive river herring runs in the Commonwealth, with around 600,000 fish counted in recent years. mysticriver.org/herring-monitoring

• Dam repairs and structural additions

• Fish ladder for river herring spawning

• Eel ramp for passage of American eels

MyRWA, MA DMF and DCR work with MIT Sea Grant and a variety of partners on research and outreach activities | mysticriver.org EPA Grant No. CE96173901 | MassBays National Estuary Program

system install







MIT SEA GRANT

the dam. Citizen scientists help count river herring as they migrate into the lake. Videos are uploaded in real time. Visit www.mysticherring.org to count!

From April to June, an underwater camera system records videos when it detects fish passing through



seagrant.mit.edu

www.mass.gov/orgs/division-of-marine-fisheries www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-conservation-recreation