

## **TOWN OF VASSALBORO**

### **RIVER HERRING (ALEWIFE) ORDINANCE - 2025**

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#### **Regulations for the taking of alewives shall be as follows:**

- The harvesting of alewives to occur in the existing fish passage/harvesting facility designed for this purpose.
- The maximum mesh size of wire, twine, or other material used in the fish way exit flume shall not exceed one inch by one inch (1" x 1").
- The Town of Vassalboro designates Brandon Olsen (207-542-5237) of Friendship, Maine to be the harvester under contract with the town through 2029. The harvester and any aides will possess a valid Pelagic License through the Maine Department of Marine Resources.
- There will be no minimum escapement of river herring required prior to opening the fishery to harvest.
- There shall be a 72-hour weekly closed period on alewives from sunrise each Thursday morning until sunrise the following Sunday morning. Continuous escapement of river herring shall occur throughout the run. Maine Department of Marine Resources personnel will oversee the harvest and escapement of river herring during open season. Maine Department of Marine Resources personnel will supervise escapement during the 72-hour closed period season.
- Migratory fish such as American eel, salmon, shad, brook trout, sea lamprey, and brown trout that enter the trap shall be allowed to pass upstream. All other species will be returned to the stream below the fish way. Invasive species such as pike, white catfish and European carp will be removed from the fish way and retained for inspection by department personnel.
- Fishing operations shall cease and all fishing gear obstructing the passage of fish shall be removed from the fishing waters not later than June 5.
- The weekly and total landings in pounds or bushels and the unit of sale (i.e.: crate, tote, etc.) and value of the catch shall be made available to the Maine Department of Marine Resources and/or National Marine Fisheries Service on request by these agencies.
- The Maine Department reserves the right to close or modify the fishery if escapement needs are not achieved during the run.

#### **ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS**

##### **FOR STREAMS WITH ATLANTIC SALMON RUNS**

- The entrance to the dipping pen or trap shall be covered by bars, slats, or spacers with a maximum width of two inches (2") between said bars, slats or spacers.
- Dipping of alewives shall be confined to the dipping pen or trap.