

River Herring Network – Survey on First Meeting 10/19/11

15 respondents, collected through 11/1/11

The length of the meeting was just right (60%). 33% thought it was too short and 6.7% thought it was too long.

Overall, folks thought the content of the meeting was useful or very useful:

2. Please evaluate the usefulness of the meeting's content:

	not useful	useful	very useful	Response Count
Overall content	0.0% (0)	42.9% (6)	57.1% (8)	14
Matt McKenzie's talk on the history of river herring	0.0% (0)	53.3% (8)	46.7% (7)	15
Brad Chase's talk on DMF run regulations	0.0% (0)	26.7% (4)	73.3% (11)	15
John Sheppard's talk on DMF monitoring efforts	0.0% (0)	46.7% (7)	53.3% (8)	15
Melissa Sanderson's talk on using the new website	0.0% (0)	42.9% (6)	57.1% (8)	14
Eric Hutchins' talk on the draft results of the visual herring run counts.	0.0% (0)	38.5% (5)	61.5% (8)	13
JoAnn Muramoto's talk on river herring counts	7.7% (1)	61.5% (8)	30.8% (4)	13

The breakout session was the right amount of time (64.3%). 28.6% thought it was too short and 7.1% thought it was too long. 84.6% thought it was a good use of time.

The majority thought there was enough time to network with each other (64.3%).

The group was split 50-50 on there being enough time allowed for questions and answers.

Most people prefer to meet weekday afternoons:

**8. What are the best times/days of the week for you to attend River Herring Network meetings?
(check all that apply)**

	Response Percent	Response Count
weekdays	80.0%	12
weekends	6.7%	1
morning	46.7%	7
afternoon	86.7%	13
evening	0.0%	0

Overall Thoughts about the meeting

- I think that the meeting only seemed too short as it was the first true meeting of the river herring network. I think 3 hours should be enough time, and liked the option to stick around later for further discussion, although unfortunately I could not that day.
- The concept of this being a network of 'wardens' needs to be reconsidered. In many towns and runs wardens either do not exist or they are not the only critical players.
- Great effort overall. It would have been helpful to have a person or moderator at each breakout-station to "guide" discussion as sometimes there were pages of scribbled comments and not much time to see if your own comments had been covered.
- We should ensure more direct communication between DMF and the Network regarding the upcoming extension, or not, of the moratorium
- We needed about one more hour for the meeting. Dinner was great, but lets pick somewhere less pricey next time. We're all on fish salaries.
- I liked the meeting. Was helpful.
- Too bad we didn't have meetings like this years ago!
- Very well planned and executed - kudos to all involved! 2) Think it should both held more often and of longer duration. 3) Maybe should have any handouts given available online [ran out of a couple]. 4) What about recording the talks? (Even just audio would be good). And make available online.
- Would you like to make a presentation to the Ma. Shellfish Officers Assc? We have a March meeting and a June meeting. Paul
- lets keep progressing
- Would you like to have time for results of the break out session. Other than that, great job to the organizers!

Ideas for Professional Development

- Add American Eel and other anadromous/catadromous species to the group's official charge. 2. Field trips to other runs. 3. Volunteer (fish count and run maintenance) appreciation event. 4. Help with O&M plans and grant writing would be good though we do get some assistance from APCC. 5. Anything that would help make data entry and reporting faster!
- Advocate for getting any and all historic records from DMF regarding herring run populations. Does this data exist or not? Why do municipalities not have it? How about a anadromous fish 101 bio course for folks, that would be great. How about a workshop on restoration and dam removals as opposed to old school fishways
- Before a grantwriting workshop, how about a workshop that describes what funding sources are even out there, what they require, etc.
- I would like to see a discussion on maintenance
- We're developing a comprehensive set of instructions for the implementation of a counting program and would be happy to allow the Network to share it with members.
- All the above plus outreach to volunteers might be helpful
- group training, volunteer recruitment