

## 2015 State of Wellfleet Harbor Conference Set for November 7

### For Immediate Release

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With planning, and engineering work underway, the restoration of the Herring River will be a focus of the 13<sup>th</sup> annual State of Wellfleet Harbor Conference on Saturday, November 7 from 8:30 AM–1 PM at the Wellfleet Elementary School. The conference is free and open to the public.

The conference will feature scientists and others involved in the planned phase-in of natural tidal flow to the Herring River estuary through a process known as adaptive management. Restoration ecologist Tim Smith of the Cape Cod National Seashore, who will introduce the topic, will be followed by US Geological Survey scientists charged with monitoring the impacts of the restoration. Surveys of fish populations in the river, marsh birds, and a talk about how restored salt marshes can improve resilience to climate change also will be presented.

Conference moderator Abigail Archer says this year's event will bring together some of the key players involved in the river restoration.

"This will be a great opportunity to ask questions about the return of tidal flow to the Herring River and the monitoring that will be done in order to fine tune the management process. I'm also looking forward to hearing results from the two-year river herring passage study that has been tracking fish movements through culverts and the dike."

The conference will conclude with a talk about a community-based approach to planning for the impact of climate change on shellfishing in Wellfleet Harbor. There will also be a presentation on last year's unprecedented sea turtle stranding season on the Cape including a preview of an upcoming documentary.

On Sunday morning from 10–12 noon, there will be a free field trip—a tour of Fresh Brook. Those interested in attending may sign up for the field trip on the day of the conference. Directions on where to meet will also be available at that time.

Sponsors of this year's State of Wellfleet Harbor Conference include Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank, Mid Cape Home Centers, the Town of Wellfleet, the Wellfleet Conservation Trust, Friends of the Herring River and Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Food donations are being made by Mac's Seafood, the Wellfleet Box Lunch, Dunkin Donuts, the South Wellfleet General Store, and PB Boulangerie.

For more information, visit [www.massaudubon.org/wellfleet-harbor-conference](http://www.massaudubon.org/wellfleet-harbor-conference), email contact conference coordinator Jenette Kerr at [jkerr@massaudubon.org](mailto:jkerr@massaudubon.org) or call 508-349-2615, extension 122.