



NEW JERSEY FIELD OFFICE FIELD NOTES DECEMBER 2014



Alewife in Wreck Pond

Last month the first documented young-of-the-year alewife was caught in Wreck Pond. The alewife is an anadromous fish, meaning that it spawns in freshwater, but lives most of its adult life in the ocean. Currently the only connection between the ocean and Wreck Pond is a culvert that runs underneath the beach along the boundary between the Boroughs of Spring Lake and Sea Girt. Fish passage is inhibited by limited light and high water velocities within the pipe. Stormwater runoff is impairing water quality and filling in the lower part of the watershed with sedimentation. Catching young-of-the-year shows that despite these manmade hurdles, alewife are successfully spawning, hatching, and growing in the watershed. The young-of-the-year monitoring is part of an effort funded by the NJDEP to determine the status of alewife in the watershed before an additional culvert funded by the USFWS will be built next year. The American Littoral Society (ALS) was contracted to do the fish monitoring and supervise construction of the culvert. The culvert will be designed for fish passage and increased flood capacity. Photo credit: Steve Mars (USFWS/NJFO), hand model: Capt. Al Modjeski (ALS).



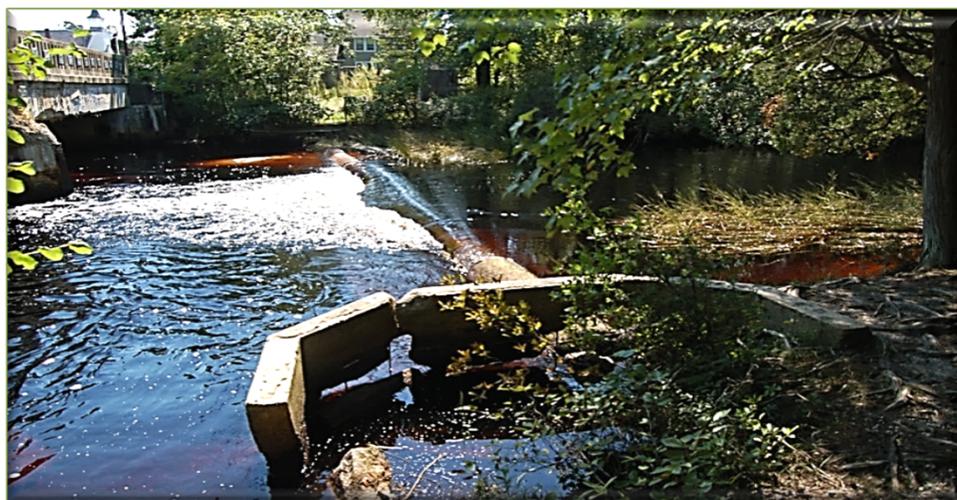


NEW JERSEY FIELD OFFICE FIELD NOTES DECEMBER 2014



Cedar Creek Weir

On December 9, 2014 the Cedar Creek Weir was removed providing access to approximately 5 miles of historic river herring spawning and nursery habitat. The concrete weir spanned Cedar Creek, a tributary to the Barnegat Bay, and was used by USGS as a gauging station. However, disrepair and subsidence after Hurricane Irene resulted in the weir station no longer being used, but still an impediment to fish passage. Partners included Berkeley Township, Barnegat Bay Partnership, NJDEP, and USFWS. As with many barrier removal projects, planning, fundraising, and permitting took approximately 2 years, but the removal was effectively done in one day. Photo credit: Eric Schradling (USFWS/NJFO).





**NEW JERSEY FIELD OFFICE
FIELD NOTES
DECEMBER 2014**



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
TO YOU AND YOURS FROM
THE NEW JERSEY FIELD
OFFICE!**



Photo credit: Laura Perlick (USFWS/NJFO)