



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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MEMORANDUM

Date: December 5, 2022
To: Chris Moore
From: Jason Didden
Subject: River Herring and Shad (RH/S) Run Data Portal

In a typical year, news articles describe both banner and dismal RH/S run counts and it's challenging to get a bigger-picture run strength perspective besides the infrequent RH/S stock assessments. The idea of a single portal where all (or most) east coast river herring and shad (RH/S) run data could be visualized arose in early discussions at NOAA's River Herring Technical Expert Working Group (now the Atlantic Coast River Herring Collaborative Forum).

Since setting up a basic proof of concept [Google Map](#), staff continues to highlight the idea to individuals or groups who seem interested. Primary challenges include who would build-out, maintain, and update such a portal, and with what resources. Communications in 2022 noted several similarly themed web-GIS tools that collect and/or display RH/S data at various scales. Examples include:

Seatuck Environmental Association:

<https://seatuck.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=910845de53e148648a008519e95af3c1> – scroll all the way to the bottom for the map)

Connecticut River Conservancy: <https://maps.waterreporter.org/MDGi5pCLyBWK/>

Manomet:

<https://manometinc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/54a5294fd4eb4c83a7659621cc92d70a>

While the Council is likely not the optimal entity to host a portal that integrates east coast RH/S data, the idea continues to generate interest. Increasingly accessible web-based GIS apps may be lowering some of the technical and workload barriers associated with this concept, as evidenced by the examples above. Staff recommends that the Council continue to encourage related efforts as opportunities arise, but not attempt to be the lead entity for managing such a portal.