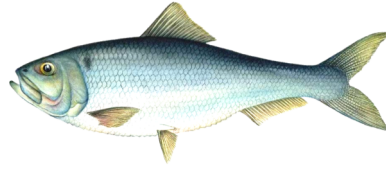




Maine has a long history of protecting this fishery resource. In 1741, “An Act to prevent the Destruction of the Fish Called Alewives and Other Fish” was enacted. It required any entity that erected a dam across a stream or river “where salmon, shad, alewives, or other fish which usually pass up into the natural ponds to cast their spawn” make an adequate fish passage around or through the dam and keep it open from April 1<sup>st</sup>, to June 5<sup>th</sup>. The law further required that adequate water be provided to allow the out-passage of juveniles and adults.

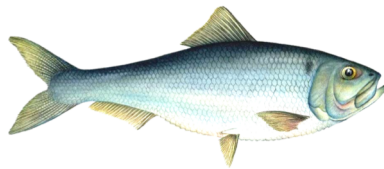
Today, alewife harvesters maintain fish passages to the spawning habitat. Individual harvesters clear the streams and brooks of any impeding debris. Towns, harvesters and non-profits work with state and federal agencies to restore fish passages by replacing culverts and maintaining fish ladders. Some harvesters provide temporary fish ladders to ensure access to natal spawning lakes and ponds.

Without this local initiative and follow-through alewives would be deprived of access to habitats critical for their survival.



## Alewife Harvesters of Maine

*“Conserving to Preserve  
Maine’s Future.”*



Alewife Harvesters of Maine  
PO Box 51  
Dresden, Maine 04342

## Alewife Harvesters of Maine



### Charting a new course for river fisheries in Maine

The **Alewife Harvesters of Maine** is a group of fishermen, conservation commissioners, biologists, environmental advocates, and other concerned citizens who have joined together to conserve alewives, and to preserve the river-fishing heritage of Maine. We work in collaborative partnerships to restore fish passage to spawning grounds and cooperate with state and federal agencies on fisheries research and management. Started in 2007 to defend Maine's river fisheries, AHM has worked with scientists and fishery managers from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the State of Maine to allow harvest in Maine under high standards of sustainability.

### What has AHOM done for you?

The organization began in response to development of Amendment 2 to the Shad and River Herring Management Plan, which threatened to shut down alewife fisheries along the coast. The work carried over into an Endangered Species Act challenge.

- We provided a voice and presence at the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission, at the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, and in the Maine Legislature.
- We represented the interests of harvesters and harvesting towns at the Commission and Council Meetings.
- We helped train harvesters to collect samples that directly contributed to the sustainable harvest plan accepted by ASMFC from Maine for Amendment 2.
- We helped keep the Maine river herring harvest open.
- We worked with scientists and managers to produce position statements and testimony that asserted how river herring did not need protection under the Endangered Species Act.
- We worked with Maine State legislators to overturn the closure of the St. Croix River to alewife, a law that threatened that population with extinction.
- We helped restore an alewife run and fishery on North Haven Island.

## What will Alewife Harvesters of Maine do for you?

Above all, AHM will continue to promote sustainable community-based management of current alewife runs and fisheries. Join AHM today to become part of our growing organization, diverse partnerships, and exciting initiatives!

- Continue to work with Maine DMR to offer workshops on scale sampling and harvest methods to maintain a secure sustainable harvest.
- Serve as the watchdog and industry voice for the alewife and blueback herring fisheries in policy-making at the state, regional and federal levels.
- Support the maintenance and opening of historic and potential new alewife runs in cooperation with government agencies and conservation groups.
- Work with harvesters and municipalities to maintain and improve harvest plans, contracts and operations on existing runs.
- Support exploration of market opportunities and strategies for alewife marketing, processing and distribution.
- Distribute current news and background information on Maine's alewife and blueback herring fisheries.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Comm. License #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable)

### Annual membership options:

- ☐ Conservation Corp (\$275)
- ☐ Fish Coops (\$250)
- ☐ Harvester (\$200)
- ☐ Lobsterman (\$150)
- ☐ Friend (\$50)
- ☐ Supporter (\$35)
- ☐ Student (\$15)

Please make checks payable to:

**Alewife Harvesters of Maine**  
**501 (c) (6) nonprofit organization**



Please forward to:

Alewife Harvesters of  
Maine PO Box 51  
Dresden, Maine 04342

Phone: (207) 737-9051  
(207) 441-3006

Email:

[jeffrey@alewifeharvesters.org](mailto:jeffrey@alewifeharvesters.org)

Website: [www.alewifeharvesters.org](http://www.alewifeharvesters.org)