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Gray's Mill: Fish Spawning Newspaper Article "Herring home to spawn, be counted"

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Herring home to spawn, be counted

The herring have been slow to return to Adamsville Pond, but when they arrive in full force they will be counted.

Ralph Guild, owner of Gray's Grist Mill, wants to restore the pond, which is literally choking from overgrown vegetation. The project is part of a larger scale effort, which also included restoring Gray's Grist Mill for use as an educational demonstration center. Gray's Grist Mill should be open soon for visitors.

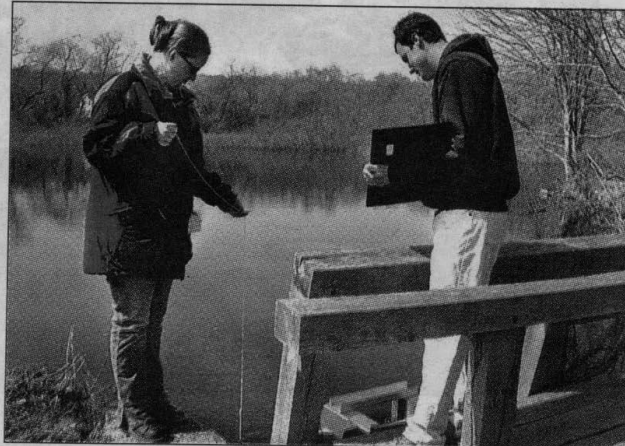
As part of the permit process to restore the pond, Mr. Guild has hired biologists from Massachusetts Natural Resource Services to do a study of the marine life that inhabit it. The study will show what fish species thrive naturally in the pond. Learning what marine life species dwell

Cormorants, fishermen among obstacles facing these plucky little fish.

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there will help in getting permission from two states — Massachusetts and Rhode Island — for dredging. One concern is that the deposition of sediment, if not handled carefully, could be harmful to existing marine life. In order to ensure that the dredging won't harm marine life, it is important to know what species of fish spawn in or inhabit Adamsville Pond.

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Checking the water temperature at Adamsville Pond are Cara Hetrick, technician, and Jason Ringler, wetland biologist. They are doing a study of marine life at the pond as part of the application process for dredging. Volunteers are being asked to help out.

Herring run

Above water it doesn't seem much like spring, but below the fish are behaving like they always do in April.

Trout season starts Saturday at dawn and the trout are indeed stirring, especially the thousands that had no choice — they were stocked in streams and ponds here Tuesday.

The herring run has begun at Nonquit Pond in Tiverton.

At Nonquit, as in many places, the herring must run a gantlet before completing their spawning mission. Awaiting them in the inlet below Nonquit last Thursday were cormorants by the hundred. Those that eluded the agile cormorants were greeted by fishermen up by the dam.

Some, like Larry Cabral were armed with long handled nets with which they scooped the seven or eight-inch fish from the water, sometimes two at a time. Mr. Cabral said he planned to freeze his 24 herring (that's the daily limit) and use them later for striped bass bait.

Warren Clark of Little Compton caught his herring by merely casting a hook into the pool. So thick were the fish that he managed to snag one every few casts. He said he will use his catch to bait his recreational lobster traps.

A list of rules posted beside the dam are well worth reading since fines for violations can be steep. Foremost among these rules is that the herring ladder into the pond is strictly off limits, as the barbed wire fence suggests. It is also illegal to take herring there on certain days of the week — check the Rhode Island DEM website for more.