



# NEWS RELEASE



**Contacts:** Tina Berger  
Atlantic States Fisheries Commission  
703-842-0740

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 10, 2014

Maggie Mooney-Seus  
NOAA Fisheries  
978-281-9175/774-392-4865

## **Federal Funds Available to Support River Herring Research and Conservation**

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and NOAA Fisheries announce the availability of approximately \$260,000 in federal funds to support scientific studies, further river herring conservation efforts in the hope that we can proactively conserve river herring to the point at which their population status throughout their full range is well understood and secure.

“By supporting this research, important data gaps for alewife and blueback herring will be addressed,” said Toni Kerns, director of the interstate fisheries management program, ASMFC. “This research will lead to an improved stock assessment and understanding of river herring’s role in the North Atlantic marine ecosystem.”

Priority areas for funding include: gathering information/data to help develop performance measures for evaluating the effectiveness of fish passage improvement efforts; habitat restoration; evaluating dam-related river herring mortality due to upriver migration delays, predation, and downstream turbines; impacts of fisheries on river herring and developing ways to reduce those impacts; and documenting life history information on the marine phase of river herring. The agencies also will consider proposals looking at contaminant effects in freshwater systems and trophic interactions such as those between river herring and other fish species (e.g., Atlantic herring, Atlantic mackerel) and predator/prey impacts.

“We have been working for the past year with our partners to develop and implement a dynamic conservation plan to help restore river herring throughout their Atlantic coastal range,” said Kim Damon-Randall, assistant regional administrator for protected resources, NOAA Fisheries. “Ideally, we hope that by supporting this research and fostering efforts to conserve the species, these populations will continue to improve and there won’t be a need to consider whether either species should be listed under the Endangered Species Act at some point in the future.”

The priority research areas were identified based on NOAA Fisheries’ river herring management and science needs and other information. This includes input from the technical

expert working group, convened to help develop the conservation plan; the Commission's 2012 benchmark assessment; council research priorities and needs; and public comments.

It is expected that these funds will provide support for approximately 1- 5 projects at approximately \$50,000 to \$250,000 per project.

Full proposals should be sent to Marin Hawk at ASMFC, 1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA, 22201 or [mhawk@asmfc.org](mailto:mhawk@asmfc.org) by **5 p.m. EST, November 13, 2014**. The Request for Proposals can be obtained at [http://www.asmfc.org/files/JobAnnouncements/RiverHerringRFP\\_Oct2014.pdf](http://www.asmfc.org/files/JobAnnouncements/RiverHerringRFP_Oct2014.pdf). For more information, please contact Marin Hawk ([mhawk@asmfc.org](mailto:mhawk@asmfc.org)) or Diane Borggaard ([diane.borggaard@noaa.gov](mailto:diane.borggaard@noaa.gov)).