



# Ebb&Flow

Ronald S. Amidon, Commissioner  
Beth Lambert, Director  
Hunt Durey, Deputy Director

Dear friends and colleagues,

Across the Commonwealth, DER, communities, agencies, and non-profit organizations are working together to adapt to climate change while also helping rivers and wetlands heal from past damage. These restoration / adaptation projects bring tangible benefits: reduced flooding in a commercial corridor; observed increases in river herring; rapidly-growing wetland plants; and new foot paths and bridges. The projects also bring an intangible but very real sense of hope and optimism to those involved. You'll read about many of those projects in this issue of *Ebb&Flow*.

The Shawsheen River Restoration Project, described in this issue, is an excellent example of a project that combines the ecological benefits of dam removal with climate change adaptation and flood resilience. Please join DER's Nick Wildman and Kris Houle as they speak about the Shawsheen River Restoration Project in a free webinar sponsored by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA. Details are below.

See you on the river!

Beth Lambert, Director

## DER's New Cranberry Bog Program



Today, there are approximately 13,250 acres of cranberry farmland (Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association ) within the Commonwealth. Unfortunately, many farmers are facing severe economic challenges due to falling prices, market shifts, and other factors as well documented by the Massachusetts Legislature's Cranberry Bog Revitalization Taskforce (see [the 2016 final report](#)). The Taskforce suggested the need for "exit strategies" for interested farmers, including one which involves land conservation and wetland restoration. Building on our 10 years of experience in restoring retired cranberry farms, we are excited to announce our new Cranberry Bog Program.

[Read On](#)

## Streamflow Release Prioritization Tool and Pilot Project



Many lakes and impoundments in Massachusetts have dams at their outlets that can be used to manage lake levels for a variety of reasons. Dam management can have varying hydrological, thermal, and biological effects on downstream ecosystems. DER is working to identify and prioritize lakes and impoundments where dam management can be altered to provide ecological benefit to downstream ecosystems, while balancing in-lake needs.

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## Flood Protection and Tidal Restoration –Finding Balance at Town Creek (Salisbury)



The use of structures such as seawalls, dikes and dams to protect homes and business from the effects of flooding is certainly not a new concept. For example, historians point back to the Byzantium seawalls, built primarily for protection but maintained and expanded on the seaward side according to early written records almost 400 years after initial construction attributed to Constanine I. Massachusetts has its own rich history and relationship with flood protection measures

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*(Photo by Woods Hole Group, Inc.)*

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## DER Announces Year Four of the UMass Dam Removal Practicum



This fall, DER and the University of Massachusetts Amherst will partner for the fourth consecutive year to offer an independent study for graduate and undergraduate students interested in learning about dam removal and river restoration efforts in Massachusetts.

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*(Photo Courtesy of Patricia J. Murphy)*

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## Restoration Project Updates



- [Fearing Brook Update- Exciting Times](#) (Amherst)
- [High Street Dam Removal Feasibility Study](#) (Bridgewater)
- [Coonamesett River Restoration](#) (Falmouth)
- [Dam Removal Underway at Upper Roberts Meadow Brook](#) (Northampton)
- [After Restoration, Rivers Flow Freely](#) (Scituate, Andover, E Bridgewater)
- [DER Awards Funding to Three Priority Projects](#) (Truro, Wellfleet, Marshfield, Duxbury, Chilmark)
- [South River Restoration Project Advances](#) (Duxbury and

Marshfield)

*(Photo Courtesy of Laurie Warner)*

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## Restoration Resources

**New RIFLS Website** - We're excited to share a new website that helps track our collected streamflow data.

**2018 Northeastern Transportation & Wildlife Conference** co-hosted by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game. The conference will be held September 9-12, 2018 at UMass Amherst in Amherst, MA. This year's theme is "Partnering for Resilient Infrastructure and Ecosystems." You can now view an initial schedule including abstracts and register. Early bird registration ends August 29. Please join DER Stream Continuity Program staff at this meeting, and learn more about what DER is doing to help communities upgrade and replace road-stream crossings.

**Urban River Restoration – The Shawsheen River Dam Removals** - Join DER's Nick Wildman and Kristopher Houle as they present in a webinar on the multi-dam removal project that took place on the Shawsheen River -an urban, flood-prone river in Massachusetts. Webinars are hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The webinar is August 9, 2018 (2-3 pm ET).

**Environmental License Plates** - The Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET) provides funding to many river, wetland and other water resources protection and restoration projects throughout the Commonwealth. A major source of MET's funding comes from the sale of environmental license plates. Getting an environmental plate is easy and can be done on-line, or in person at your local Registry of Motor Vehicles office

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