



Town Brook Restoration Program

Presentation to the Westport Fishermen's Association and
the Buzzards Bay Coalition

February 6, 2019





5/20/2010



© 2012 Google

Google earth

imagery Date: 5/20/2010



1995

lat 41.907858° lon -70.648993° elev 78 ft

Eye alt 673 ft





Restoration Approach

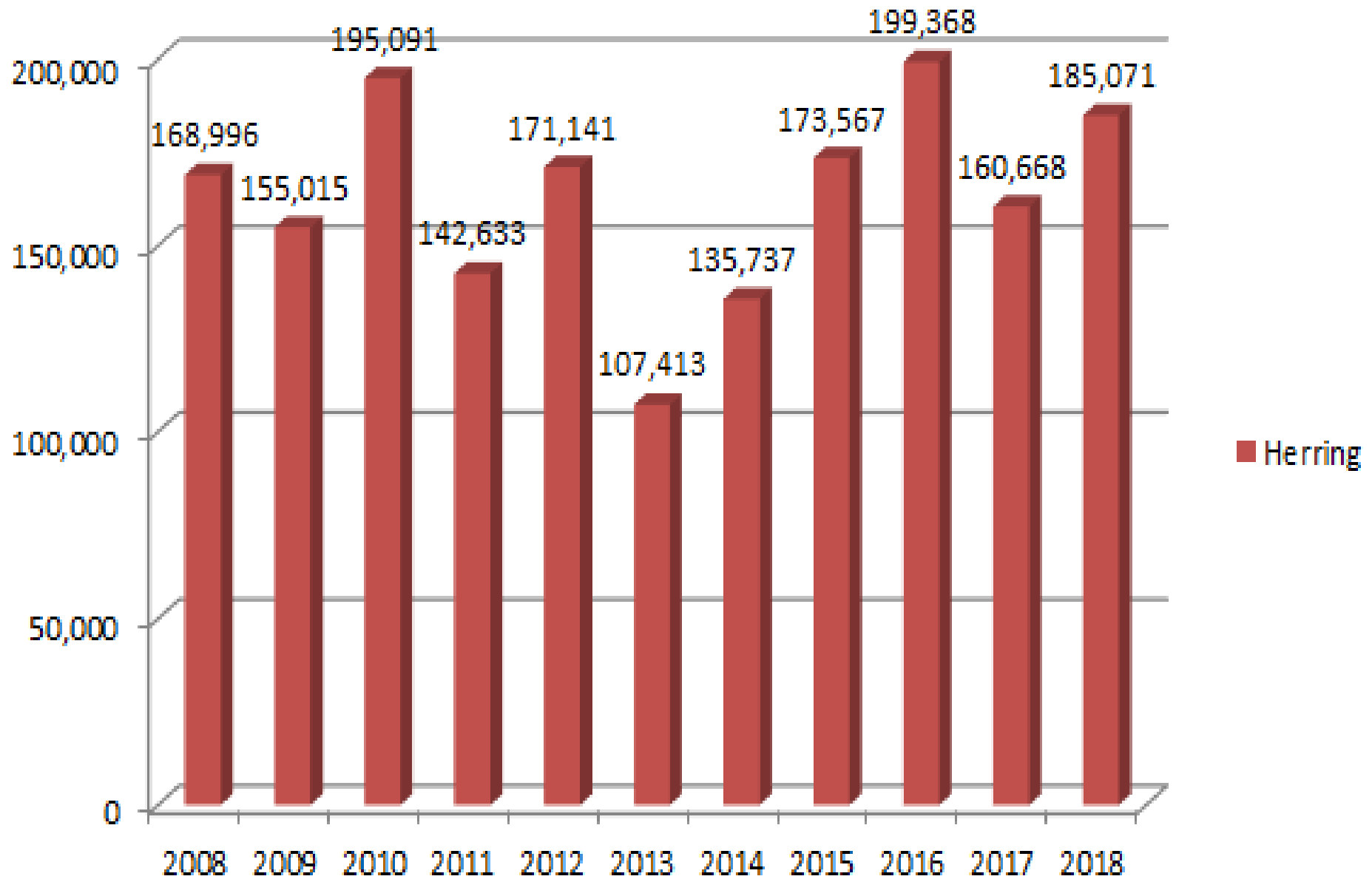
- Watershed Based
 - Process based
 - Partnership
 - Building trust and confidence
- 



Town Brook

- Historic stream running 1.7 miles from Billington Sea to Plymouth Harbor
- This is “the” stream of Natives and Pilgrims and American history
- Site of Industrial Revolution – 7 dams and numerous mill complexes in 1.7 miles
- Town acquired parkland along Town Brook and inherited dams and fishways
- National Historic District/Section 106

Yearly Herring Counts








Challenges

- Industrial revolution era dams were still present but not maintained
- Fish passage very poor
- Water quality was poor – thermal regime, sediment contamination
- Public safety concerns
- Historic and archaeological concerns





Billington Street Dam Removal, 2002

- First pro-active dam removal in a coastal watershed
- Foundation of program and established momentum
- Breakthrough project that laid the foundation of our program
- 94% of all river herring that make it to this location pass through it successfully



fineart
america

Billington Street Dam: Dam #4



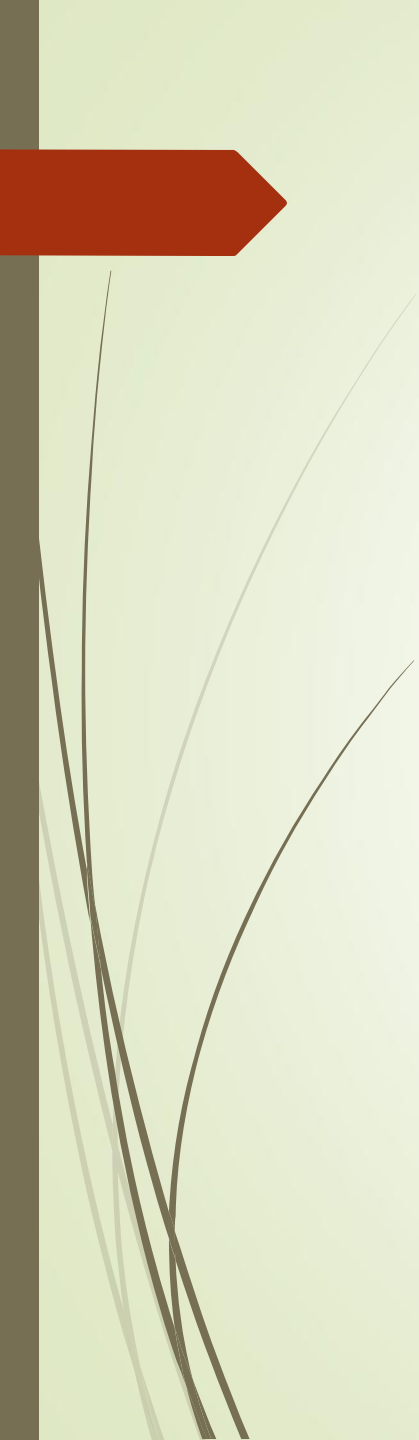






Former Off Billington St Dam Site







Plymco Dam Removal Project, 2015

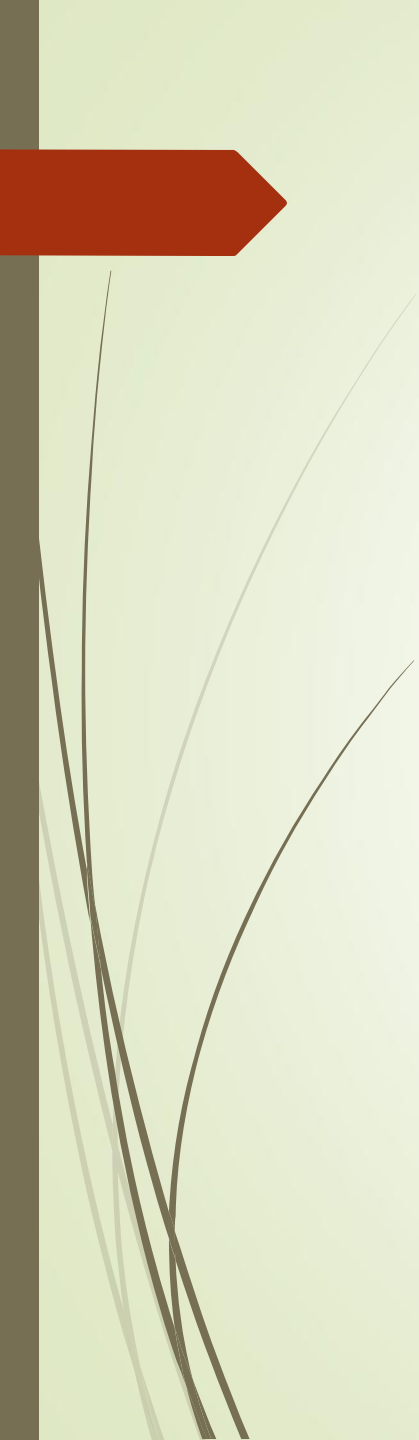
- Privately owned property with unsafe dam and 21e site conditions
- Acquired via CPA
- Approximately \$500,000 site cleanup with Mass Development and USFWS funding prior to restoration
- Building demolition
- Dam removal, new bridge, water and sewer utilities













Currently Under Construction- Holmes Dam/Newfield St. Bridge Restoration Project

- High Hazard Dam Removal
- Bridge Replacement, utilities, roadway
- Rock ramp, pool and riffles, floodplain work
- Significant park and trail improvements – sidewalks, ADA compliant trails, skateboard park, basketball court.









Holmes Dam Removal/Newfield St. Bridge

- Removal of High Hazard Dam
- Replacement of existing bridge
- Daylighting of stream
- Removal of contaminated sediment
- New roadway, sidewalks, trails, lighting, water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure
- New park amenities: skateboard park, basketball court



Accomplishments



- Significant fish passage improvements – sustaining an historic natural resource
- Water quality improvements – brook and harbor
- Contaminated sediment management
- Public safety- bridges and removal of dams
- Reduced costs for new infrastructure
- Public space investment- parks and greenway
- Enhancing resiliency of coastal streams



Lessons Learned



- ▶ Think watershed wide
- ▶ Build momentum and credibility over time
 - ▶ Take advantage of opportunities but it's okay to go re-visit projects!
- ▶ Create partnerships
- ▶ Keep making progress



Closing

- *“The nation behaves well if it treats natural resources as assets it must turn over to the next generation increased, not impaired, in value”*
- -Theodore Roosevelt (1910)
- David Gould, Director
- Department of Marine & Environmental Affairs
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