

ARROWSIC FISH COMMISSION
MINUTES
26 FEBRUARY 2026
ARROWSIC TOWN HALL

Present: Karen Robbins, Chair,
Mike McMahon, Deputy Fish Warden
Vince Capone
Wendy Van Dyke
Jack Witham
Angel Braestrup

Missed: Jeff Pinnette

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:59 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes of the 22 January 2026 AFC meeting were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Town Meeting Tasks:

- A. Annual Report to the Town (due March 16). Angel Braestrup agreed to provide a draft for review.
- B. 2026-2027 Budget The Commissioners approved two resolutions relating to the budget by unanimous consent.

Resolved: That the Commission request that the budget remain the same at \$1000.

Resolved: That the Commission propose to the town via an article in the warrant that recommends that henceforth any unexpended funds from the Arrowsic Fish Commission budget be placed in the dedicated Alewife Fund (NAME NEEDED HERE) in anticipation of future needs.

Annual Fish Count: The permit application has been submitted. The DMR is waiting for the formal copy of the article relating to the harvest and the Fish Commission. There was some discussion about securing parking availability for the Celebratory Harvest.

Harvest Plan: The Commission approved by unanimous consent a harvest plan for 2026. The proposed date for the Third Annual Celebratory Harvest is May 16th.

Resolved: That the 2026 harvest plan allow for up to six bushels of fish to be taken by members of the Commission on such days and times as the Commission

decides, including a celebratory harvest. The plan permits the take of some of those fish under the supervision of a member of the commission for educational purposes.

Karen Robbins agreed to reach out to DMR to confirm the plan's acceptance and to ensure the correct language is in the proposed article for the Town Meeting.

New Data Review & Stream Project Update: The Commission is still awaiting the outcome of the eDNA tests. The Commission received the annual analysis from DMR shortly before the meeting (it will be posted on the website). 156 scale samples were analyzed. Among the highlights: The population skews young—most of the returnees were from the 2021 and 2022 class of juveniles. The male/female ration is about even, which assures a good chance of successful spawning.

Other:

The research into Maine's Indigenous people's use of river herring (especially alewives) and Arrowsic's own history continues.

Karen Robbins announced that the Annual Fisherman's Forum would be held the first full weekend in March and further that the River Herring Meeting was at 10:30 on the Saturday.

The next meeting will be held on the 26th of March at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.