

Federal Interagency Comment Form

Date: 02/22/24

Project: Marion and Wareham Bridges Replacements

Appl No.: MassDOT project 605311

Commenting Agency: NOAA/NMFS/GARFO/HESD

Action Agency Project Manager: David Paulson, Mass DOT

Waterway: Wewantic River; Marion and Wareham, MA

Activity: Replace bridge structures over the Wewantic River: the Marion / Wareham (M-05-001=W-06-013) and the Wareham (W-06-016) located on Route 6 in Marion and Wareham, MA. There will be over 2,600 SF of permanent impacts to tidal, estuarine wetlands, which will be mitigated by the creation of a 6,000 SF saltmarsh mitigation area within the project limits. As part of the mitigation plan, uplands will be graded and cleared for new saltmarsh plantings.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (EFH)

Project may adversely affect EFH, and species that serve as prey for federally managed species including river herring, and American eel.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS: (Note: EFH CRs require a response from the federal action agency within 30 days of receipt or 10 days before a permit is issued if CRs are not included as a special condition of the permit. In addition, a distinct and further EFH consultation must be reinitiated pursuant to 50 CFR 600.920 (j) if new information becomes available, or if the project is revised in such a manner that affects the basis for the above EFH determination or EFH conservation recommendations.)

1. Turbidity producing work should be completed outside of the provided Time of Year Restriction from March 1 to June 30 of any given year, to minimize adverse effects to NOAA trust resources. If work cannot meet the TOY restriction above, then to minimize adverse effects to fish, controls should not encroach >25% of the stream width measured from the OHW mark during the TOY restriction.
2. Cofferdams should be used to minimize sedimentation and acoustic impacts within the surrounding areas and allow for construction of the proposed piers in the dry.
3. Turbidity curtains should be deployed where feasible and as needed prior to in-water activities during the construction process. Turbidity curtains should be used during demolition of the existing bridges to mitigate the potential suspension of sediment in the water column.
4. Protective shielding or a debris containment system should be used to prevent any debris from falling into the open water. All demolition debris should be recovered and removed from the project site.

FISH AND WILDLIFE COORDINATION ACT COMMENTS

The CRs provided above effectively minimize adverse effects to NOAA trust species and species covered through FWCA consultation authorities.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Threatened or endangered species under the jurisdiction of NMFS may be present in the project area. The federal action agency will be responsible for determining whether the proposed action may affect listed species. If they determine that the proposed action may affect a listed species, they should submit their determination of effects, along with justification and a request for concurrence to the attention of the Section 7 Coordinator, NMFS, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, Protected Resources Division, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930 or nmfs.gar.esa.section7@noaa.gov.

OTHER:

Provide a copy of the permit when issued.

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