

ALEWIVES – WESSERUNSETT LAKE

The Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has stocked adult alewives (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) annually in Wesserunsett Lake since 1996 as part of an alewife restoration program in the Kennebec River watershed above Augusta. The stocked adults spawn in the lake, then leave, passing over the outlet dam and making their way downstream soon afterwards. The young hatch from the eggs, feed primarily on zooplankton in the lake, and migrate seaward from mid-July through early November. Large schools of young are often seen swimming close to the shore during the summer and also congregated in front of the outlet dam. Piscivorous fish such as largemouth and smallmouth bass and birds such as common loon feed on them. According to Nate Gray of DMR, there will be fish passage at three dams downstream in the Kennebec that now do not have it. That will allow alewives to reach Wesserunsett where additional fish passage will then be needed.

See “Maine River Herring Fact Sheet” at <https://www.maine.gov/dmr/science-research/searun/alewife.html> for additional information.

The table below summarizes the DMR stocking program for Wesserunsett Lake. The data in the table were provided by Nate Gray of DMR.

ALEWIFE STOCKING – WESSERUNSETT LAKE

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NO. STOCKED</u>
1996	8,707
1997	8,857
1998	8,885
1999	8,865
2000	8,695
2001	8,784
2002	8,774
2003	8,671
2004	8,707
2005	8,804
2006	2,793
2007	8,169
2008	10,855
2009	10,211
2010	10,045
2011	4,618
2012	12,962
2013	16,339
2014	14,621
2015	15,320
2016	17,250
2017	15,000
2018	15,000
TOTALS: 23 Years	240,932
AVERAGE:	10,475/yr