

Weweantic River

Wareham, Carver, Middleborough

Stream Length (mi)	Stream Order	pH	Anadromous Species Present
16.6	Fourth	6.3	River herring, smelt, white perch, tomcod

Obstruction # 1

Horseshoe Pond Dam

Wareham

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
4.3	Dam	Concrete	44.5	6.0	59.0	1920	Private	41° 45' 55.047" N 70° 44' 51.047" W



Horseshoe Pond Dam

Fishway None

Obstruction # 2

Tremont Mill Pond Dam

Wareham

River Mile	Type	Material	Spillway W (ft)	Spillway H (ft)	Impoundment Acreage	Year Built	Owner	GPS
7.5	Dam	Concrete	32	24	30.5	1920	Town of Wareham	41° 47' 22.583" N 70° 45' 51.720" W



Tremont Mill Pond Dam

Fishway None

Remarks:

The Weweantic River has its source in swamplands of Middleborough and Carver. The upper reaches of the system are tied to a complex system of cranberry bogs and their associated reservoirs, obstructing dams and water withdrawals. The lower section, however, does have potential for anadromous fish development.

The first obstruction to fish passage is just above the point of tidal influence. This 6 foot dam creates a 59 acre impoundment called Horseshoe Pond. An old millrace is capable of passing fish under ideal flow conditions although its entrance location is too far downstream of the dam. A Denil fishway has been designed for this location and, until funding for construction is secured, modifications to the millrace could provide improved passage into the pond.

The second obstruction on the stream is at 30 acre Tremont Mill Pond. A 24 foot high dam associated with an unused hydroelectric station would prevent fish passage into this impoundment. Although the acreage is significant, the height of this dam would make any attempt at installing a fishway difficult and expensive. Fishway construction at this site should not be considered until river herring are utilizing the lower impoundment to its greatest potential.

Of special interest on this river is the unique rainbow smelt fishery which takes place each spring. Section 34 of Chapter 130 prohibits fishing for or possessing Massachusetts smelt from March 15th to June 15th. Due to a Special Act of Legislature, however, residents of Wareham, Rochester, Marion and Mattapoisett may take smelt from the Weweantic from the 1st of March through the 1st of April using nets of a specified size. This is the only spring smelt fishery permitted in the Commonwealth and the population appears to be maintaining itself successfully.