

The Arrowsic Fish Commission was created by an unanimous vote at the June 15, 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

ARROWSIC FISH COMMISSION

The Town of Arrowsic hereby establishes the Arrowsic Fish Commission:

Whereas the Town of Arrowsic has a strong tradition of stewardship of its natural resources;

Whereas the Town of Arrowsic has formally committed to addressing the consequences of climate change including the effect of warming waters on biodiversity;

Whereas the Town of Arrowsic hosts an historic and recovering cyclical fishery that depends on a clear run from the Kennebec River to its spawning grounds via Spinney Mill and Sewall Creeks;

Whereas the Town of Arrowsic is home to Sewall Pond, a 48-acre freshwater pond that supports local recreation and wildlife and is dependent on its cyclical fishery for its ecosystems' function;

Whereas the people of the Town of Arrowsic have monitored and established a record of water quality and fishery resource data over decades, even as the mean temperatures, chemistry, precipitation patterns, and tidal patterns are changing; and

Whereas the Town of Arrowsic has the need to establish a formal means of capitalizing on existing institutional memory and knowledge to establish a framework for future management of the cyclical fishery in the context of the health of both the fishery and the broader ecosystem dependence on the fishery;

Therefore, the Town of Arrowsic establishes an independent fisheries management commission to be known as the Arrowsic Fish Commission. The Commission will focus on monitoring and managing river herring, for the health of the resource, its ecosystem, the residents of Arrowsic and commercial fishermen, in compliance with applicable state and federal laws.

The Arrowsic Fish Commission shall be made up of five members appointed by the Arrowsic Board of Selectmen to a renewable three-year term. One of those five shall be nominated by the chair of the Arrowsic Conservation Commission as its representative to the Arrowsic Fish Commission. If there are vacancies, three commissioners may carry out the duties of the Commission, with two members serving as a quorum. The commissioners shall elect one of their number to be Fish Warden who, during a renewable two-year term, will serve as liaison to the Arrowsic Board of Selectmen and ensure that the Commission fulfills its responsibilities.