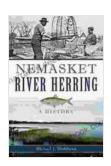
# Nemasket River Herring: A Rich History and Natural Legacy

The Nemasket River herring run is a longstanding tradition in Middleborough, Massachusetts, dating back to the Wampanoag people. These fish have played a vital role in the ecology and economy of the region. Join us as we explore the history, natural history, and challenges facing the Nemasket River herring today.



#### Nemasket River Herring: A History (Natural History)

by Michael J. Maddigan

★ ★ ★ ★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 9538 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 193 pages



#### **A Long and Storied History**

The Nemasket River herring run has been a part of the Wampanoag culture for centuries. The Wampanoag people relied on herring as a food source, and they developed sophisticated techniques for harvesting and preserving them. Herring were also used for trade with other tribes and with European settlers.

In the 1800s, the herring industry in Middleborough boomed. Herring were caught in large numbers and shipped to markets throughout the United States. The industry provided jobs for many people in the town, and it helped to shape the local economy.

The herring industry declined in the early 20th century due to overfishing and pollution. However, the herring run has continued to be an important part of Middleborough's heritage. In recent years, there has been a renewed interest in the herring run, and efforts are underway to restore the population.

#### **Natural History of the Nemasket River Herring**

The Nemasket River herring is a type of anadromous fish, which means that it spends part of its life in saltwater and part of its life in freshwater. Herring spawn in the spring, and the young fish spend the first few years of their lives in the river. They then migrate to the ocean, where they spend the rest of their lives. Herring are a schooling fish, and they often form large groups when they are migrating or feeding.

The Nemasket River herring is an important part of the local ecosystem. They provide food for other fish, birds, and mammals. They also help to clean the water by filtering out pollutants.

#### **Challenges Facing the Nemasket River Herring**

The Nemasket River herring run has faced a number of challenges in recent years. These challenges include:

- Overfishing
- Pollution

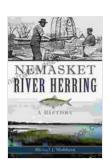
#### Climate change

Overfishing is one of the biggest threats to the Nemasket River herring. Herring are a popular food fish, and they are often overfished. This can lead to a decline in the population, which can make it difficult for the fish to recover.

Pollution is another major threat to the Nemasket River herring. The river is polluted with a variety of chemicals, including pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. These chemicals can harm the fish and their habitat.

Climate change is also a threat to the Nemasket River herring. Climate change is causing the water temperature in the river to rise, which can make it difficult for the fish to survive. Climate change is also causing the river to become more acidic, which can also harm the fish.

The Nemasket River herring run is a rich natural and cultural heritage. These fish have played a vital role in the ecology and economy of the region for centuries. However, the herring run is facing a number of challenges today. Overfishing, pollution, and climate change are all threats to the population. We must work together to protect the Nemasket River herring and ensure that this tradition continues for future generations.



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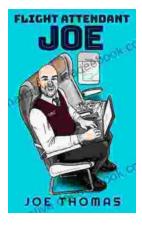
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