

# Findings from the Field

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## Will The Alewives Return?

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St. George School  
 Mrs. Schmanska, Mrs. England  
 Will the alewives return?  
 Ella C.  
 Nature Note

## Will The Alewives Return?



View of the marsh from the parking lot



Ripley Creek

The marsh in Tenants Harbor is down over the hill from St. George School and flows into Ripley Creek and into our harbor. The marsh is home to eagles, herring gulls, kingfishers, frogs, snakes and more. In the spring you see lots of birds and animals in and around it. A lot of people kayak in the marsh in the summer. The marsh is a beautiful and quiet place.

On April 25th, 2019, a Thursday afternoon at 1:03 PM, we measured the salinity on the inside corner of the dam. We measured a salinity of 0.27 PPT. The significant thing about this salinity observation is that we thought it was going to be zero. It's a high salinity for what we were expecting as a result, since we have a freshwater marsh.

Our class's observation of the salt water in the marsh is important because we are working with the town to bring back the alewives. Alewives have not been coming back to the marsh since 1986. During the years of 2009 - 2013 our town restocked 500 alewives each year in the marsh. Many towns get their alewife run going again by doing that with the state scientists. It doesn't seem to be working for our freshwater marsh. So we are wondering if this salt water has something to do with the alewives not coming back, because alewives spawn in freshwater.

Our question is, "Is the salinity in the marsh affecting the alewives from coming back to the marsh?" We plan an experiment to answer this question with alewife eggs. What we are going to do is put different amounts of salt in each of our five fish tanks and put alewife eggs in each tank and see if salt can affect alewives' survival. Our findings are going to get shared with the community, and we are hoping they will be useful for proving alewives can survive in our water.