



# CAPE COD TIMES

Opinion

## Critic of Herring River project seems unconvinced by science

Posted at 3:01 AM

It was disconcerting to see yet another letter from a gentleman who – it seems to me – wants to discredit the Herring River restoration project (“Chemicals used at golf course may bedevil Herring River project,” Your View, Feb. 6).

I attended most of the public meetings held in recent years at which the proposed restoration was discussed, and I recall that I had the same impression when I heard him speak at meetings. I particularly remember a meeting where his assertion of “facts” was corrected by a scientist in the room who had firsthand knowledge of the subject matter.

I do not consider myself to be a Pollyanna about the project. Because I own property that could be affected, I initially worried about the risks involved with restoring water to a floodplain that has been severely deprived for over a century. Eventually I came to understand that the science underlying the restoration has been checked and reviewed, and checked again. Reintroduction of seawater will happen slowly, over many years, and it will be closely monitored so that tidal flow can always be stopped or adjusted.

It is clear in retrospect that Wellfleet was misguided when the town decided to restrict the saltwater that nourished the Herring River. Restoration will, in time, rehabilitate our herring and other fish and shellfish populations as the floodplain again becomes a healthy salt marsh.

It is not often that life offers a second chance. I look forward to being a witness to this one.

**Gail Ferguson, Wellfleet**