



Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary
1361 Wrighton Rd.
Lothian, MD 20711
(410) 741-9330
www.jugbay.org

FISH SURVEY

Purpose:

- To identify the fish species in various aquatic habitats
- To determine the relative abundance and geographical and seasonal distribution of fish species
- To monitor the health of the Patuxent River and its tributaries using fish diversity

Background:

Volunteers monitor both tidal and non-tidal wetland habitats, documenting the differences in species diversity and abundance between the tidal Patuxent and non-tidal streams.

Fish are dependent on wetlands for spawning grounds, feeding habitats, and shelter from larger prey species (including bigger fish and Great Blue Herons). Jug Bay has extensive shallow wetland habitats that fulfill all these requirements for a large diversity of fish species. Jug Bay is the most upstream spawning site for the Striped Bass; American Eels return to our creeks to live for four or five years before returning to the Sargasso Sea to spawn. As the young fry of Yellow and White Perch mature and grow in size, they move from shallow wetlands to deeper waters, soon to migrate to the open Chesapeake Bay. Although many resident fish such as Mummichogs and Rosy-sided Dace live their whole life in the same habitat, their populations fluctuate, increasing during the summer months as young mature and decreasing as the older fish die in the fall.

Duties:

- Capture fish using seines and nets
- Identify fish using keys and field guides
- Measure and release fish

Skills and Interest Required:

- Willingness to hike and wade in mud and water
- Recording data accurately and precisely
- Bending and handling fish

Schedule:

- Surveys take place between May and August
- Teams of volunteers sample various habitats on weekends
- Each survey takes 2-3 hours

Training:

All volunteers participate under the guidance of staff and trained volunteers.