

Sunday, September, 25, 2011

Volunteers with the Bayshore Regional Watershed Council, an all volunteer group dedicated to restoring Raritan and Sandy Hook bays, joined with local residents to seine and monitor water quality along four bayside beaches.

Seining is the ancient way of fishing by dragging a net through the water. A 50-foot long, hand-woven net with a five foot pole on each end was used. No marine life was harmed. All fishes, crabs, and other aquatic creatures were identified, cataloged, and returned to the water.

People on hand not only had a fun time seeing what interesting life lives in the bay, many people had a good time holding different species of fish, such as snapper blues, Black Drums, flounders, Hermit Crabs, Pipefish and more before releasing them into the estuary. Each haul of the seine net brought something new to discover. Even some tropical fishes were found this year, including a juvenile Florida Pompano and a juvenile Crevalle Jack.

Below are the details of the event. Seine locations and species found are listed.

#### **10am - Aberdeen Township/Cliffwood Beach**

400 Spearing or Atlantic Silversides - the largest measured at 3.5 inches

200 Mud Snails

30 Striped Killies

20 Comb Jellies

18 Black Drums that measured up to 7 inches

1 Adult Blue-Claw Crab - measuring about 4 inches

1 juvenile Cunner, measuring 2.2 inches in length

1 Pipefish

Notes: Water was clear. Water temperatures was 69 degrees F. Outgoing tide.

#### **12 Noon - Union Beach/Conaskonck Point - Front & Dock streets meet**

200 Spearing

50 Mud Snails

25 Shore Shrimp

20 Striped Killies

10 Hermit Crabs

6 Comb Jellies

5 Blue-Claw Crabs

1 Kingfish

1 Tube Worm casing

Notes: Water was clear. Water temperatures was 74 degrees F. Low Tide

#### **2:00pm: Middletown Township/Port Monmouth - Pews Creek**

30 Shore Shrimp

30 Hermit Crabs

28 Black Drums

15 Hermit Crabs

2 Juvenile Florida Pompano

1 Juvenile Blue-Claw Crab - measuring less than an inch

1 Juvenile King fish

Notes: Water was cloudy or turbid. Water temperature was 76 degrees F. Incoming tide. No Killies or Spearing found

**4:00pm: Atlantic Highlands/Mouth of Many Mind Creek**

300 Mud Snails

50 hermit Crabs

50 Spearing

50 Striped Killifish

20 Shore Shrimp

10 Kingfish

5 Grass Shrimp

2 juvenile Bluefish - Snappers, measuring up to 7 inches

2 juvenile Winter Flounder, measuring up to 1.5 inches

1 Crevalle Jack

Notes: Water was cloudy. Water temperature was 77 degrees F. Lots of seaweed in the water. Thanks to Gene, Panse, Charlie, Neil, and Jamie for their help, time & energy!