

A Day in the Life of the Hudson River 2009: Fishing

October 8th was a great day, with 3000 students and educators sampling the Hudson River Estuary and connected waterways at over 60 sites. We're still going through all the data, but some interesting stories have already emerged...

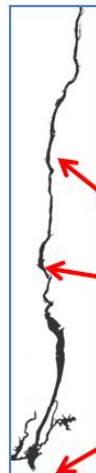
Your Site: _____ What did you catch?: _____

A River Full of Fish

Students with seine nets, as well as catch-and-release traps, caught hundreds of fish and dozens of species on A Day in the Life of the Hudson River Estuary. There were some exciting finds, including lots of young blue crabs the size of a quarter, a juvenile crevalle jack usually found in warmer waters, slippery eels, and bizarre little stickleback fish at several sites. The table below displays catches from just a handful of sites.



Above: Seining at Stuyvesant Landing. Right: Mud crab at Swindler Cove on the Harlem River.



Catch data for some of the sites on Oct. 8, 2009.

River Sites: "RM" = River Miles measured north from the Battery in NYC	silversides	bluefish	white perch	killifish	sunfishes	blue crab	moon jellyfish
RM 96 Ulster			30	25	45	10	
RM 62 Beacon				9	3	10	
RM 58 Kowawese			4	2	5	15	
RM 36 Croton Point	15	1	26	6		15	
RM 25 Piermont	75		5			29	
RM 18 Yonkers			29			2	
RM 13 Englewood	75						2
Breezy Point (NYC)	150	3					40
Fill in the totals:							

Answer the questions below based on the table above.

1. For the sites listed, which species was caught in **greatest numbers** on October 8th?
Silversides, specifically known as Atlantic silversides.

2. Which species was caught in the **most places** on October 8th?
Blue crabs were caught at six of the locations listed. White perch were caught in five locations.

In the Hudson River Estuary, the water near the ocean is salty, while further upriver it is fresh. The leading edge of salty water is called the **salt front**. The salt front was near Kowawese (RM 58) on October 8th.

3. Based on the location of the salt front, what are two species found mainly in **saltwater**?
Silversides, bluefish, and moon jellyfish.

4. What are two species found mainly in **freshwater**?
Killifish, and sunfish. Banded killifish were found at Croton, but are primarily a freshwater species. For this worksheet, all sunfish species have been grouped into one category.

5. What two species are likely to be found throughout the whole **estuary**, fresh and salty?
White perch and blue crabs. Other species are also found throughout the estuary, but these two occupy the widest range on this table.

6. Even if you weren't able to catch fish on October 8th, which species from the table above would you be likely to catch at **your site**?
This will depend greatly on where you are. Find a spot on the table that is nearest to your site's river mile, and it's likely that you share some of the same habitats and species.