

Ed,

Here is the information you have requested. This study did not focus on eel migration, abundance, or life stage. MDMR collected these data to address downstream alosine passage after stocking Sabattus Pond. This is the information I have located from our fyke net study on the Sabattus River near the outlet of Sabattus Pond. The following are excerpts from semi-annual reports and other data collected by this project.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Mike

An assessment of the Sabattus River fish community and the timing of adult river herring emigration from Sabattus Pond were conducted from May through June of 2000-2001. A fyke net was set at the outlet of the pond in the Sabattus River after adult river herring were released into Sabattus Pond. The net was 1/4" stretch mesh and crossed the entire river, staked to both riverbanks, to ensure that all emigrating adult alewives were captured. The net was tended daily and length data was collected on all fish species.

For the second consecutive year, fish community data were collected at the outlet of Sabattus Pond. This project was conducted in partnership with the Sabattus Lake Association to gain a better understanding of the existing fish community in the Sabattus River and to determine the degree of adult alewife post-spawn migration from the lake. A fyke net was set on May 30, 2000 in the Sabattus River at the outlet of Sabattus Pond to assess the timing of out-migrating adults and collect fish community data for the river. The net was tended daily and remained in the river until June 27. During the 28-day sampling period, 10 fish species were captured; length data were collected on all individuals. Thirteen species were documented at the same sample location and during the same general time in 1999. The most common species captured during the 2000 sample period was white perch. The most unusual captures during this period were two large snapping turtles (Table 29). The water temperature in the river ranged from 14.5°C to 22.5°C, averaging 18.7°C over the sampling period. Unfortunately, the fyke net was set three weeks after the first alewives were stocked in Sabattus Pond and adult emigration data is incomplete for this period. Due to high water flow during spring 2000, many of the post-spawn adults may have emigrated from the pond prior to setting the fyke net. The fyke net will be set prior to alewife stocking in 2001.

Sabattus River fish community data, 1999				
Month	Species	To. No.	Av. Total Length (mm)	Min. Total Length (mm)
May	river herring	2	283.5	275.0
	white sucker	12	160.3	110.0
	white perch	47	263.9	147.0
	hog-nose sucker	2	186.5	185.0
	blacknosed dace	5	91.6	79.0
	golden shiner	3	163.7	145.0
	common shiner	20	84.8	69.0
	yellow perch	6	124.2	94.0
	brown bullhead	1	61.0	N/A
	pumpkinseed	1	115.0	N/A
	fourspine stickleback	1	52.0	N/A
	American eel	1		
	killifish	1	69.0	N/A
	northern pike	1	650.0	N/A
	larval fish	~208	~17.5	N/A
	Monthly Total	311		
	Av. Water Temp.	18.3		
June	river herring	18	274.9	241.0
	white sucker	13	311.1	115.0
	white perch	47	273.2	160.0
	golden shiner	117	142.9	93.0
	common shiner	17	85.2	65.0
	yellow perch	11	112.8	30.0
	brown bullhead	1	118.0	N/A
	pumpkinseed	4	97.8	84.0
	black crappie	1	55.0	N/A
	small mouth bass	1	116.0	N/A
	brook stickleback	1	50.0	N/A
	fry	10	30.0	N/A
	chub	1	141	N/A
	fathead minnow	1	62	N/A
	American smelt	2	113.5	111.0
	Monthly Total	245		
	Av. Water Temp.	21.3		

Table 29. Sabattus River Fish Community, May - June, 2000.

Species	Number	Total Length Range (mm)	Average Total Length (mm)
White Perch <i>(Morone americana)</i>	442	7-295	48
Yellow Perch <i>(Perca flavescens)</i>	12	26-238	123
Smallmouth Bass <i>(Micropterus dolomieu)</i>	2	-	-
Common Shiner <i>(Notropis cornutus)</i>	8	83-104	95
White Sucker <i>(Catostromus commersoni)</i>	17	38-116	91
Brown Bullhead <i>(Ictalurus nebulosus)</i>	11	73-305	240
River Herring <i>(Alosa aestivalis)</i>	26	258-307	276
Chain Pickerel <i>(Esox niger)</i>	1	272	272
American Eel <i>(Anguilla rostrata)</i>	6	750-950	858
Largemouth Bass <i>(Micropterus salmoides)</i>	1	-	-
Crayfish <i>(Unknown)</i>	21	-	-
Snail <i>(Unkown)</i>	2	-	-
	2	-	-

Snapping Turtle <i>(Chelydra serpentina)</i>			
--	--	--	--

Table 30. Sabattus River Fish Community, May - June, 2001.

Species	Number	Total Length Range (mm)	Average Total Length (mm)
White Perch <i>(Morone americana)</i>	37	39-340	265
Yellow Perch <i>(Perca flavescens)</i>	1	143	143
Fourspine Stickleback <i>(Apeltes quadracus)</i>	2	52-53	53
Common Shiner <i>(Notropis cornutus)</i>	24	60-86	74
White Sucker <i>(Catostromus commersoni)</i>	9	93-442	220
Brown Bullhead <i>(Ictalurus nebulosus)</i>	4	232-324	276
River Herring <i>(Alosa pseudoharengus)</i>	20	250-299	275
Northern Pike <i>(Esox lucius)</i>	4	249-485	410
American Eel <i>(Anguilla rostrata)</i>	8	600-914	700
Largemouth Bass <i>(Micropterus salmoides)</i>	1	415	415
Crayfish <i>(Unknown)</i>	1	-	-

Pumpkinseed Sunfish <i>(Lepomis gibbosus)</i>	2	50-130	90