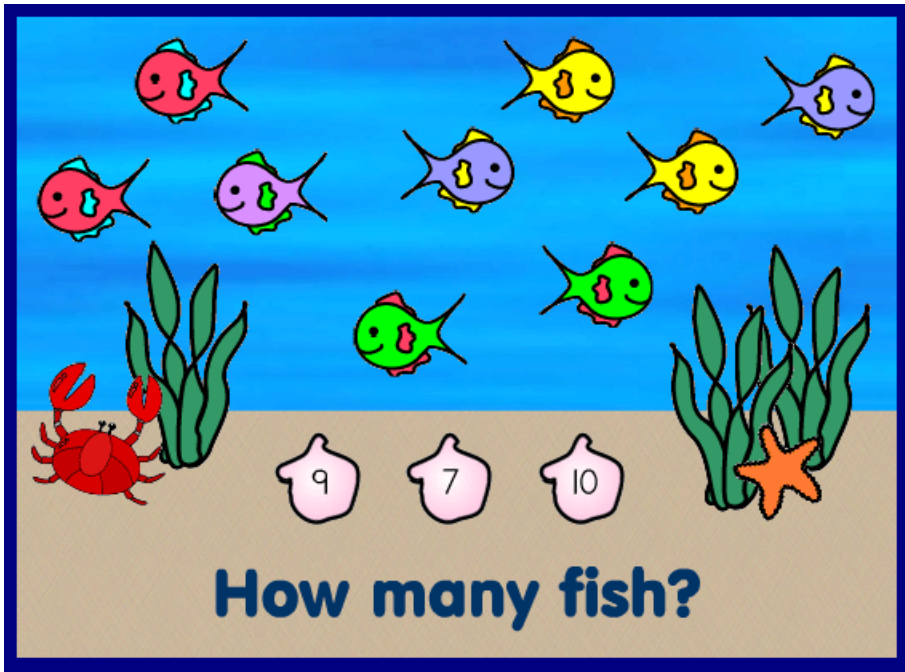


Help the Fish in Buckeye Brook!

Volunteer to participate in our annual fish count.

The Buckeye Brook Coalition is the RI State Designated Local Watershed Council for the Buckeye Brook Watershed, and in Cooperation with the RI Department of Environmental Management, Division of Fish & Wildlife, is recruiting and training volunteers to participate in the 2021 Annual Direct Fish Count.



How to Help: Volunteer to Count Fish in Buckeye Brook in Warwick, RI

Where: Buckeye Brook at Warwick Avenue

What is the Annual Fish Count? The annual fish count is where volunteers get together to participate during the River Herring / fish migration season from April 1 through about May 15 each year to observe and count fish in our local watershed where the fish swim upstream to spawn. It's fascinating to watch!

Buckeye Brook is a natural habitat and underwater maternity ward for River Herring, which annually swim from the Ocean, through Narragansett Bay, through Buckeye Brook in Warwick, where they swim as far north as Spring Green Pond in Hoxsie to lay their eggs, before returning to the sea. For many reasons, including climate changes, stream blockages, and over fishing, fish stocks are lower than in previous

years, and agencies like the US Fish and Wildlife Service and RIDEM Fish & Wildlife maintain data which is used for fisheries management. This impacts Commercial and Recreational Fishing in RI and our economy.

Why Count Fish? Fish counts are used for many reasons, including fisheries management and to ensure that species survive from depletion. Annual Fish Count statistics are compiled from our local fish counts and similar counts around the United States, where the numbers can be compared year to year to assess the health of fish stock levels and to best manage fish stocks on a wide area through local and national efforts. It's also a fun volunteer activity.

How You Can Help: Volunteer to Count Fish in Buckeye Brook in Warwick, RI

Requirements: All new volunteers are required to attend one of the two Zoom trainings, but if you are unavailable to attend, a pre-recorded training session can be sent to you. Returning volunteers are not required to attend the Zoom, but we would love to have any returning volunteers join!

There are two Zoom training sessions, but you only need to attend ONE:

Wednesday, March 24th, 6 PM - 7 PM

OR

Monday, March 29th, 6 PM - 7 PM

Just so we have an idea of how many people to expect at each training session, please click the link below and choose which session you will be attending or if you will not be able to make either session and will need a pre-recorded session sent to you:

<https://forms.gle/Fg5SxdokiZwkhUCp9>

The official Zoom link to the trainings will be sent out on Monday, March 22nd.

If you are interested in participating and cannot attend one of the above training sessions, or have previously participated and are exempt from having to train, please contact Jennifer Brooks from RIDEM at jennifer.brooks@dem.ri.gov. Send her your full name, email address, telephone number, and days of the week you are available to count (Monday-Sunday), either A.M. (Sunrise-Noon) or P.M. (Noon-Sunset). And mention this notice to volunteer and that you'd like to help the River Herring and our community!!!

RIDEM Paperwork Requirements: Unless your paperwork is already on file from a previous year, Jen from RIDEM must receive your completed liability form before you can start counting or be put on the schedule. More information will be available at the Zoom Sessions. **Jen will be making the Buckeye Brook schedule before April 1 and can only add you to the schedule if she has received your liability form and your days of availability.** If you have more questions on signing up to volunteer, please contact Jen at 401-789-0281 or email her at jennifer.brooks@dem.ri.gov

So let's go count the River Herring in Buckeye Brook.

It's Easy! It's Fun! Your help will provide very valuable information to protect river herring, as well as commercial and recreational fishing.

Sincerely,

Mike

Michael Zarum, President and Chair
Buckeye Brook Coalition
A RI State Designated Local Watershed Council
located@rcn.com
401-742-5769



**Buckeye Brook Coalition and RIDEM Fish & Wildlife Volunteers'
Annual Fish Count in Buckeye Brook**