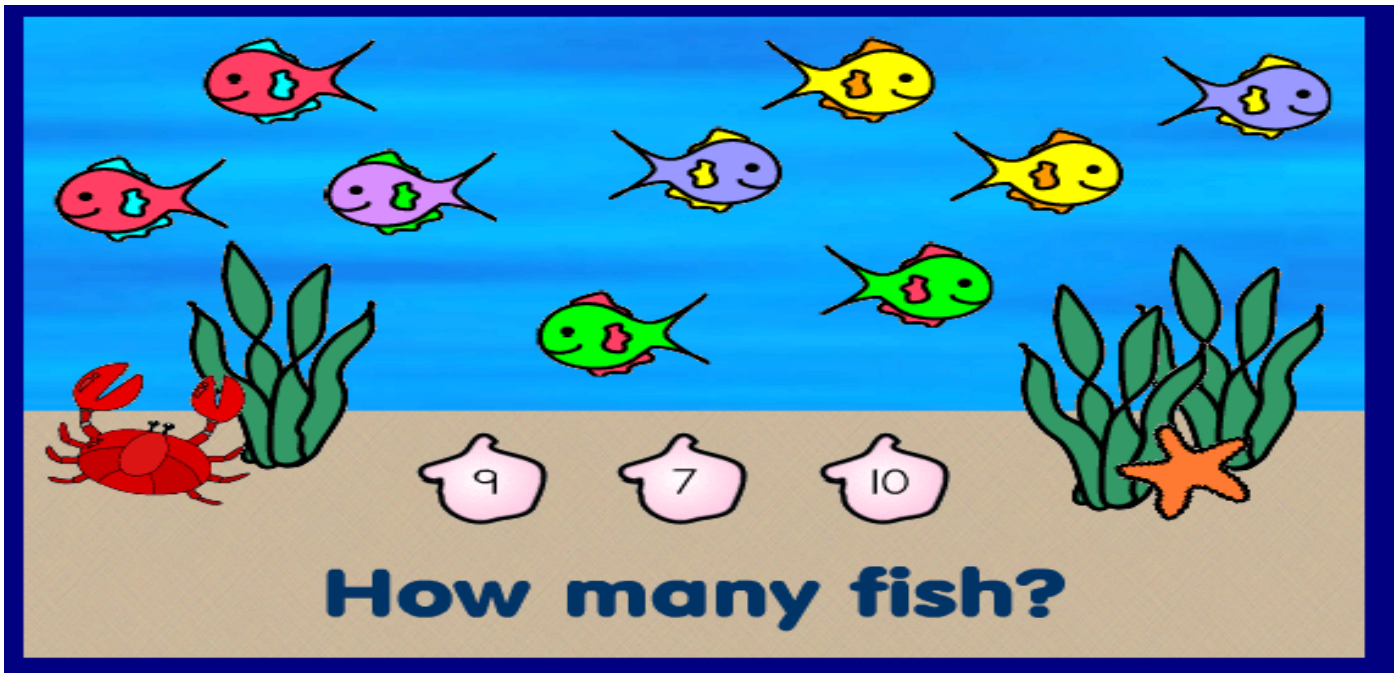


Help the Fish in Buckeye Brook!

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 2022 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 May 31 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 change, stream blockages, and over fishing, fish stocks are much lower than historically, so 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 the Zoom training, 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!

Another note for returning volunteers - *We will be using the lock boxes again, so that means that each survey site will have a binder with data sheets, clickers, a thermometer, and hand sanitizer. We will provide an individual survey sheet option for those that don't feel comfortable using the lockbox, at their request.*

The Zoom training will be held on: **Tuesday, March 22nd, 6 PM - 7 PM**

Survey at your convenience! Volunteers will count fish for 10-minute intervals as they move upstream to reproduce.

To sign up or for more information, click [HERE](#).

The official Zoom link to the training will be sent out on Monday, March 21st to all those who have their volunteer waiver on file.

If you are a new volunteer or have not filled out a waiver in the past, please fill out the online waiver via this link: <https://ridem.wufoo.com/forms/q2ak6sc13dcxxn/>

For new volunteers under 18, please fill out the attached paper waiver and have a guardian sign. This waiver can be scanned or photographed and emailed to: dem.dfwvolunteer@dem.ri.gov

Or you can send it by snail mail to:

DFW Volunteer Program
277 Great Neck Road
W. Kingston, RI 02892

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. More information will be available at the Zoom Session. 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**