

DISTRICT FISH FACTS

- District waters are home to more than 70 fish species.
- Dozens of fish species from sea lampreys to striped bass spawn in the District's waters.
- The Potomac River is one of the most productive largemouth bass fisheries on the East Coast.
- DDOE has a hatchery and has released more than 1.5 million juvenile American shad into the Anacostia River.
- Striped bass tagged in the District have been recaptured as far North as Maine, and as far south as Georgia.
- Anglers age 16 to 64 must possess a valid fishing license to fish in District waters.
- Please contact DDOE's Fisheries and Wildlife Division at 202.535.2260 for information on how to obtain a fishing license.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact
202.535.2260
or visit
green.dc.gov
or
ddoe.dc.gov/fisheries

DDOE Fisheries & Wildlife Division
51 N St. NE, Fifth Floor
Washington, DC 20002



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FISHERIES FISHERIES RESEARCH PROGRAM



Fisheries Enhancement

To complement our habitat improvement projects, DDOE raises American shad in its aquaculture facility at the Aquatic Resources Education Center located in Anacostia Park. We stock juvenile American shad into the Anacostia River shortly after they hatch to enhance the population. Approximately one million juvenile shad are stocked into the Anacostia River each year.



DDOE's Fisheries Research Program

The District Department of the Environment monitors and manages the fish populations in District waters, and works to provide outstanding angling opportunities for District residents and visitors.

Fish Habitat Improvements

DDOE works to restore declining fish populations by enhancing their habitats. For example, in the District's portion of Rock Creek, barriers to fish migration have been removed and a fish ladder installed at the Pierce Mill dam. The fish ladder allows fish to bypass the dam and migrate upstream. These habitat improvements have re-opened fish access to more than nine miles of spawning habitat in the District.

Fish Surveys

DDOE conducts surveys to determine trends in the abundance of fish species. We use several methods to survey fish. In one technique called electrofishing, biologists use a specialized research vessel called an electrofishing boat to capture fish. Electrofishing produces an electric field in the water that temporarily stuns fish so they can be captured, measured, weighed, examined, and tagged.

We also use other sampling methods including seining, gillnetting, and pushnetting (pushing a large net through the water with the aid of a boat) to capture fish.



Invasive Species Monitoring

DDOE identifies the potentially negative impacts of invasive species that have appeared in District waters. The northern snakehead, blue catfish, and grass carp have become more common in District waters in recent years.

