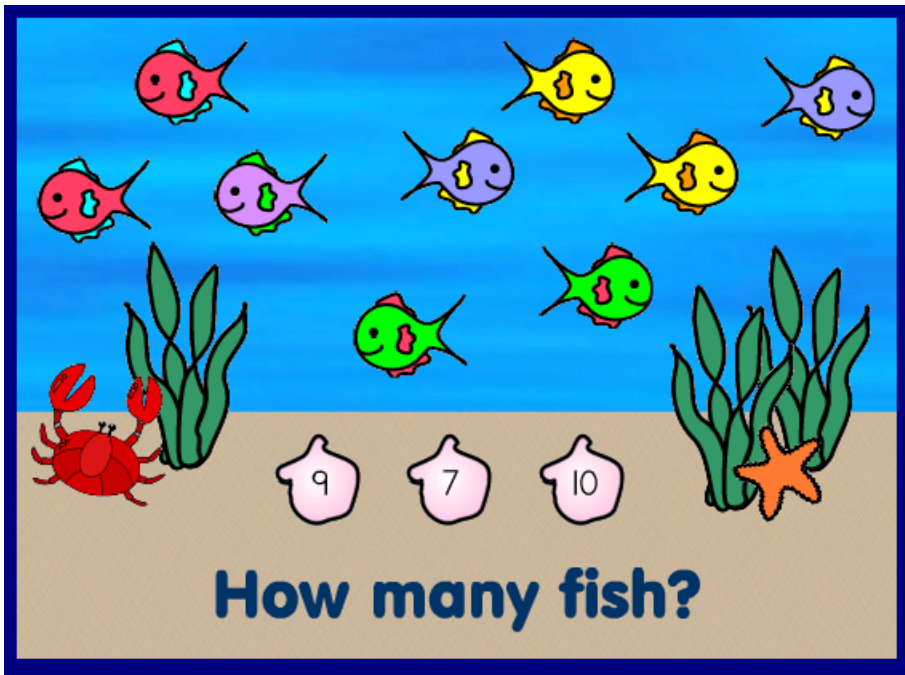


Help the Fish in Buckeye Brook!

Volunteer to participate in the 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 volunteers for training and to participate in the 2023 Annual Direct Fish Count.



How to Help: Volunteer to Count Fish in Buckeye Brook in Warwick, R.I.

Event: RI DEM River Herring Count 2023.

Where: Buckeye Brook at Warwick Avenue.

To Sign Up - Click this link: <https://forms.office.com/g/FB6TPnPGk8>

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 Fish Habitat: 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 can vary from year to year.

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 training session* and are required to complete a *Volunteer Waiver Form* before starting their fish counting.

Training Sessions: New Volunteers must attend one of two Training Sessions:

- 1) A Live Zoom Virtual Training Session held on-line. The Zoom Session link will be provided to those who sign up.
- 2) The In Person Training Session will take place at the fish count site where Buckeye Brook passes under Warwick Avenue.

Dates for Training Sessions:

Wednesday, March 22nd, 6 PM - 7 PM Live Zoom Virtual Training Session
OR

Saturday, April 1st, 10 AM - 11 AM On-Site Buckeye Brook @ Warwick Ave.

New Volunteers only need to attend ONE training session.

Returning Volunteers are not required to attend a training session. We would love to have returning volunteers join us!

If you are unavailable to attend one of the above training sessions, a web link a recording of the Zoom Training Session can be sent to you after you've signed up to volunteer.

WHERE TO SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER: Sign Ups for Volunteers are done through Jennifer Brooks, Volunteer Program Coordinator, RIDEM Division of Fish & Wildlife, at the following web link:

<https://forms.office.com/g/FB6TPnPGk8>

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
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A RI State Designated Local Watershed Council
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**Buckeye Brook Coalition and RIDEM Fish & Wildlife Volunteers'
Annual Fish Count in Buckeye Brook**