

40. Species caught during the
Recruitment Survey

JOB PROGRESS REPORT

State: Maryland Project No.: F-29-R-5
Project Title: Statewide Fisheries Survey and Management
Study Title: River and Stream Inventory Studies
Job No.: 3
Period Covered: 1 January 1980 to 31 December 1980

JOB OBJECTIVE

To determine the species composition, distribution, relative abundance, and life history data of fish found in each of the 28 river basins in Maryland to furnish information necessary for preparing a fishery management plan for each river basin surveyed.

SUMMARY

Thirty-one fish species were collected from tributaries of the Chester River during 1980 at 11 sample stations. Harvestable size fish were found at all of the locations studied. Redfin pickerel were the most abundant predatory fish species inhabiting the tributaries. Young-of-the-year largemouth bass were collected only from the sample station located downstream from Unicorn Lake.

Limited fish sampling in Antietam and Conococheague Creeks revealed basically warmwater fish species inhabiting both streams. Although none were sampled, it is known that rainbow and brown trout are present in Antietam Creek.

Forty-six species of fish were collected from 18 sample stations in the Patuxent River. Cyprinidae formed the largest group with 15 species, and the most widespread species was the tessellated darter found at 14 stations.

PROCEDURES

For each river surveyed, the number of areas sampled were dictated by the size of the river basin, access points, sources of pollution, and various other environmental conditions. Fish were collected one or more times at each station until a satisfactory collection was made.

Fish collections were made by using gill nets, hoop nets, D-traps, seines, and electrofishing gear in pool, flat, and riffle type habitats.