

SRST Outreach 2007

Website

- www.southernriverscienceteam.org
- Considering
 - removing username/pswd requirement
 - providing simple plots/charts, etc.
- Welcome user feedback



At A Glance: Spring Fish Sampling Conducted and Expanded

Since the 1970s, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ) has been collecting fish from the South River and the South Fork Shenandoah River for mercury analysis to (1) help refine its knowledge of the spatial and temporal trends of mercury concentrations in fish and (2) provide current data to allow the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and VADEQ to assess the risk to people eating the fish. You have probably seen the warning signs posted in English and Spanish at all public parks and landings from Waynesboro to Front Royal. These warnings are a result of these sampling efforts.

The VADEQ and Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) have completed the spring 2007 fish sampling. From 1990 to 2005, fish were sampled every three years. In the future, the VADEQ intends to sample fish every five years, which should be adequate to provide sufficient data without overharvesting the fish population. The target species sampled are smallmouth bass, redbreast sunfish and suckers. Channel catfish are collected from stations where they are plentiful, and trout are collected from Waynesboro and Grottoes where they are stocked. Sample results show that trout are not contaminated.

This year, histopathology was added to the sampling effort at selected sites to gain a better understanding of the fish kills that have occurred in the North and South Forks of the Shenandoah Rivers. The causes of these fish kills, which have occurred each spring since 2004, remain a mystery. Scientists from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Fish Health Laboratory in Leetown, W.V., are analyzing samples of blood, liver, muscle tissue, gonads and other internal organs. The fish will also be analyzed for parasites, pathogens (viral and bacterial) and diseases.

In This Issue...

At A Glance:
Spring Sampling Conducted and Expanded

Tech Corner:
Mercury Levels in South River Fish: Why Aren't They Declining?

From the Team...
Univ. of Delaware Surveys Riverbank Using LIDAR

Did You Know?
Fish Consumption Advisory Not Unique to South River

About this Newsletter...

In the Fall 2000, the South River Science Team was formed to serve as a focal point for technical issues concerning mercury in the South River and downstream waterways. The Science Team is a cooperative effort between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Health and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and representatives from academia, citizens groups, the Environmental Protection Agency and DuPont. The Science Team provides technical direction for the mercury monitoring program and ensures that there is effective communication provided to the users of the river. The Science Team's goal is to understand why mercury in South River fish has not decreased over time and to identify potential solutions to improve the situation.

Winter 07 Issue

- Proposed Articles
 - Foodweb
 - Floodplain Sampling Program
 - Living South River Program
 - ?

Contacts

- Waynesboro Fly Fishing Festival
- VA Natural Resources Leadership Institute
- Trout Unlimited
- Shenandoah Pure Water Forum
- Riverfest
- Future Farmers of America
- Wilson Memorial High School
- Living South River Program

Riverfest



Wilson High School





Living South River Labs

- In spring, 2007, a new fish exhibit and labs were created at Grand Caverns for 6th Grade Meaningful Watershed Experiences, and the general public. Over 1000 students added more life!
- With thanks to the VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District, South River Science Team, DuPont, Inc., Upper Valley Regional Park Authority, Springdale Water Gardens, Emperor Aquatics, and many Earth Team Volunteers.

Living Cave/Living South River



Fish School Beginnings



Near Completion







Fish School is in session.



Rich's
circulating
waterfall for
invertebrates...





TRUE BUGS
MAYFLIES
WATER BEES
GLASSBORO
NON-INK
STONEFLIES

TRUE BUGS
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Something Different for Dinner Tonight

