

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Volunteer Opportunities



Hudson River
Estuary Program

How Can You Help?

Every year, hundreds of volunteers help DEC scientists and naturalists collect data on fish and wildlife and plant native trees along Hudson River tributary streams. You, too can get involved! We invite you to participate in any of the following outdoor opportunities, conducted in partnership with the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve and Cornell University.

American Eel Research

Volunteers are needed to help monitor juvenile glass eels as they enter freshwater habitats from the ocean. The American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) is in decline over much of its range, and baseline studies are needed for conservation. Volunteers help collect glass eels using specialized nets and traps on Hudson River tributaries. The young eels are counted, weighed, and released upstream, often above barriers to continue their migration. Volunteers can assist at sample streams from New York City to Greene County. This requires mostly outdoor field work from late March through May, with very flexible schedules. All volunteers under 18 are accompanied by an adult experienced in the eel research project. On-site training is provided. For more information visit



www.dec.ny.gov/lands/49580.html or contact: grace.ballou@dec.ny.gov or sarah.mount@dec.ny.gov at the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve.



Amphibian Migrations and Road Crossings

Have you ever witnessed large numbers of salamanders and frogs crossing the road on rainy spring nights? Ever wonder where they came from and where they're going? During early spring rains when temperatures rise above freezing, forest amphibians move from their woodland habitat to breed in vernal pools, often making dangerous road crossings. These amphibians migrate to breeding pools by the hundreds, if not thousands during "Big Night" migrations in late March or early April. You can help by telling us when and where you see migrations of woodland pool amphibians. Your observations will enable us to identify and map road crossings where salamanders and wood frogs are especially vulnerable, and learn more about where their habitats are located. Volunteers survey roads or known crossings for a few hours during "Big Night" migrations. All ages are welcome, but younger volunteers should be closely supervised due to road safety concerns. Data collection forms and instructions are available from the Hudson River Estuary Program and can be downloaded at www.dec.ny.gov/lands/51925.html or contact: woodlandpool@dec.ny.gov

Trees for Tribs

Do you own or manage land along a stream? The Hudson Estuary Trees for Tribs Program offers free native trees and shrubs for planting along the tributary streams in the Hudson River Estuary watershed. Riparian (streamside) buffers help maintain healthy streams, improve water quality, and reduce erosion and flooding. We are looking for new sites for plantings, which take place in the spring and fall. Our staff can help you with a planting plan and work with your volunteers on site. Volunteers also help plant native trees and shrubs. For more information about the program including project applications and fact sheets, please visit www.dec.ny.gov/lands/43668.html or email the Hudson River Estuary Program's Stream Buffer Coordinator at HudsonEstuary@Tft.ny.gov.



Hudson River Cooperative Angler Program

Do you fish for striped bass in the Hudson River? Whether you catch-and-release or take home a keeper, you can be part of the Cooperative Angler Program. Share your fishing trip information and help biologists understand and manage our striped bass fishery.

Here's how it works: Fill out a logbook provided by us whenever you fish on the Hudson River (by boat or on the shore). Record general location, time, gear used, what you caught (or if you didn't catch anything) and return the logbook when you are done fishing. You'll receive an annual newsletter summarizing the information in addition to the latest news regarding regulations and the river. Join today! Call or e-mail Jessica Best at 845-256-3009; Jessica.best@dec.ny.gov.



The Great Hudson River Estuary Fish Count

The Great Hudson River Estuary Fish Count is a one-day event each summer during which naturalists at multiple sites along the Hudson catch fish to show visitors the variety of fascinating creatures usually hidden below the river's surface. Depending on the site, seines, minnow traps, and rods and reels are used to collect fish. After the naturalists display and discuss the catch, the fish are released back to the river. The Great Hudson River Estuary Fish Count will take place August 13, 2016. For more information visit DEC's website at www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5102.html.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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