

**VIMS Juvenile Fish Survey  
Net Notes  
February 2007**

In February, the VIMS Trawl Survey saw the return of summer flounder (10-17 inches) and larval spot to the Bay. The survey caught flounder at four stations outside the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. Larval spot (~1 inch long) were also caught in the lower bay; usually the survey begins seeing juvenile spot in April. Large adult white perch were caught upriver of Gray's Point in the Rappahannock River and upriver of the Catlett Islands in the York River. More than 50 channel catfish were captured, measured and immediately released in the James River near the mouth of Skiffes Creek/Ft. Eustis.

<b>Average Condition of Bottom Waters During February</b>						
<b>Region</b>	<b>Temperature (°F)</b>		<b>Salinity (parts per thousand)</b>		<b>Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)</b>	
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
Bay Mouth	40.1	45.1	27.0	26.6	11.3	10.1
Lower James River	40.5	43.1	20.7	18.0	10.8	11.4
Lower York River	41.5	44.8	19.3	19.6	10.1	9.4
Lower Rappahannock River	35.3	43.1	12.9	14.8	12.5	10.7

Dissolved oxygen (DO) levels of greater than 5.0 mg/L are safe for most fish. Tolerance to low levels of DO varies by species. Waters with DO of 2.0 mg/L or less would be avoided by fish; levels this low would prevent their bodies from functioning normally.

For more information on the survey, visit  
<http://www.fisheries.vims.edu/trawlseine/mainpage.htm>.