

VIMS Juvenile Fish Survey
Net Notes
September 2007

During the monthly VIMS Juvenile Fish Survey, survey personnel made some interesting observations. Survey crews counted large summer flounder (>22in.) throughout Chesapeake Bay from Craddock Creek (on the Eastern Shore) to York Spit Light as well as in the James River near the Monitor Merrimac Bridge Tunnel. Legal sized tautog were also observed in this area of the James River. The area to the southeast of New Point Comfort Light produced large Atlantic croaker (13 inches and up) while pan-size spot were present throughout all areas surveyed. Survey scientists noted keeper size weakfish from both the James and York rivers. Two additional highlights of this month's sampling were a single large sheepshead (approx. 24 in.) and a single cobia nearly 40 inches long. Both of these fish came from an area along the York River Entrance Channel. While sampling off Cherrystone Inlet, survey personnel identified several crested blennies, a fish species previously unrecorded from Chesapeake Bay, but common in waters south of Virginia. Though they are non-game fish, the three species of blennies found in Chesapeake Bay are a unique and interesting part of the local fish assemblage.

For more information about this monthly survey please visit our website at <http://www.fisheries.vims.edu/trawlseine/mainpage.htm>