

VIMS Juvenile Fish Survey
Net Notes
September 2008

During the September VIMS Juvenile Fish Survey, survey personnel made some interesting observations. As is common this time of year, large summer flounder were present in samples from numerous locations. The largest of these, several 24 inch fish, were measured near Hampton Bar in the James River. A single southern flounder was also measured in this vicinity. This is only the second verified VIMS record of a southern flounder from within Chesapeake Bay. Southern flounder look very similar to summer flounder but lack ocellated (eyelike) spots on the eyed side of the fish and are common to the south of Chesapeake Bay. An Atlantic bumper, another unique member of the local fish assemblage, was also collected from the Hampton Bar area during September. Atlantic bumper, infrequent visitors to lower Chesapeake Bay during autumn, are members of the Jack family. Over the last several months survey scientists have seen Penaeid Shrimps (southern commercial shrimps) with increasing regularity. Shrimp are included in the diet of many fish and an increase locally would make them more available for fish to eat. Another interesting animal encountered by the survey team this month was the cannonball jellyfish. Cannonball jellies are a species of jellyfish more common closer to the tropics (locally only as a strays) and are interesting due to their unique ball shape and the fact that their sting is ineffective on most people.

If you are interested in viewing a picture of an Atlantic Bumper or other animals encountered by scientists on this ongoing monthly survey please visit our website at <http://www.fisheries.vims.edu/trawlseine/NetNotes.htm>.