

The pages in this document were taken from the "Corsica River Watershed Characterization" published in October 2003. The entire document can be found at http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/download/bays/cr_char.pdf.

Corsica River Watershed Characterization

**Excerpt Showing an Example of
Documentation of Fish (and Oysters)**

October 2003

Fish and Oysters

1. Tidal Areas

[Map 17 Fish Spawning and Oysters](#) shows that at least three anadromous fish species are known to spawn in several streams within the Corsica River watershed:

- Corsica River mainstem, Emory Creek and Three Bridges Branch: yellow perch and white perch
- Mill Stream Branch: yellow perch, white perch and herring

Natural oyster beds were historically found in the Corsica River as also shown in [Map 17 Fish Spawning and Oysters](#).¹³ Currently, there are no oyster beds or oyster leases designated by DNR in the Corsica River. The closest oyster beds currently designated by DNR are in the Chester River mainstem immediately outside of the Corsica River as shown in the map. The closest oyster lease areas are in the Chester River well downstream of the Corsica River in the vicinity of Kent Island. The reasons why the Corsica River oyster beds disappeared have not been established but sedimentation is likely to have been a factor.

2. Nontidal Areas

Information on fish in nontidal streams is primarily gathered as part of the Maryland Biological Stream Survey. See [Biological Monitoring In Streams](#) for summary information. Additional information on fish populations and related recreational activities will be incorporated as it becomes available.

Maryland Fisheries Service does not monitor freshwater fish populations in tributaries to the Corsica River, in part, due to an absence of public demand. Public access for freshwater fishing is unavailable on Corsica River tributaries according to the *Maryland Guide to Freshwater Fishing* (1992).

Sampling of fish populations was conducted in selected stream segments of the Lower Monocacy River watershed in 1995 and 2000 by the Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS). A complete listing of fish species that were identified are listed in table [MBSS Fish Species Findings For County Subwatersheds](#). While these findings are limited and they are aggregated by County subwatershed, they do offer some insights summarized below:

- Portions of stream networks draining to Mill Stream Branch and Three Bridges Branch support Roseyside Dace and Least Brook Lamprey. These “intolerant” fish species require good water quality and habitat to survive in the long term.
- The majority of the fish found throughout the Corsica River watershed are tolerant and “moderately tolerant of poor or variable water quality and/or habitat conditions.

MBSS Fish Species Findings For Corsica River Subwatersheds

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| Key For Color/Font Code* for fish species in the table below (white: no data) | Tolerant Fish that tend to survive greater pollution and poorer habitat conditions | <i>Moderate Tolerance</i> <i>Fish with mid-range ability to co-exist with pollution and varied habitat conditions</i> | Intolerant Fish that require good water quality and good habitat conditions |
|---|--|--|---|

Key for table: U means that at least one MBSS site identified the presence of this species.

| Fish Species By Subwatershed/Stream MBSS Data | Corsica Direct Emory Creek Tributaries | Mill Stream Branch and Tributaries | Three Bridges Branch and Tributaries | Gravel Run |
|---|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| American Eel | U | U | U | U |
| <i>Banded Killfish</i> | | | | U |
| Bluegill | | U | U | U |
| Brown Bullhead | | U | U | U |
| <i>Creek Chubsucker</i> | | U | U | U |
| Eastern Mudminnow | U | U | U | U |
| <i>Fallfish</i> | | U | U | |
| Golden Shiner | | U | U | U |
| <i>Largemouth Bass</i> | | U | U | U |
| Least Brook Lamprey | | U | U | |
| <i>Margined Madtom</i> | | U | | |
| Mummichog | | | | U |
| Pirate Perch | | U | U | U |
| <i>Pumpkinseed</i> | | U | U | U |
| <i>Redbreast Sunfish</i> | | U | | |
| <i>Redfin Pickerel</i> | U | U | U | U |
| Rosyside Dace | | U | | |

| Fish Species By Subwatershed/Stream MBSS Data | Corsica Direct Emory Creek Tributaries | Mill Stream Branch and Tributaries | Three Bridges Branch and Tributaries | Gravel Run |
|---|--|--|---|------------|
| <i>Satinfin Shiner</i> | | | U | |
| <i>Spotfin Shiner</i> | | | U | |
| <i>Spottail Shiner</i> | | | U | U |
| <i>Swallowtail Shiner</i> | | | U | |
| <i>Tessellated Darter</i> | | U | U | U |
| <i>White Perch</i> | | | U | |
| White Sucker | | U | | |
| <i>Yellow Perch</i> | | | U | U |

* Rating of nontidal fish by tolerance level is adapted from the following document: *Maryland Biological Stream Survey, Ecological Status of Nontidal Streams in Six Basins Sampled in 1995*. Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources, Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Programs, Monitoring and Nontidal Assessment. CBWP-MANTA-EA-97-2. May 1997.