RESULTS of Sunset Seining & Fish Survey

Saturday, July 24, 2021

Sandy Hook Bay - Bayshore Waterfront Park

View email with color photos and video here: <https://mailchi.mp/44bea57f384f/results-of-fish-survey-seining-event>

Time: 7:30pm - 9:00pm (approx)

Moon Stage: Full Moon

Air Temperature = 71 degrees F

Water Temperature = 80 degrees F

Winds = Light winds from south

Salinity = 21 ppt

Turbidity = 2.4 foot, somewhat cloudy

Tidal Stage = Incoming tide (High tide - 8:51pm)

Seaweed = Sea lettuce (Ulva) and red algae (Ceramium). None in abundance along the edge of the beach.

20+ Atlantic Silversides (Menidia menidia)

6 ~ "Snapper" bluefish (Pomatomus Saltatrix). 2 bluefish had cuts on their body, possible from larger fish?

1 Long-wristed Hermit Crab (Pagurus longicarpus)

Lots of salps (Salpidae) and comb jellies (Ctenophora). Both are non-stinging marine animals.Both are ancient animals, having roamed the seas for at least 500 million years feeding on plankton.

During the final pull of the seine net (50-foot), we had a net full of comb jellies that were bioluminescence.

About half-way during the fish survey event, a nearby fisherman pulled in a live adult cownose ray (Rhinoptera bonasus). Volunteers with Save Coastal Wildlife helped the fishermen release the ray back into the water.

On the beach, we found lots of horseshoe crab molts of various sizes.

Save Coastal Wildlife conducts aquatic surveys to take the pulse of a local aquatic ecosystem. It's a way to gain an insight into the health of the near shore environment where many people swim and enjoy the water. It’s a chance to see what is living in local waters without harming sea life.