

RESULTS of Sunset Seining Survey

Saturday, September 26, 2020

Great Bay Estuary

Location: Graveling Point Beach, Little Egg Harbor Township, NJ

Time: 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Moon Stage: Waxing Gibbous 76.9%

Air Temperature = 79 degrees F

Water Temperature = 71 degrees F

Winds = South 5-10 mph

Salinity = 24 ppt

Turbidity = 3 feet, clear up to chest.

Tidal Stage = Outgoing tide (high tide at 5:20pm)

Seaweed = Sea lettuce (*Ulva*), Red seaweed (*Callophyllis cristata*) - none in abundance.

100+ Atlantic Silversides (*Menidia menidia*)

3 Grass Shrimp (*Palaemonetes*)

2 juvenile Blue-claw crabs (*Callinectes sapidus*)

1 Peanut Bunker or juvenile Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*)

1 mummichog (*Fundulus heteroclitus*) - many more were observed along the edge of the water before the tide turned.

1 Long-clawed Hermit Crab (*Pagurus longicarpus*)

Clusters of ribbed mussel colonies were located along the edge of the wetland near the beach.

Lots of Copepods in the water. A member of the widely distributed crustacean subclass Copepoda. Copepods are of great ecological importance, providing food for many species of fish and even some species of whales.

Save Coastal Wildlife conducts these 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.