

Results of Sunset Seining Along Sandy Hook Bay Sunday, August 2, 2020

Location: Near the Mouth of Many Mind Creek, Borough of Atlantic Highlands, NJ

Time: 7:15pm to 8:15pm

Air Temperature = 90 F

Water Temperature = 79 F

Winds = South 5-15 mph

Salinity = 27 ppt

Turbidity = 3 feet visibility

Tidal Stage = High tide

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

300+ Atlantic Silversides (*Menidia menidia*)

50+ Comb jellies (*Ctenophora*)

20+ Shore Shrimp or Common Grass Shrimp (*Palaemonetes pugio*)

4 Long-wristed Hermit Crab (*Pagurus longicarpus*)

3 male Striped Killifish (*Fundulus majalis*)

3 juvenile Bluefish "snapper" size (*Pomatomus saltatrix*)

3 juvenile male Blue-claw crabs (*Callinectes sapidus*)

1 Adult male Blue-Claw crab (*Callinectes sapidus*)

1 juvenile female Blue-claw crab (*Callinectes sapidus*)

1 juvenile Atlantic Kingfish (*Menticirrhus saxatilis*)

Seining is a method of taking 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.