Juvenile Fish Survey River Hamble June 2022

**Southern IFCA — Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority**

Purpose

Estuaries and sheltered coastal ecosystems provide a range of ecosystem services and are known for their high productivity and biodiversity. They offer suitable habitats for juvenile fish using the regions as nursery areas as well as species that live there full lifecycle in these areas.

As part of the Southern IFCA's Fish Monitoring Programme, survey at a range of site are carried out in order to understand the use of these essential fish habitats by commercial and recreational fish species. As more data is collected over time, it will be used to understand changes in fish communities, ecosystem health and to mark key nursery areas within the district. This valuable work contributes to more effective and sustainable fisheries management.

Method

1. A 43 meter seine net was used to sample fish.

2. The net was shot in a wide arc adjacent to the shoreline from a shallow draft vessel provided by Yarmouth Harbour.

3. The net was hauled into the shore and all fish placed into buckets.

4. Fish were measured nose to tail and carefully returned to the sea as quickly as possible.

5. The net was shot and hauled twice.
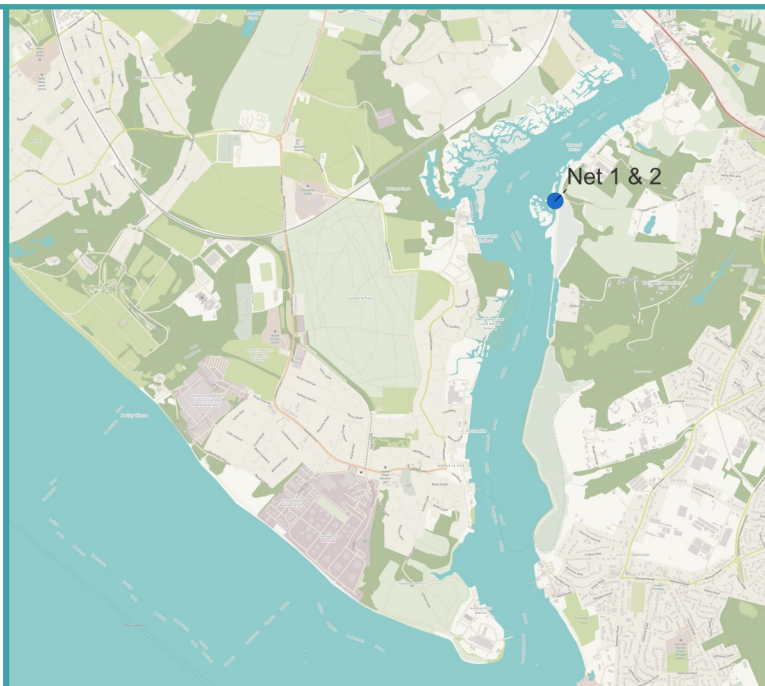
		Count	
Species	**Scientific Name**	**Net 1**	**Net 2**
Bass	*Dicentrarchus lobrax*	28	11
Grey Mullet spp.	*Mugilidae spp.*	7	17
Thick Lipped Mullet	*Chelon labrosus*	1	0

Results

- A total of 64 fish and 3 species were caught.

- The most frequently caught fish were bass. 39 bass were caught with a mean length of 91 mm and a mean relative abundance of 58%.

- The remaining fish were species of grey mullet, with only 1 fishing being clearly identifiable as a thick lipped mullet. 24 grey mullet were unable to be identified to a species level however were most likely thin and thick lipped grey mullet. Grey mullet spp. had a mean length of 53mm and a mean relative abundance of 40%.

- The first haul of the net returned predominantly bass (78%) where as the second haul of the net returned predominantly