

Juvenile Fish Survey

Yarmouth Harbour

June 2022

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

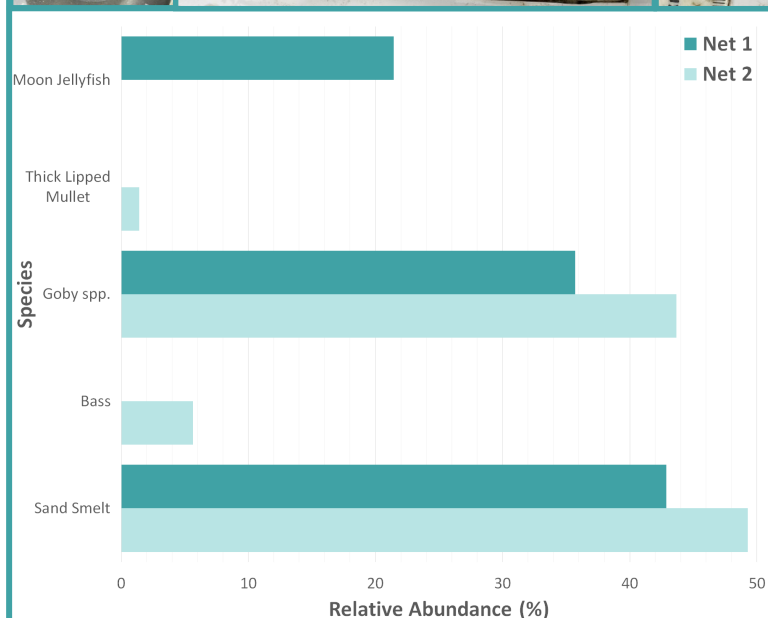
1. A 43 meter seine net was used to sample fish.
2. The net was shot in a wide arc adjacent to the shoreline from a shallow draft vessel provided by Yarmouth Harbour.
3. The net was hauled into the shore and all fish placed into buckets.
4. Fish were measured nose to tail and carefully returned to the sea as quickly as possible.
5. The net was shot and hauled twice.

Results

- A total of 85 fish and 5 species were caught.
- The most commonly occurring fish was sand smelt with a mean length of 81 mm and a mean relative abundance of 46%.
- Gobies were not identified to a species level however likely consisted of sand gobys and common gobies. The mean length of goby was 40 mm and with a mean relative abundance of 40%.
- A total of 4 juvenile bass were counted in net 2 only with a mean length of 163 mm, and mean relative abundance of 3% across both nets.
- 1 thick lipped mullet was counted in net 2 only with a length of 145 mm, and mean relative abundance of 1% across both nets.
- 3 moon jellyfish were counted in net 1 only with a mean relative abundance of 11% across both nets.



Species	Scientific Name	Count	
		Net 1	Net 2
Sand Smelt	<i>Atherina Presbyter</i>	6	35
Goby spp.	<i>Pomatoschistus spp.</i>	5	31
Bass	<i>Dicentrarchus lobrax</i>	0	4
Thick Lipped Mullet	<i>Chelon labrosus</i>	0	1
Moon Jellyfish	<i>Aurelia aurita</i>	3	0



Collaborative Partners: The successful completion of our surveys is dependent on a collaborative approach with shared resources, knowledge and skills. These surveys would not be possible without the support of Yarmouth Harbour and the Isle of Wight Estuaries Project.