

WORLD FISH MIGRATION DAY EVENTS IN THE HUDSON VALLEY

Connecting fish, rivers, and people across the globe

In celebration of World Fish Migration Day, a global initiative to create awareness about the importance of open rivers and migratory fish, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Hudson River Estuary Program and Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve are offering three public events in Dutchess County on May 20 and May 21. More than 300 events are scheduled worldwide.

"New York is home to significant habitat that is critical to the life cycle of many migratory fish species, and I encourage all residents to participate in these upcoming events in celebration of World Fish Migration Day," said DEC Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos. "Our citizen-based research and community involvement are essential to learn about these unique animals and help guide our conservation and stewardship efforts."

World Fish Migration Day Events:

Eel Count: Friday, May 20, 4 p.m., Fall Kill Creek, Poughkeepsie

The Eel Count will take place on the Fallkill between the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum and Upper Landing Park, which can be accessed by taking the elevator from the Walkway over the Hudson. DEC and Research Reserve education coordinator Chris Bowser will help volunteers, count, weigh, and then release the tiny eels upstream. This is the final eel count of the season and is part of an international count at locations in Europe and the U.S.

This event highlights DEC's annual citizen scientists Hudson River juvenile American eel tracking program. Now in its ninth year, the project has seen a great expansion in the number of volunteers and organizational support, with support from the NYS Water Resources Institute at Cornell University and dozens of partners from schools to non-profit organizations to private residents. From early March until May, approximately 500 students, teachers, college interns, and community volunteers check nets and mops at different sites including: Hannacroix Creek in New Baltimore (Greene County); Saw Kill in