There’s Something Fishy about the Saw mill river...

Analysis of the biodiversity of The Saw Mill River.

Raquel Romero Bio12
Variety of life forms within a given ecosystem

measure of health of biological systems

Healthy natural environments provide the basics of life
Biodiversity provides ecosystem goods and services:
- Food and water
- Flood and disease control
- Shelter and medicines

Saw Mill River is Yonkers backup water source

Local recreational concern

The river’s fish help maintain its ecological balance!
1/65 Tributaries of the Hudson River
~20 miles long
Flows from Chappaqua to Yonkers, N.Y.
**Source:** Town of New Castle
**Mouth:** Dock street, Hudson River
“Great Fishing Trap”

1903, Yonkers drew drinking water from the river and residents swam and fished in it.

Although the river has not been used for drinking water since 1983, it is still a backup water source for the city.
Basis Of This Study

Seine for Fish along the Saw Mill River, in order to create a thorough analysis of species that exist there.
Saw Mill River in 1989

Fish biologist Antonios Pappantoniou
Ten sampling sites
April to August 1989
Sites sampled 2–4 times each
Collected 1967 specimens
22 species

SITES:
Chappaqua
Pleasantville
Thornwood
East View
Ardsley
Elmsford
Woodlands Lake
Odell Ave (near ext blvd.)
Nepperhan Ave
Dock Street
Saw Mill River in 2003

- The Journal News “Saw Mill River health is called no fish story”
- Biologist Pappantoniou & Saunders H.S. students
- 11 sites
- 16 species
- (6 fewer species than 1989 study)
Methodology

- Seine in selected sites along Saw Mill River
- Collect and identify fish species
- Photograph and record species
- Excel
- Compare results to past studies
Materials

- 5x4 seine net
- waders
- Fish Dip nets
- Buckets
- Fish Identification key
- Camera
- Map
- Glass fish observer
- volunteers
Seining net
Kicking into net
FISH

Methodology Cont’d
Saunders HS students, Lehman College, & Ground works Hudson Valley
- 6 sites
- 2–11 times each
- 454 fish
- 8 species

- June 08, July 08, August 08, October 08, April 09, May 09
- **Sites:**
  - Chappaqua
  - Hawthorne Cinema
  - Rum brook park, Elmsford
  - Lawrence St.
  - Manor House
  - Executive Blvd.