



FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

Over many decades the District's fish and wildlife populations have been reduced by many factors, including land use, water quality and habitat loss. DDOE initiatives are working to reverse this trend.

AMERICAN SHAD

A fish species of particular interest is *Alosa sapidissima*—the American shad. Once abundant in District waters, the American shad has experienced tremendous population declines, resulting from excessive fishing, degraded water quality, and the loss of reproductive habitat.

During the past ten years, DDOE Biologists have embarked on a shad restoration journey: trapping adult shad, spawning the fish in a controlled environment, and releasing approximately 1,000,000 juvenile shad each year. The program has experienced steady success since its inception.

As part of a Potomac River watershed assessment, American shad are considered restored by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, a federally established interstate fisheries management board.

The continued success of the program is a testament to overall habitat conditions and is a benefit to the District's recreational angling community.



For more information, visit:

ddoe.dc.gov/service/fisheries-and-wildlife



RECLAIMING OUR RIVERS