

Bay Anchovy



The bay anchovy is a species whose numbers are decreasing at an alarming rate. These fish are usually one of the most abundant species in the Delaware estuary and are a primary food source for many fish inhabiting the river, including weakfish, bluefish and striped bass. The average number caught per seine haul in this survey has been declining since 2000. Continued monitoring of the estuary's bay anchovy population is important. Bay anchovy data correlates well with data from Fish and Wildlife's inshore trawl survey in Delaware Bay which also indicates a bay anchovy decline since 1998. The potential impact from this decrease has yet to be recognized, but the recent decline in the Delaware Bay's weakfish population may be an indication of a food chain imbalance within this estuary. Fish and Wildlife will continue to conduct research and analyze data to assess the situation.

