



UNDERWATER NATURALIST

Summer 2023 | Vol. 37 | No. 1



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Delaware Bay Restoration Corps interns conduct a stream assessment.

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From the
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Tim DILLINGHAM

Protecting, restoring, and caring for the coast is a multi-generational task, wherever and at whatever scale it is undertaken. Think of the challenges: pollution, overdevelopment, the biodiversity crisis, and of course climate change.

There have always been those willing to take on these challenges out of love, fascination or obsession with the coast and sea. They often come to this work through different paths, such as science, journalism and literature, art, and education. There is almost always an interesting story to be told about how they arrived.

As part of our mission, the American Littoral Society seeks

to help people raise voices and lend hands to protect the coast and its inhabitants from harm. We believe that the “sweat equity” of taking an active role in environmental work leads people to become committed stewards of our planet.

This is particularly true with young people. Getting feet wet and hands muddy teaches far more about ecosystems and habitats, sustainability and responsibility, and how to face looming threats than any classroom ever could. That’s one of the primary reasons we offer internships and fellowships to high school and college students, as well as our summer Restoration Corps (aka R-Corps) programs.

These employment and education initiatives seek to provide the training, education, and job skills for the next generations to take up the work we’ve been doing since 1961.

The effort has paid off in many different ways, leading countless young people to continue working in the environmental field or to carry what they’ve learned with the Littoral Society to other careers and vocations.

But you don’t have to take my word for it.

This issue of the Underwater Naturalist introduces you to some of those who came to the Littoral Society through our R-Corps and internship programs. You may have met some of them already at one of our events or our offices. A number of our staff began their work with us through these youth employment programs.

Regardless of whether you’ve personally encountered them, you may find their stories familiar, reassuring and even inspirational. They embody our hope for tomorrow amidst the challenges of today.



LITTORALLY LOCAL SUNSET CRUISE

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29, 5:30-8:30 PM
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS, NJ

Join us for dockside cocktails and appetizers onboard Teal Cruises' Festiva, followed by a sunset cruise on Sandy Hook Bay.





RESTORATION CORPS:

A Youth-Focused and
Nature-Based Effort

To Create Tomorrow's
Environmental Stewards

By Lucia Osborne



*Interns from Jamaica Bay R-Corps carry
marsh grass from a planting site.*

Some began in high school; others were already in college. Many grew up in the urbanized environment of New York City; others in relatively rural parts of southern New Jersey. More than a few came seeking a direction, while others saw it as a steppingstone toward their dream career.

What brought these young people together? The American Littoral Society's Restoration Corps internship program.

Affectionately dubbed R-Corps, it is a green jobs training and service program for those age 16-25 that operates from May through August out of the Littoral Society's NE Chapter Office in Jamaica Bay, NY and the Delaware Bayshore office in Millville, NJ. The program aims to teach participants environmental stewardship – how to care for and protect nature – as well as why such work is crucial for the planet.

Participants from local high schools and colleges lend a hand with an array of Littoral Society events and projects, including cleanups, shoreline and habitat restoration, community activities, festivals, rain garden installations, and so much more. The geographic areas in which the R-Corps program has operated face a number of challenges, including more frequent flooding, extreme heat, poor air and water

quality, and increased risks of climate change impacts. People living in these areas also tend to have lower incomes and less access to careers in the environment.

In spite of this, we have seen an outpouring of talent and motivation from the youth in these communities through the R-Corps program.

For roughly a decade (the program began in New York in 2012 and New Jersey in 2014), the R-Corps program has trained young people in nature-based solutions for stormwater management, flooding, beach protection, wetland restoration, rain garden construction, water quality monitoring, and mitigation of climate change consequences. The projects participants worked on created green spaces in communities, restored oyster reefs, planted beach and marsh grass, maintained buffer zones along streams (aka riparian forests), cleaned up beaches and parks, and helped protect diamondback terrapins.

In the summer of 2022, in addition to lending a hand with trash pick-up and debris removal on beaches in and around Jamaica Bay, the R-Corps crew got to play a role in the Jamaica Bay Terrapin Research Project, which is coordinated by Dr. Russell Burke of Hofstra University.

Diamondback terrapins are both a keystone species and top predators, making their conservation essential for the health of the ecosystems in which they reside. However, their numbers are dropping rapidly in New York's Jamaica Bay due to high levels of egg predation, drowning in crab and lobster traps, and habitat loss.

As part of that work, those R-Corps participants helped trap, tag and monitor turtles – checking them for injuries and measuring their size, before releasing them near where they were captured.

During the 2014 season, Jamaica Bay R-Corps crew members planted spartina grass to help restore Black Wall Marsh after Superstorm Sandy decimated the area toward the end of 2012. Saltmarshes are critical to both ecosystems and human communities because they help to capture carbon, filter pollutants from runoff, and help protect communities from flooding.

While the act of restoring Black Wall Marsh was significant, the “actors,” as in the R-corps crew members, deserved the spotlight. Those young people lived and

2022 Delaware Bay R-Corps interns conduct a biological assessment at one of the Littoral Society's oyster reefs in Delaware Bay.





Ann Matthew followed up her 2021 stint with the Delaware Bay R-Corps contingent by helping Hurricane Harvey victims in Houston, TX as part of AmeriCorps.

worked around the very areas they were restoring.

The scale of the challenges that such bayshore communities face from climate change are far bigger than any single restoration project. However, the involvement of R-Corps has helped to develop the next generation of trained stewards to help carry on the work of protecting both nature and their communities. Their time

and energy have helped us install and monitor projects, determine what works and what doesn't, and – most important – to share that information with the people around them.

An often-overlooked part of the R-Corps program is the education component, where participants teach others the benefits of the projects being done.

As part of that, R-Corps interns have presented their work to city councils in the Delaware Bayshore region, helped host community workshops, and led activities for summer campers, schools, and library programs. In addition to passing their knowledge down to their younger peers, Delaware Bay R-corps have been trained and certified by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to conduct biological habitat assessment. Meaning that the data they collect can be used to inform future policy decisions in the state.

Since the program began, well over 100 young people have worked their way through the R-Corps program. Some have gone on to study marine and coastal sciences, while others have pursued different career paths.

Regardless of where they find themselves now, many believe the experience not only helped teach them how to better care for the world around them but prepared them for the rest of their lives.

“After being a part of the Restoration Corps, I understood how I can have a direct and lasting impact on my community,” said Ann Mathew, who was an R-Corps team member in the summer of 2021. “The Restoration Corps also taught me how

fulfilling it can be to dedicate yourself to learning new skills, reach out of my comfort zone, and work toward the needs of others, instead of just yourself.” Ann followed up her stint in R-Crops by joining AmeriCorps in Houston, Texas. There she helped restore homes that were damaged by Hurricane Harvey. She is currently studying Environmental Science and Policy at the University of South Florida. Read on in this edition of the Littoral Society’s Underwater Naturalist magazine to learn more about both the R-Corps program and the young people who have made it a part of their lives.



About the author: Lucia Osborne is Delaware Bay Program Director for the American Littoral Society. She joined the Society’s staff in May 2019 as Delaware Bayshore Conservation Coordinator. She focuses on empowering citizens to protect the Delaware Bay and its tributaries by reducing stormwater runoff. Lucia is the chair of the Society’s DEIJ committee, secretary to the South Jersey Bayshore Coalition and has a certification in Green Infrastructure from the Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional program.



LITTORAL SOCIETY R-CORPS INTERN PROFILES

Every summer in the Delaware Bayshore region of New Jersey and the Jamaica Bay area of New York, 8-10 young people dive into both learning and working. Participants in these programs may learn how the park up the road impacts their drinking water at home and how horseshoe crabs on their beaches are connected to an endangered shore bird in Patagonia. Then they work on projects at the intersection of those issues as part of the Littoral Society Restoration Corps internship program.

It's been almost a decade since the Littoral Society launched the Delaware Bay Restoration Corps program and a little longer since the Jamaica Bay program launched. In that time, many young adults have worked as interns from our offices in Millville, NJ and Broad Channel, NY. The following are profiles of seven of those young adults.

Jamaica Bay R-Corps interns have worked on such diverse projects as wetland restoration, beach cleanups, and turtle studies.



AshleyHINES

R-Corps 2019

Ashley Hines worked as an R-Corps intern in 2019. After completing the program, she interned with the Cape Atlantic Soil Conservation District in Cape May, NJ, where she assisted inspectors in implementing the New Jersey’s Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act, which was created by the state legislature in 1975 to help control pollution and erosion amidst rapid shifts in land use, from agricultural and rural to nonagricultural and urbanizing uses.

After completing her degree in Environmental Science with a concentration in Soils and Hydrology at Stockton University, she became a Civil Engineering Technician for the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service. There she works with farmers and producers to address resource concerns like soil erosion, water quality, and plant production on farms, which includes time surveying, designing, and inspecting construction of conservation projects.

“My experience in the R-Corps programs gave me a lot of hands-on experience. I got my hands dirty, my feet wet, and sweat on my forehead. It gave a great perspective of the physical and mental energy it takes to complete conservation projects.”

Asked about her favorite part of the program, Ashley said: “I loved any opportunity we got to work with kids outside. A lot of fond memories from this internship are from building rain gardens at schools. The kids were typically timid at first, afraid to touch the dirt and unsure how to interact with it. By the end, the kids were behaving as if they had been gardening their whole lives, and many left with the inspiration to get their hands in the dirt at home. It was infinitely rewarding to help someone feel more comfortable spending time outside.”



Kayla VIDAL

R-Corps 2022

Kayla Vidal participated in Littoral Society horseshoe crab tagging events over several years when she was younger, and she credits this with “cementing (her) curiosity for the environment.”

When she decided to participate in Restoration Corps in 2022, Kayla already had a plan to use the program as a jumping off point for her honors thesis at school. She worked with the Society’s Habitat Restoration

Department to collect samples from our oyster reefs and sent them to the lab, specifically looking to compare biodiversity and oyster number/condition at our Reeds and Cooks Beach sites.

Today, Kayla is getting ready to graduate from Boston College and is applying for jobs all over the country and in Central America.

“I am looking for a position to help strengthen my research skills and help me feel more prepared when applying to graduate school in 1-2 years. I am currently interested in important coastal ecosystems like marshes, mangroves, and coral reefs. I want to gain some experiences that can give me more exposure to different ways to study these environments so I can learn what I like most. I also hope to get my dive master certification in the next year if I can.”

She said the program gave her experience working in and collecting data from freshwater streams. As part of the program, R-Corps members get New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection certified in habitat and biological assessments. That work entailed assisting in a freshwater monitoring program in the Cohansey and Maurice Rivers, using a flow meter (a device designed to make hydrological flow measurements in the field), and collecting samples to send to the lab.



Amelia **LAUBSCH**

*R-Corps 2018,
with her fiancé and
fellow R-Corps
alum, Timothy Kline*

Amelia Laubsch participated in Restoration Corps in 2018. She is currently a Sophomore at The College of New Jersey, working on a degree in Political Science.

Since completing the R-Corps program, she has had several internships and jobs at places including NJ League of Conservation Voters, the NJ Department of Labor, CONTACT of Mercer, and the Governor's Office.

“Being a part of the R-Corps was my first job, so I certainly learned a lot from that experience that has been helpful on my journey thus far. I learned about working in a team, communicating with others in the workplace, and community outreach. I am very grateful for the opportunity that the American Littoral Society gave to me back in 2018, and I cannot imagine where I would be today without it!”

That last part is especially true because Amelia started dating her fellow R-Corps member Timothy Kline during the program, and they are now engaged and celebrating their 5-year anniversary this summer!



Richard **STRITTMATTER** *R-Corps 2021-2022*

Richard Strittmatter was a R-Corps member for two seasons, in 2021 and 2022. His experience with the program allowed him to be a crew leader in his second year, helping Littoral Society staff with things like set-up and take-down at the beginning and end of the day, as well as helping to direct the newer R-Corps members.

As part of the program, participants get to interact with other local groups to

give them a wider idea of what the environmental field looks like. One of the places for Richard was the Landis Sewerage Authority in Vineland, NJ.

Richard took the opportunity to network while there and turned that trip into an internship that he completed in the fall of last year. That opportunity then led directly to his current position as an hourly technician at the NJ Department of Fish & Wildlife. He was referred by the head of the sewerage authority's farm.

"I was hired as part of a turkey study, the goal of which is to collect data on turkey populations in north and south Jersey. Specifically, we want to collect more data on their population dynamics and disease prevalence. This data will be presented to stakeholders and may influence regulations including future hunting season dates and bag limits."

Learning hands-on skills like building and maintaining green stormwater Infrastructure (natural solutions for managing stormwater) are important, but so is learning soft skills like networking. Richard also says that being a crew leader helped him to learn to speak more directly. His favorite memory is when the Littoral Society's Fish Tagging Program Director came down to Thompsons Beach and Richard caught a dusky smooth-hound shark.



Ann
MATTHEW
R-Corps 2021

Ann Mathew was a Restoration Corps team member in the summer of 2021, and the following summer she continued her service work by joining AmeriCorps in Houston, Texas, where she helped to restore homes that were damaged by Hurricane Harvey.

“After being a part of the Restoration Corps, I understood how I can have a direct and lasting impact on my community. The Restoration Corps also taught me how fulfilling it can be to dedicate yourself to learning new skills, reaching out of my comfort zone, and working toward the needs of others, instead of just yourself.”

Ann is currently studying Environmental Science and Policy at the University of South Florida.





Cameron
WILLIAMS
R-Corps 2014-present

Cameron Williams came to the Littoral Society as a Jamaica Bay R-Corps summer intern when he was just 14 years old. In those early years, the Jamaica Bay R-Corps program was just getting started restoring Jamaica Bay marsh islands.

Cameron has been with us ever since and has worked eight years of summers with the program. During that time, he has been the strong-man, first mate on the Jamaica Bay Guardian boat, ambassador for our public programs, an excellent team leader and booster of morale, and planting expert.

Cameron has developed a wealth of skills and experiences while working with us, including a hefty repertoire of plant identification knowledge. As a result, he was recognized in the summer of 2022 with the inaugural **R-Corps Intern Achievement Award** for his demonstration of outstanding commitment, dedication and effort to stewardship of the Coast as a team member of the Restoration Intern Program with the American Littoral Society's Northeast Chapter.





Jessica KLICH

R-Corps 2019-2022

Jessica Klich joined the Jamaica Bay R-Corps program in the summer of 2019. That first summer held a lot of tough challenges and rich experiences in the marshlands of Jamaica Bay which inspired Jessica to continue to return to the program in the following Summers.

Being from the Lower East Side, Jessica is a born

and raised New Yorker with a passion for teaching her peers about the value of taking care of the natural environment, especially in the City. She recognizes that younger generations will hold the responsibility to continue the environmental work that will be critical to help fight the bigger issues from the impacts of Climate change.

Jessica's passion first developed when she participated in a program growing oysters in her public high school. A subsequent high school degree and state exam for aquaculture then sparked Jessica to begin her journey at The State University of New York Cobleskill, starting with an Environmental Studies associate degree and a bachelor's degree in Aquaculture and Fisheries that will be complete by the fall of 2024.

In the summer of 2022 Jessica continued working as a summer seasonal for the Northeast Chapter and began helping out with the New York State Beach Cleanup program. Her enjoyment and passion for this program led to her becoming part of the Northeast Chapter staff. She was hired as the Littoral Society's New York State Beach Cleanup Program in 2023. That program has been running uninterrupted since 1986 to facilitate volunteerism and stewardship of New York State's beaches and waterways.





MY ROAD TO HABITAT RESTORATION

By Julie Schumacher

Julie Schumacher has done many things with the Littoral Society since she began as an intern in 2014, including helping with species identification during seining events and nature walks.

It's hard to explain how you can 'just know' what you want to do in life. Although I didn't have a definite career title in mind as a child, it has always been clear what field my future would be in.

Growing up with woods and a gently flowing creek at my grasp gave me the freedom to explore and interact with the natural world. My childhood was spent adventuring, listening, experiencing, and acknowledging the natural wonders around me.

High school was a first look

into actual participation in an environmental community. Being surrounded by like-minded people became a new layer of passion.

It was clear by Junior year that a major in Environmental Science would be the correct path. Within that major at community college, I was able to take two remote courses on Sandy Hook, NJ. I didn't know then that taking those courses would lead to the position I hold now.

After a year of exploration living in California while working

Habitat Restoration Coordinator Julie Schumacher speaks to volunteers during a workday at the Littoral Society's Forked River Beach restoration project. (Photo by David Hawkins/American Littoral Society)



for Greenpeace, I returned home with a fire within to set a course toward my future. Stockton University became that vessel.

At Stockton, a major in Environmental Science requires an internship or similar work for graduation. Professors would regularly email internship opportunities to students as they became available. Scrolling through my inbox one early spring day in 2014, I came across something environmentally enticing – a summer internship at a coastal conservation non-profit headquartered on none other than Sandy Hook.

Walking into Building 18 and meeting real working scientists and technicians in the field brought such a sense of familiarity. With great relief, the interview went well, and I was offered the position. Once my junior year concluded, all focus realigned toward this great opportunity.

Once there, I immediately wanted to get to know everyone and be involved with everything. Hearing how others journeyed to their career further inspired my decision to choose this path.

The actual workload was always diverse and enjoyable. One day we'd be in waders, the next at a conference tabling, the following day leading a lesson on horseshoe crabs. The week always concluded with a staff nature walk.

These are only a few of the many engaging and exciting experiences that happened every day and week through that summer.

The sixteen-weeks flew by and, as September arrived, it was back to Stockton U for my final year.

Throughout the internship, I was thankful to make many close connections with Society employees. Frequent correspondence and attendance at volunteer events continued after and it was only one month after my internship concluded that I was offered additional work tabling for an environmental campaign led by Helen Henderson (former Ocean Planning Manager for the Littoral Society), one of my incredible mentors.

As the year rolled by, further pockets of work presented themselves, keeping my foot planted in and around Littoral Society headquarters. After graduation, these opportunities became consistent enough to be offered a formal part-time position for the Society.

From 2014-2016, seeing the different tasks that the varying departments were involved in opened my eyes to the many roles one can play in the environmental field. However, it was clear that one department stood out, Habitat Restoration.



One of the many new things Julie Schumacher has learned during her time with the Littoral Society is how to construct a HESCO basket. Dozens of the metal frames were put together, then filled with rock and shell for the oyster reef constructed for the Forked River Beach restoration project.

(Photo by David Hawkins/American Littoral Society)

I've always loved creating and building things with my hands. When it became clear that I could connect that passion with my love for the environment, I was hooked.

At the time, the Society had been awarded several grants related to Hurricane Sandy funding. Larger projects were being proposed, and extra hands were needed. Seeing this door opening, I took the plunge to clearly follow my passion and determination to be a part of the team. In 2016, I proudly became a full-time employed Habitat Restoration Technician.

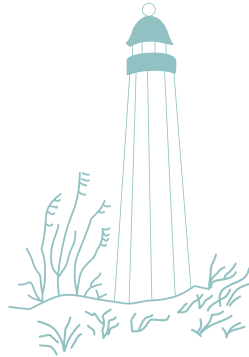
From fish sampling in Spring Lake's Wreck Pond to installing green infrastructure in Ocean County Park, my knowledge and experience in the field rapidly grew

as I was immersed in varying roles and responsibilities. As the years went on, experience with project management, grant preparation, and permitting was acquired.

To this day, now as a Habitat Restoration Coordinator, there are still endless things to learn. This work has consistently pushed me to be better, to grow, and to stay hungry.

The late and beloved Jeff Dement (former Fish Tagging Program Director for the Littoral Society) would tell me: "Schumacher, don't ever stop being a student."

I never will Jeff, and I'm honored to work in a field and for an organization that allows me to be that.



About the author: Julie Schumacher is a Habitat Restoration Coordinator, working from the American Littoral Society's Sandy Hook, NJ office. She was a summer intern with the Society in 2014 and graduated with honors from Stockton University with a bachelor's degree in environmental science in 2015, before joining the Society as an Education and Outreach Coordinator that same year.

EXPLORING THE NATURAL WORLD: From Mentee to Mentor with the Littoral Society Fish Tagging Program

By Emily McGuckin



Fish Tagging Program Director Emily McGuckin (third from left) on a fluke tagging trip off Sandy Hook, NJ. Also pictured are, from left: Susan Linder, a field biologist with the Horseshoe Crab Recovery Coalition; Lindsay McNamara, Assistant Director of the American Littoral Society; and Jimmy Treshock and Ashley Pape, 2023 Fish Tagging Program interns.

In the late spring of 2018, I began my new internship at the American Littoral Society under the tutelage of the then Fish Tagging Program Director Jeff Dement. I remember thinking how lucky I was to be chosen for such a prestigious internship in such an amazing location but was also dismayed that

it would only last for the next 3 months.

Working at the Littoral Society was even better than I thought it would be. It was my first taste of a “real job”, and I knew what I “should” get out of the job but didn’t anticipate receiving so much more knowledge and experience.



Under the direction of Jeff, I participated in a multitude of fish tagging related programs. I taught surf fishing clinics to adults and children; participated in seine net programs and fish identification lessons; talked to people on fisheries science and management, as well as why the Society tags fish; and, of

course, went on charter trips with fishing clubs and other groups.

But the fish tagging expertise was not all I got while being Jeff's intern. As many people who knew him understood, he was a true naturalist.

He loved fish and fishing, but he also was a dendrologist

(Dendrology is a branch of botany that specializes in the characterization and identification of woody plants), a birder, and an amateur Sandy Hook historian. I joined Jeff on educational nature walks through Sandy Hook's maritime forests to look at plants, trees, and birds. We also went on kayaking trips through the pine barrens of South Jersey. I learned about the seals who haul out near the Sandy Hook Chapel in the spring, the importance of the horseshoe crab and their eggs, and the spooky history of Building 18 (Littoral Society headquarters) and the Fort Hancock section of Gateway National Recreation Area's Sandy Hook Unit.

I gained an appreciation for all things nature, not just fish and marine life.

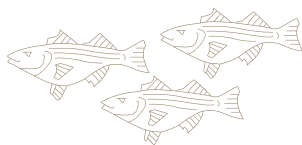
As of spring 2023, I have been the Fish Tagging Program Director for a little over 2 years, having been hired after the sudden passing of Jeff Dement in January of 2021. The past couple years as Director have been amazing, although I

find myself missing Jeff's naturalist wisdom. But I am passing on his knowledge of the natural world of Sandy Hook.

During the past school year, I mentored a senior from Stockton University and two senior high school students from the Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST), which is part of the Monmouth County Vocational School District.

I am also in the process of hiring my 2nd summer intern, the position that I had in 2018 that started it all. It's been a real treat to be able to carry on the tradition of mentoring young people in not only marine science and fish tagging, but in every aspect of the environmental and marine ecosystems of Sandy Hook.

Every time I am able to teach these young people about the seals, the horseshoe crabs or the history of the Hook, I mentally thank Jeff for introducing me to Sandy Hook, the Littoral Society and for teaching me to appreciate every part of the natural world.



About the Author: Emily McGuckin is Fish Tagging Program Director for the American Littoral Society. A 2018 graduate of Stockton University, Emily earned a degree in Marine Science, with a minor in Environmental Science before joining the Littoral Society as an intern.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS:

Fish Tagging Program Intern Experience Included both Learning and Teaching



The American Littoral Society's Fish Tagging Program has had the privilege of working with many motivated students over the years. In addition to mentoring high school students from the Marine Academy of Science and Technology, located on Sandy Hook, New Jersey, the tagging program also has a recurring college internship that is paid for through the Capt. Al Anderson Fund.

Capt. Anderson was a biologist by training and, over a 50-year span, tagged more fish for the Littoral Society than anyone else. He passed away in 2018.

In addition to getting hands-on experience with tagging fish, interns spend time learning about fish biology and habitats. They also assist the program director with fieldwork, outreach events and presentations, as well as office work that can include data entry and recapture reports. In addition, they help fulfill tagging orders for new and returning fish tagging members.

Emily Zembricki, Ashley Pape and Jimmy Treshock are the Fish Tagging Program's most recent interns.

Emily is currently a senior at Stockton University working on a dual degree in marine science and sustainability, was a Fish Tagging Program intern during the summer of 2022. Ashley Pape and Jimmy Treshock are both seniors at MAST.

During their time with the Fish Tagging Program, our interns had the chance to tag over 200 fish on three different charter boat tagging trips. They also took part in surf fishing and seining events, where they helped participants with both fish identification and fish tagging.

Ashley and Jimmy also created research projects using the Tagging Program's historical data sets and both attended the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society's annual meeting at Monmouth University this past March. At that meeting, Jimmy won 'Best Undergraduate Oral Presentation.'



Emily

ZEMBRICKI

*Summer Intern 2022
Senior at Stockton
University*

“Since 2018, I have worked as an intern for the American Littoral Society as part of the Habitat Restoration Program. Interning with the Fish Tagging Program this past summer gave me the chance to work for the organization in a paid capacity. The position introduced me to and allowed me to work alongside people who are clearly impassioned about the field of marine science and the work they do. As an intern for the program, I assisted Program Director Emily McGuckin with managing one of the largest recreational angler databases, while also tagging fish at outreach events and boat trips at sea, coordinating public workshops, and representing the Fish Tagging Program at other events. I thoroughly enjoyed working with Ms. McGuckin and the rest of the Littoral Society staff and am excited to have had the opportunity to develop professional skills that will support me in graduate school and in the professional marine biology field.”





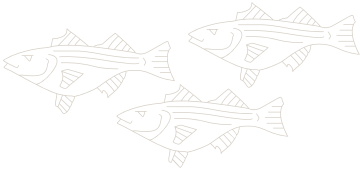
Ashley

PAPE

High School Intern

Senior at Marine Academy of Science and Technology

“The tagging program provided a very informative and exciting experience that will follow me into my career. The fun experiences and memories have had a lasting impact on me. I look forward to attending Binghamton University State University of New York this coming fall to pursue a degree in environmental science and using the experience I gained as a Fish Tagging Program intern to further my environmental and marine science education.”



Jimmy

TRESHOCK

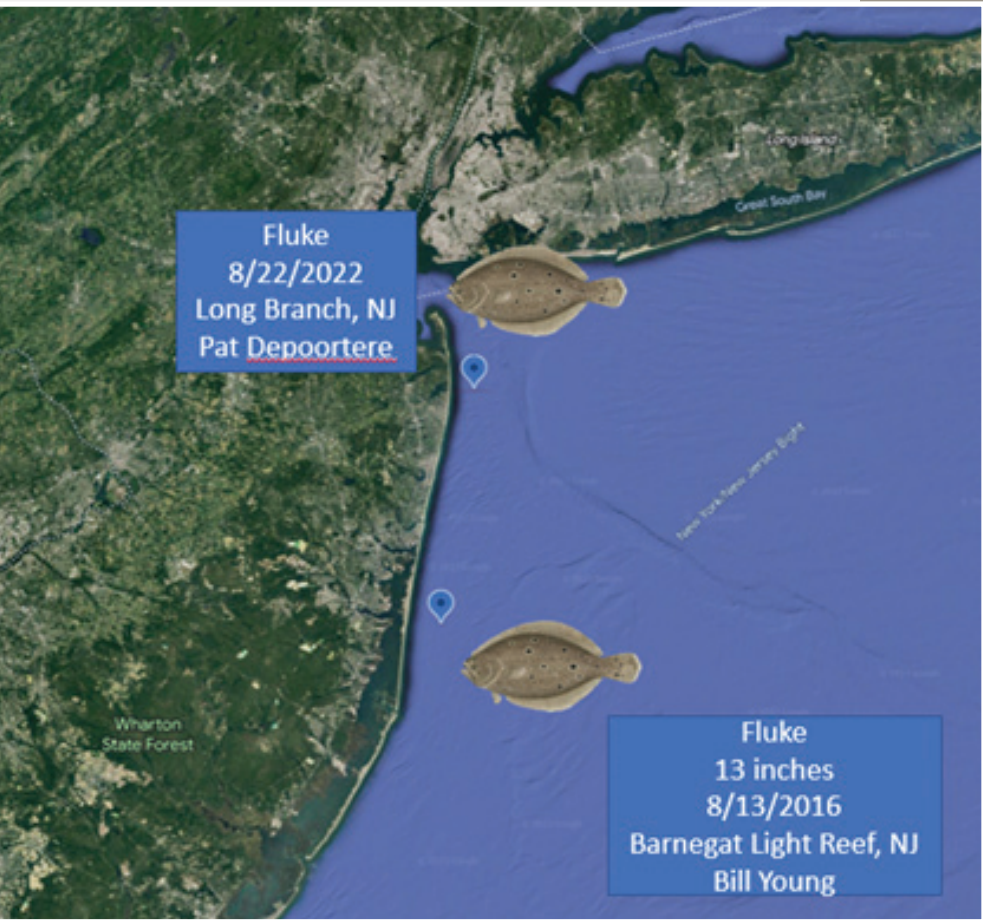
High School Intern

Senior at Marine Academy of Science and Technology

“My experience with the Fish Tagging Program was incredibly rewarding. It gave me a realistic view into working behind the scenes with such programs. While it’s always fun to get out into the field to catch and tag fish, my internship with the Society allowed me to see the other side of the coin and all the work that goes on after someone tags a fish. I’ve learned that without the people who work behind tagging programs, the numbers would mean nothing. Moving forward, I will absolutely take the lessons that I have learned from this internship into my professional career.”

Fish Tagging Report

NOTABLE TAGGED FISH RECAPTURES



FLUKE

On 8/13/2016, a 13-inch fluke was tagged by Bill Young at the Barnegat Light Reef, NJ and was recaptured on 8/29/2022 off Long Branch, NJ by angler Pat Depoortere. The fish was out for 2,207 days (a little over six years)!





STRIPED BASS

A 17-inch (TL) striped bass was tagged by member Sen Pirun on 8/20/2017 at the State Pier in Portland, ME. This fish was recaptured 1,820 days later on 8/14/2022 by Matt Early in Scarborough, ME. TL stands for Total Length, which is the length of a fish as measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail.

One of our long time taggers, Tim Shaheen, tagged a 22-inch (FL) striper in the Shrewsbury River in Sea Bright, NJ on 6/5/2018. This striper was recaptured by angler Fletcher Chayes on 5/9/2022 in the Navesink River, NJ. It measured 32-inches when recaptured (FL). FL stands for Fork Length, which is the length of a fish as measured from the tip of its snout to the fork of the tail.

Charlie Gould, one of our prolific tagging program participants, tagged a 23-inch (FL) striped bass in Wildwood, NJ on 6/18/2021. The following year, that striper was recaptured in the Chesapeake Bay, MD by Ron McMorrow on 2/13/2022.

A 24-inch (FL) striper was tagged in Avalon, NJ by member Tom Leonardis on 11/8/2020 and was recaptured by Beth Versak in the Upper Chesapeake Bay, VA on 4/12/2022 and was measured at 28-inches (FL).



SPOTTED SEATROUT

Long-time tagger Dick Omrod tagged an 18-inch spotted seatrout in Melbourne Beach, FL on 10/31/2021. This fish was recaptured a couple months later on 2/14/2022 in Brevard County, FL by angler Matthew Doster.

TRIGGERFISH

On 8/4/2022 a 14-inch triggerfish was tagged by long time tagger Al D'Amato in the Cape May Inlet, NJ. It was recaptured that same day in the same location by angler John Howarth.

2022 TAGGING TOTALS:

	TAGGED	RECAPTURED
Striped bass	3,574	160
Summer flounder (fluke)	2,093	112
Tautog	1,423	160
Black sea bass	258	7
Bluefish	31	0
Smooth dogfish	1	0
Spiny dogfish	1	0
Atlantic Cod	17	0
Flounder	17	2
Winter Flounder	5	0
Windowpane Flounder	5	0
Scup	18	0
Weakfish	49	0
Striped sea robin	4	0
Toadfish	5	0
Triggerfish	2	0
Cow nosed ray	1	0
Red Grouper	22	0
Black Grouper	3	0
Cobia	1	0
Jack Crevalle	6	0
Mutton snapper	2	0
Spotted seatrout	3	1
Red drum	17	0
False albacore	1	0

Total tagged fish in 2022 = 7,559

Total tagged fish recaptured in 2022 = 442

To find the 2022 data, scan the QR code with the camera on your phone.



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