

Fish of the Medway 2022

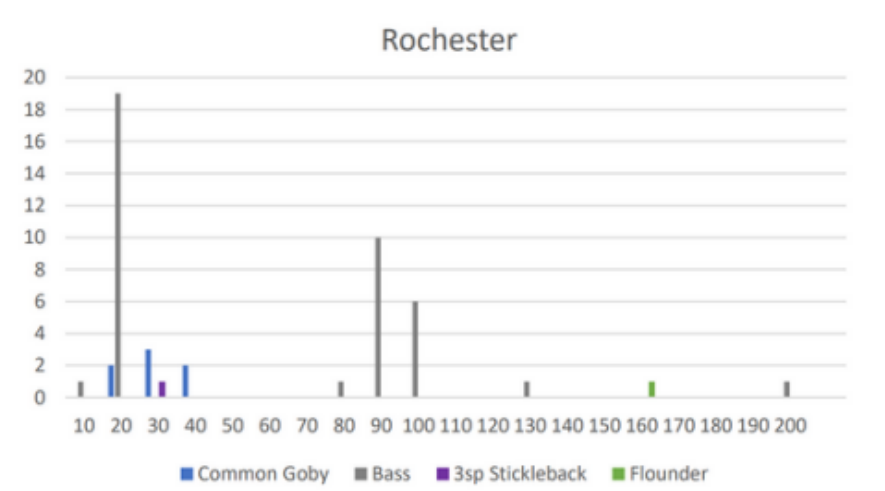
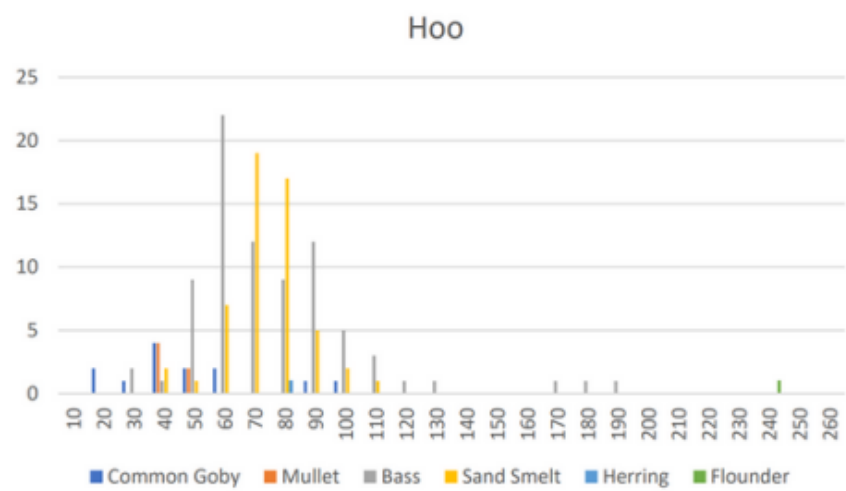
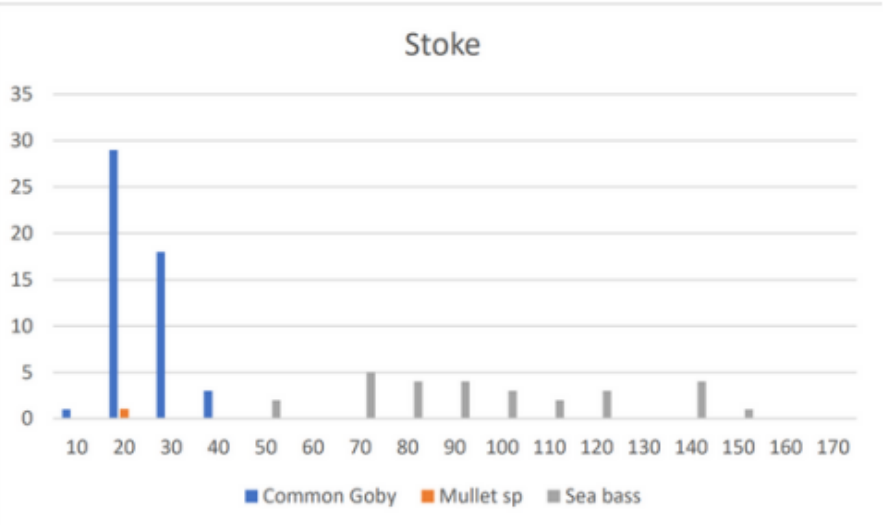
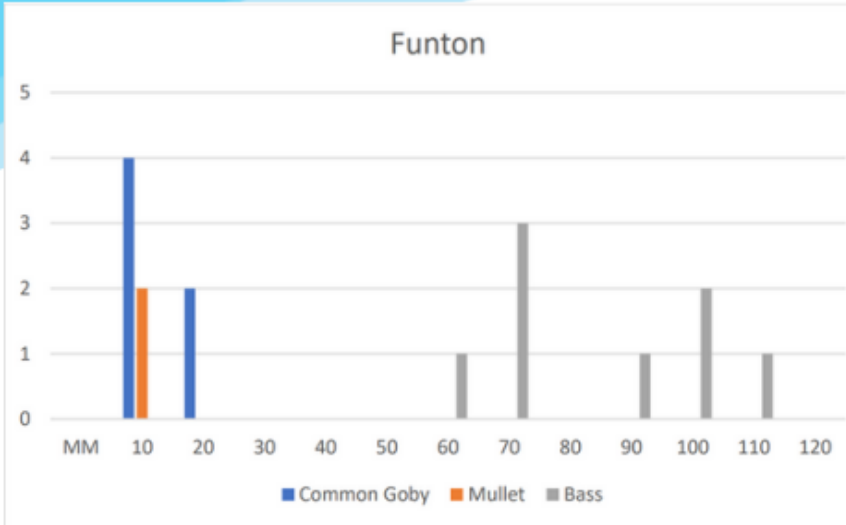
Fish of the Medway project focuses on **monitoring** and **analysing** the count of fish species in the **Medway No-Take Zone (NTZ)** and surrounding areas using variety of nets and ensuring no harm to fish, in order to illustrate the current condition of the Medway estuary and its fisheries.

For better comparison, 4 different sites have been chosen for monitoring: two within the NTZ (Stoke & Hoo), and two outside of protection area (Funton & Rochester).

Data collected within the scope of Fish of the Medway project will be compared with past and future surveys, and, as a result, the information gathered will enable Medway's regulators to understand how and where they can sustainably manage the estuary, thereby saving jobs or creating more if further improvements are required. In addition, we hope that our findings and conclusions can be used in other UK-based or worldwide estuaries, providing a case study for effective estuary management.



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Sampling started in mid-May with Hoo being the first site sampled by Hadlow college students. Rochester remained a consistent site despite changing sediment quality. Hoo had the highest fish population diversity, while Funton and Stoke were focused on Sea Bass and Common Goby.

Hoo was the most effective seine net site, which may be contributing to the higher number of bass found at the site, however it is still smaller than some numbers found by the EA in previous years. Unfortunately, without these sites being surveyed in 2022 it is not possible to know if similar numbers would have been found in the rest of the estuary.

Our surveys would not have been possible without the help and support of individuals and communities. We would like to extend special thanks to our volunteers and supporters. We are also extremely grateful to our sponsors for their continuing trust and help:

Rochester Rotary Club



We are thankful for all those who took part in 2022 surveys, and are looking forward to next years of surveying!