



Week 8 – Field Activity

Fish Inventory

Fish and fish habitat assessments go hand-in-hand. Last week you completed stream measurements and identified different fish habitats (pool, riffle, glide) in a nearby stream. In order to link fish capture methods with your local conditions we will consider methods with respect to the stream you worked on last week. You may do this from memory, notes and photographs, or you may want to return to the stream and think about the sampling methods there.

From the methods presented during the online training, or your knowledge of local methods outside of those introduced, select four different sampling methods that you think might work in your stream. Ideally two of these methods will be active methods and two will be passive. If your channel was dry last week, select a new waterbody (stream, lake, pond) that contains water to complete this exercise.

- On a piece of paper, not in your field notebook as this is not a field activity, briefly explain why you chose those particular methods for your stream.
- On your site sketch from last week mark in pencil where you would use these gear. If your previous sketch was not large enough to do this, create a new sketch to show where you would place the gear.

Fish Identification

Knowing what species of fish are in the area that you are working is the first step in fish identification. You want to know what your list of candidate species is before you collect fish so that you are not identifying something that doesn't live in your area. To meet this requirement, this week's assignment is to create a list of fish species within your state. Most state governments have publications online about identifying the common species encountered and that is a great place to start. But try to delve deeper and search for a complete species list of fish for your area. Then write out that list, grouping the fish together as best you can. For example, keep the trout together, the minnows together, suckers together, etc.

Select three species from your list and draw a sketch of each one. Pay attention to how many fins there are, where the fins are placed and how large they are, the depth of the body, shape of the lateral line (if it is present), and direction of the mouth (upward? downward? straight out in front?). This exercise is a practice in your observation skills, to really pay attention to these features among three species of fish. Do this on a regular sized sheet of paper and fit all three species on single page to be able to compare them. Label the relevant parts of the drawings that separate the species from each other.