Northern Snakehead increasing abundance in Maryland waterways

Data below are from Maryland Department of Natural Resources boat electrofishing surveys.

**SUSQUEHANNA FLATS, NORTHEAST** (tidal freshwater)
First caught in 2015
- low: 5 snakeheads/hr (2015)
- high: 9.5 snakeheads/hr. (2017)*

**PATUXENT RIVER** (tidal freshwater)
First caught in 2012
- low: 10 snakeheads/hr (2012)
- high: 35 snakeheads/hr. (2018)*

**WICOMICO RIVER** (tidal freshwater)
First caught in 2013
- low: 7 snakeheads/hr (2013)
- high: 28 snakeheads/hr. (2015)*

**POTOMAC RIVER** (tidal freshwater)
First caught in 2007
- low: 8 snakeheads/hr (2007)
- high: 35 snakeheads/hr. (2018)*

*Some years there was no survey of the areas above. The "high" ratios above represent the highest number in the overall survey timeline and not necessarily the most recent data. However, the overall trend in all of these areas is an upward population growth.

**What is Electrofishing?**

Electroshocking (also called electrofishing) stuns fish temporarily for survey. When a fish is caught in the electric current, it can get stunned temporarily, allowing scientists to net it from the water. Since snakehead are invasive, we do not return them to the water after sampling.

**THE SPREAD OF SNAKEHEAD 2007 vs 2019**

Species found in major drainages identified from reports to department and USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database