

JELLYFISH MONITORING PROGRAM 2015

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Jellyfish may be useful indicators of environmental changes in Rhode Island waters related to coastal development, water quality, overfishing, aquaculture and global warming.

A group at Brown University is field-testing a crowd-sourced, geographically based application (***collector for arcgis***) for smartphones, ipads and androids. The free *app* allows anglers, surfers, beachgoers and others to report their observations of eight different species of “jellies” that occur commonly in RI waters, along with associated weather and water conditions. The observations are mapped almost instantaneously in a Geographic Information System database maintained by Brown University, and can be viewed on your phone or ipad when you’re logged in to the collector *app*.

The researchers want to get broader coverage of RI waters, year-round, in order to learn where jellies are, and are not occurring.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SETTING UP THE <JELLYFISH COLLECTOR APP>

1. Download free <<***collector for arcgis***> for:
 - iPhone @ <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/collector-for-arcgis/id589674237?mt=8>
 - iPad @ <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/arcgis/id379687930?mt=8>
 - Android devices @ <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.esri.arcgis.collector&hl=en>

2. Open the app on your phone, tap "Collector for arcgis online", and sign in:

- * Brown.maps.arcgis.com
- * USER NAME = jfish
- * PW = squishy1

3. Once you are logged in, tap on the map of Narragansett Bay (use the most recently dated map). Your location will be represented by a large blue dot.

4. Look at the menu at top of your smart phone (bottom of your android) and click << + >> to enter your jellyfish observation.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTING OBSERVATIONS ABOUT JELLYFISH

1. Identify observed jellyfish (Comb, Lion's mane, Moon jellyfish, etc)

If you need help identifying a type of jellyfish or would like to see a guide to commonly observed jellyfish, copy and paste the following into your browser:

http://quidditch.gis.brown.edu/Jellyfish_RI/Guide_to_Jellyfish.pdf

2. Please estimate the number of jellyfish you observe in one (1) square meter (3 ft x 3 ft). **Please record “zero” if you do not see any jellyfish.**

3. Take a minute to fill in the menu-driven observations about weather, water quality and presence/absence of sea grass and marine algae. Please feel free to upload a photo. Photos can be helpful, especially if you have doubts about the identity of the species. They can also reveal useful information about related water quality and ecological conditions, e.g., turbidity, SAV, algal growth.

4. Don't forget to submit your observations while you are on location! (represented by a check symbol for Android)
We are using the phone's internal GPS to tell us where your observation was collected.

INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT HANDLING JELLYFISH

1. Don't unless you know the animal to be safe. Use the same precautions you normally use when wading, swimming in the Bay.

2. Some gelatinous plankton commonly found in Rhode Island waters can cause a somewhat painful sting or rash. If you get stung:

- Remove the tentacles. Jellyfish tentacles will keep stinging unless you scrape them off. Wash the area with seawater, NOT fresh water, and pull them off with a towel wrapped around your hand. You can also use a credit card to help scrape them from the skin.
- Apply white vinegar to the area. This deactivates the nematocysts still in the skin. Use a paste of baking soda and seawater to deactivate the nematocysts of Portuguese man-o-wars or sea nettles.
- Soak the area in hot water.

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