

WVMN Class Description

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| Title: | A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO ICHTHYOLOGY |
| Objectives: | To give an overview of the general biology, ecology, and evolution of fishes (diversity, classification, behavior, and adaptations) and a description of the families of WV fishes. |
| Class type: | Core curriculum |
| Time: | 3 hours |
| Optimal season: | Any |
| Materials: | None |

Students will gain a basic understanding of

- The diversity of fishes throughout the world
- Fish anatomy and adaptations and behaviors
- Where to get information on fishes
- Fish families of WV
- WV fish communities /associations and their habitats
- The economic contribution of WV's recreational fisheries
- Threats to the fisheries resource

WVMN Class Outline

1. Introductory materials
 - a. What is ichthyology and what are fishes?
 - b. The aqueous environment and why it is so special.
 - c. Fish habitat components
 - d. Classification of fishes
2. Form and function
 - a. Internal and external anatomy
 - b. Adaptations and their ecological importance
 - c. Reproduction and life history traits
3. A survey of fish families of WV
 - a. Useful resources for identifying and understanding fishes
 - b. Fish families of WV
 - c. WV fish communities