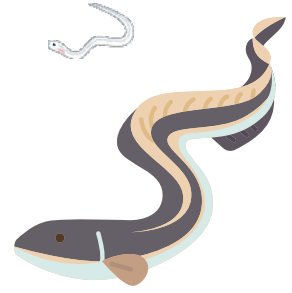


Nantucket Conservation Foundation

# Nantucket Eel Project

## 2024 Summary



### Overview

The Nantucket Eel Project is a community science program that aims to understand the migratory pattern of glass eels—eels in their juvenile stage—and promote fish conservation on Nantucket. The Nantucket Conservation Foundation piloted this project from March to May 2024 to collect baseline data about eels' general presence around the island. Taking an “eel census” provides insight into the health of waterbodies and the influence of environmental conditions on eel migration. This project also provides community members with opportunities to experience data collection in local waterways. Understanding eels' baseline population is essential for informing fish conservation strategies around Massachusetts.

### Results

For this pilot year, we tracked eels in 4 locations around the island using eel mops, artificial habitats that passively collect eels.

- **Total glass eels:** 908
- **Average glass eels per mop:** 15.7
- **Days sampled:** 19
- **Total older elvers:** 17
- **Average older elvers per mop:** 0.29



From April to May, we engaged 16 community members, as well as personnel from 4 environmental nonprofit organizations on the island. Community members collected water and air temperature, weather conditions, and water velocity data, and learned how to retrieve and count eels from the eel mop.

For the following year, we will continue engaging the Nantucket community to collect glass eel data at the same 4 locations, with possibility to add more monitoring locations. We look forward to another season of community science and glass eel collection!