

SCIENCE A WATERMAN NEEDS TO KNOW



Buddy Wilde
with cultchless oyster.
Courtesy – Shady Side Rural Heritage Society



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INTRODUCTION

In this section, students will investigate the **Science a Waterman Needs to Know** in order to do his job. Knowledge of the creatures and the ecology of the Bay helps the waterman decide what to catch, and when and where to catch it. As students explore the science of the Chesapeake Bay, they will also gain an understanding of how critical the changing health of the Bay is to the livelihood of the waterman.

Activity Descriptions

Activity 1: THE VANISHING ACT OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY OYSTER

Students will examine reasons for the dramatic decrease in the Bay's oyster population, evaluate the impact on the waterman, identify ways to restore the population, and share their ideas through a poster, letter, or project.

Activity 2: BLUE CRABS

Students will identify parts of a crab's anatomy, distinguish between a male and female crab, and label the stages in a crab's life cycle.

Activity 3: SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION

Students will consider the importance of the SAV's to the health of the Bay and assess the impact of their disappearance.

Vocabulary

DNR: abbreviation for Department of Natural Resources.

Larvae: the young of any invertebrate animal.

Mature: complete in natural growth or development.

SAV's: submerged aquatic vegetation; plants that grow under water.

Spawn: to deposit eggs.

Websites

www.marylandwatermen.com

www.chesapeakebay.net

www.dnr.state.md.us

www.serc.si.edu

www.blue-crab.org

www.aqua.org