



Global Freshwater Fish BioBlitz

The 'Global Freshwater Fish BioBlitz' kicked off on World Wetlands Day 2014 to engage nature lovers in freshwater fish conservation. The Freshwater Fish Specialist Group, of the IUCN and Wetlands International, joined forces with other international groups, namely World Wildlife Fund, Conservation International, FishBase, the Fisheries Society of the British Isles and the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network, to introduce this new global initiative.

People from around the world, whether they are anglers, photographers, students or nature lovers, are invited to upload photographs of freshwater fishes observed in their natural habitat, with details of where and when they saw the fish. Volunteers with expertise in fish taxonomy serve as curators to identify and verify the species to ensure the data is research-grade.

The information has the potential to assist scientists to describe new species, help assess the risk of extinction for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, can track the spread of invasive species and can be exported to freely accessible online data archives, such as Encyclopedia of Life.

With over 15,000 freshwater fish species and numbers continually growing, the more people 'on the ground' carrying out observations and recording what they have seen, the better. The Global Freshwater Fish BioBlitz enables conservation scientists and nature lovers to work together to map these unique species and help conserve freshwater fishes.

Be a part of it!



www.iucnffsg.org/bioblitz



“Wildlife monitoring is vital to conservation - we can’t protect species unless we know where they live and what threats they face. Engaging the public all over the world will help us identify more species in more places than we could possibly do alone.”

Michele Thieme

WWF Senior Freshwater Conservation Biologist

How to get involved

To make this project a success and be a valuable tool for freshwater fish conservation, we need people to submit their observations!

The BioBlitz project, designed by iNaturalist.org, is hosted on the FFSG website. It is very easy to use, simply:

- Visit www.iucnffsg.org/bioblitz and click ‘Add observations’
- Login to iNaturalist with your Facebook, Twitter, Google, Yahoo, Flickr or iNaturalist account
- Upload your freshwater fish photograph
- Add details of geographic location, date, species identification (if possible) and click ‘Save observation’

Curators will be on hand to assist with species identifications, if needed. There are photography guidelines and detailed instructions on how to create an iNaturalist account and upload observations available to ensure it is made easy for everyone.

You can also help us by raising the profile of the Global Freshwater Fish BioBlitz and getting more people involved. Tell your friends, families and colleagues about the BioBlitz (e.g. through social media, word of mouth, email, etc.).

If you have any questions about the BioBlitz, please email us at info@iucnffsg.org

The FFSG would like to thank our partners for their time, contributions and generous support:

