

Mudpuppy Sample Collection

As part of a project assessing local Mudpuppy populations, we are asking for help from the public by collecting and submitting any deceased specimens observed within the region. Due to the extreme weather conditions this year, we are anticipating a large winterkill, which provides a unique opportunity to assess population health.

What is a Mudpuppy?

- Michigan's largest, fully aquatic salamander (photos below)



Why Are They Important?

- “Bioindicator” species: Due to their sensitivity to pollutants and poor water quality, these salamanders act as an early warning system for environmental problems
- Are the only intermediate host to the Endangered Salamander Mussel
- Great Lakes populations are declining, and the true abundance is currently unknown

How Can I Help?

Place the whole Mudpuppy(s) in ziploc bag, seal, and freeze the bag. Tissue samples may be placed in storage tubes containing ethanol.

Include the following information on a 3x5 card placed within the bag (using pencil) and on the outside of the bag (using permanent marker). In the case of tissue samples, label outside of tube with permanent marker.

- 1.) *Observer*
- 2.) *Date*
- 3.) *Precise Collection Location*

Contact one of the following people:

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