

**NINE MILE RUN**  
**ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**  
**ELECTROFISHING SURVEY**  
**SEPTEMBER 2008**

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**For**  
**The Nine Mile Run Watershed Association**

## **Executive Summary**

The Nine Mile Run Watershed Association conducted an electrofishing survey of Nine Mile Run Station #4 on September 4, 2008. Station #4 extends from the Commercial Avenue Bridge upstream to the relocated mouth of Fern Hollow (Mile 1.04 to 1.41). The fish were collected with a battery powered, direct current, backpack electrofishing unit (Smith-Root LR-24) using 300 volts with variable amperage.

The results of the survey are shown in Table 1. A total of 125 fish of four species with a total sample weight of 7,975.5 grams were collected from this station in 2008. Compared with previous surveys, no fish at all were found by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission in 1990 and only a handful of fish were collected from the stream during a June 1999 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers electrofishing survey. Station #4 was last sampled in 2006, when 15 fish of four species with a total sample weight of 857.5 grams were captured. Species collected from Station #4 in both 2006 and 2008 were creek chub, white sucker, eastern blacknose dace, and green sunfish, all of which are pollution tolerant species. While there has been no change in the species composition of the Nine Mile Run fish community, we continue to see a trend towards increased abundance of fish and fish sample biomass. Except for only one creek chub with obvious lesions, all of the fish examined appeared to be in very good condition.

Attempts were also made to sample Stations #1 and #2 on the September 4th 2008 survey date. However, flows were very low and highly mineralized discharges from the slag dump apparently rendered the unit ineffective and quickly drained its batteries. Only six fish were captured from the Station #1 embayment portion of the stream before we abandoned efforts to sample these stations, four creek chub, one blacknose dace, and two smallmouth bass (199 and 232 mm long). One very large channel catfish was also observed but not captured at this station.

Table 1. Fish collected from Nine Mile Run Station #4 on September 4, 2008.

Fish Species	Number	Length Range (mm)	Weight (grams)
White sucker <i>Catostomus commersoni</i>	7	188-227	844.4
Creek chub <i>Semotilus atromaculatus</i>	111	62-193	3,174.1
Eastern blacknose dace <i>Rhinichthys atratulus</i>	6	42-80	18.3
Green sunfish <i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>	1	121	30.7

Time - 0.51 hours  
Station Length - 595 meters

