



Seines (above) and electrofishing equipment (below) are used to collect fish.

What are we Monitoring?

We sample water quality, stream habitat, riparian habitat (vegetation along the banks of the stream), macroinvertebrates (crayfish, dragonfly larvae, etc.) and fish.

We are interested in all species of fish, regardless of their size or importance as gamefish. During sampling, we are careful not to injure the fish, and most fish are returned to the water. A small percent of the fish (mostly minnow species) are collected and taken back to MDC laboratories for identification.



Statewide RAM crews (above) and a member (below) holding a Spotted Gar.



R.A.M

Resource Assessment and Monitoring of Missouri's water Resources



Missouri Department of Conservation

Science Branch
Environmental Health Unit



Experience Opportunities

RAM crews typically develop high-quality seining and electrofishing techniques, field identification skills of fish, group-work practices, trailer experience, interacting with the public, and gathering hydrogeomorphic data.

What is RAM?

RAM is the statewide resource assessment and monitoring program of Missouri's waters. Our main goal is to determine if Missouri's waters are improving or degrading. Based on these findings, we can alter our management strategies to ensure that the aquatic resources of Missouri will be available for future generations.

What is the job like?

RAM crews typically travel Monday morning through Thursday evening of each week. During that time all food and lodging are provided by the department.

An average day begins with selecting a stream reach to sample, followed by taking basic water chemistry, electrofishing, seining, and concludes with the physical habitat assessment. We work in most weather conditions, and it is a field work intensive experience.



Questions?

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Top of page: A Checkered Madtom; found in the Southern Ozarks. Above: Scouts Creek, Iron County. Cover page: Male Rainbow Darter in spawning colors.

Top of page: A northern studfish. Below: Longear Sunfish, a common game-fish throughout much of Missouri. To right: Clear Creek, Newton County