

## **NOAA Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System James River/Jamestown Buoy: Summer Seasonal**

The James River watershed stretches several hundred miles out to southwest Virginia and the lower end of the Shenandoah Valley. All of the spring snowmelt and the rainwater it gathers flow past the NOAA Jamestown CBIBS buoy.

After spring runoff, which carries plenty of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution down the James, the water in summer begins to clear around Capt. Smith's statue at the Jamestowne Fort and the CBIBS buoy. If summer rainfall diminishes, salinity can border on brackish. If you'd like to see good graphic representations of Jamestown's water quality features over time, and the way they affect each other, you can visit [www.buoybay.noaa.gov](http://www.buoybay.noaa.gov) and create your own graphs. This is a great feature for anyone who wants to understand how the Bay and its rivers "work."

In summer, the young shad, herring, rockfish, and white perch spawned up the river are spreading out in the area around Jamestown, feeding and growing in shallow nurseries like Powhatan Creek, behind Jamestown Island. We hope that at least a few young Atlantic sturgeon are with them. Some of these "young-of-the-year" will become food for larger fish, especially adult perch, white and blue catfish, and, up the creeks, largemouth bass and chain pickerel.

Meanwhile, the little fish have to avoid predators from above, especially ospreys, great blue herons, and bald eagles, plus fast-swimming furry fishermen like river otters. Even with all of these predators, though, the nursery waters of the James should produce enough juvenile fish this summer to help swell the stock of each species over the fall and winter.