



Fishing the Q



Project Importance & Goals

- The Quinnipiac River, in Central CT, is open to the public to paddle, walk the trails, and fish.
- Parts of the river are in very urban areas (Fig. 1), yet people often do not realize how close they live to this important recreational area and natural resource.
- The goal of my project is to inform the public of fish species present in the river as well as highlight good fishing areas to encourage more people take advantage of it.
- I will do this by using different forms of media to showcase the river, whether it be through an interactive map online, video and social media.



Figure 1. Fish species observed in the Q. From left to right: Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*), Largemouth Bass (*Lepomis macrochirus*) and Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*). Photos from <https://animaldiversity.org>.

Fishing & Mapping Methods

- Surveyed fish and other aquatic species in the Upper Quinnipiac River.
- Survey methods included fishing with a standard fishing rod and tackle, and visual observations while canoeing the river.
- Locations of species observations were recorded using Track Kit smartphone GPS and mapping app.
- An interactive Google Map and a video were developed to showcase this data.

Fishing the Q Interactive Map & Video

- My surveys showed that there were sport fish, such as the Large and Smallmouth Bass, as well as many bottom feeding carp (Fig. 1).
- I also noted that on an ideal fishing day with good weather, not a single angler was paddling or at an overpass, emphasizing the importance of this project.
- The interactive Google map and video (Figs 2 & 3) will be featured on <https://www.qrivertrail.org/> and the QR Facebook page.

Figure 2. This Google Map showcases the waypoints where different aquatic species were seen, including descriptions of each species. View the map using the QR code or visit: <https://goo.gl/cCUvgZ>

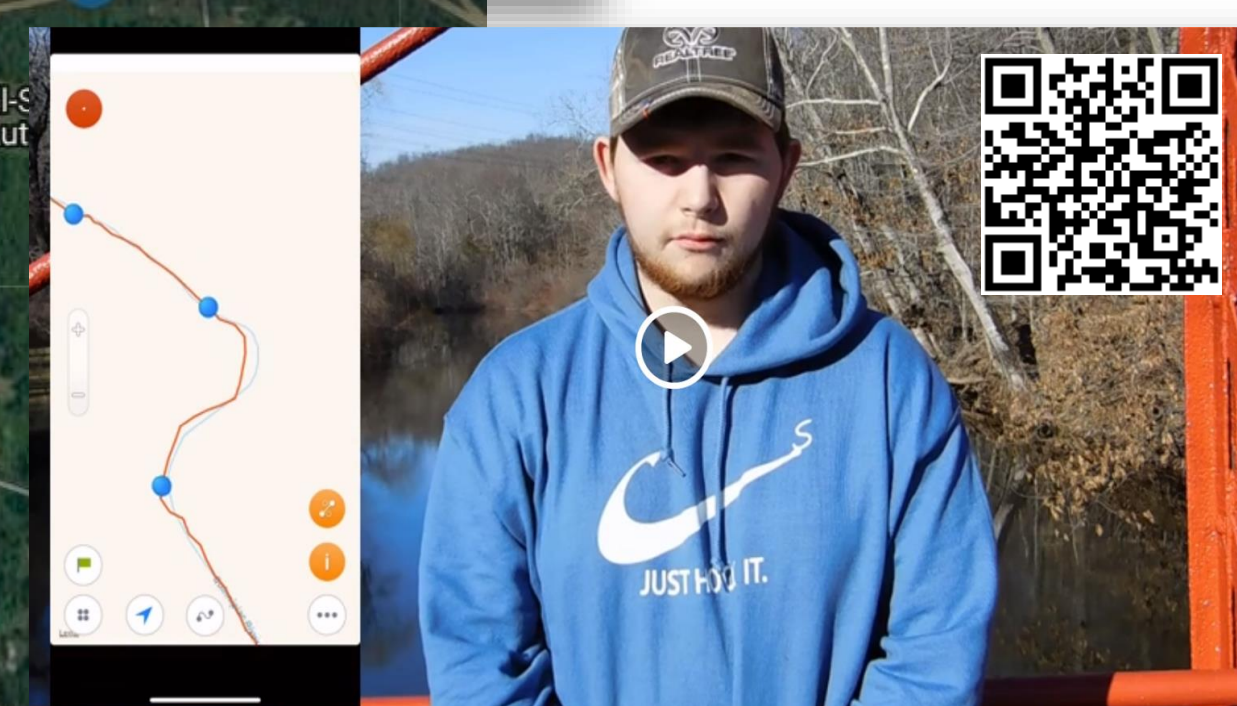
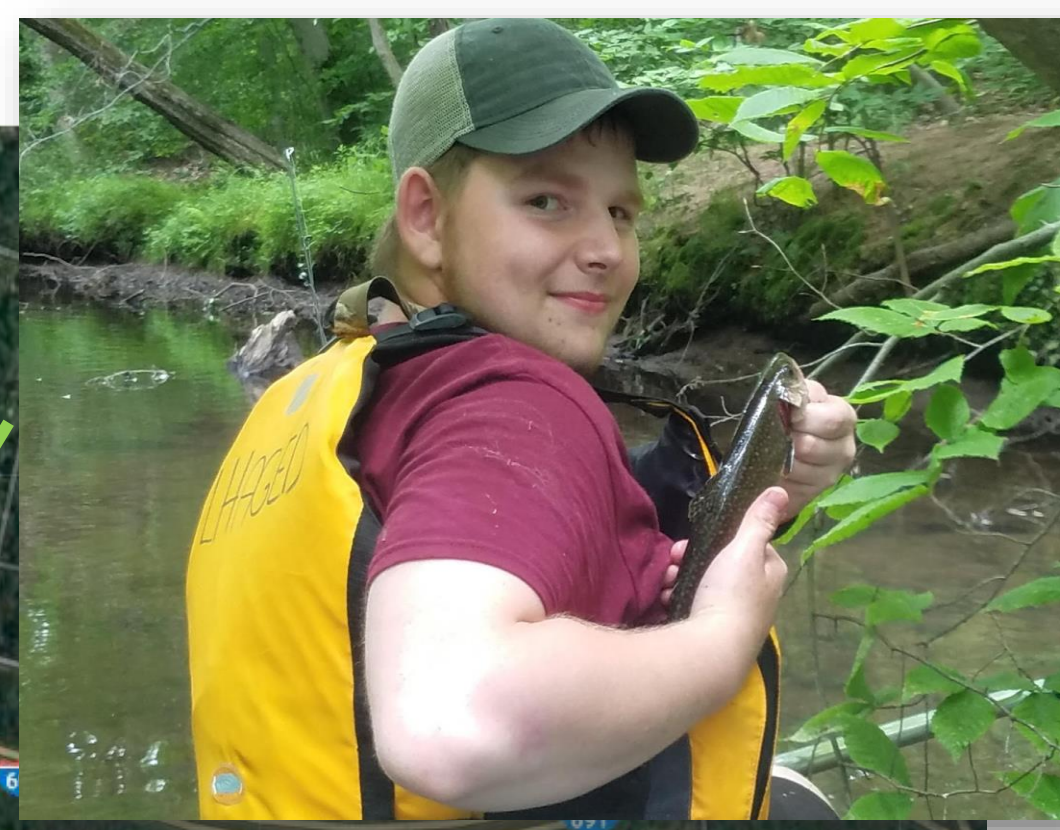
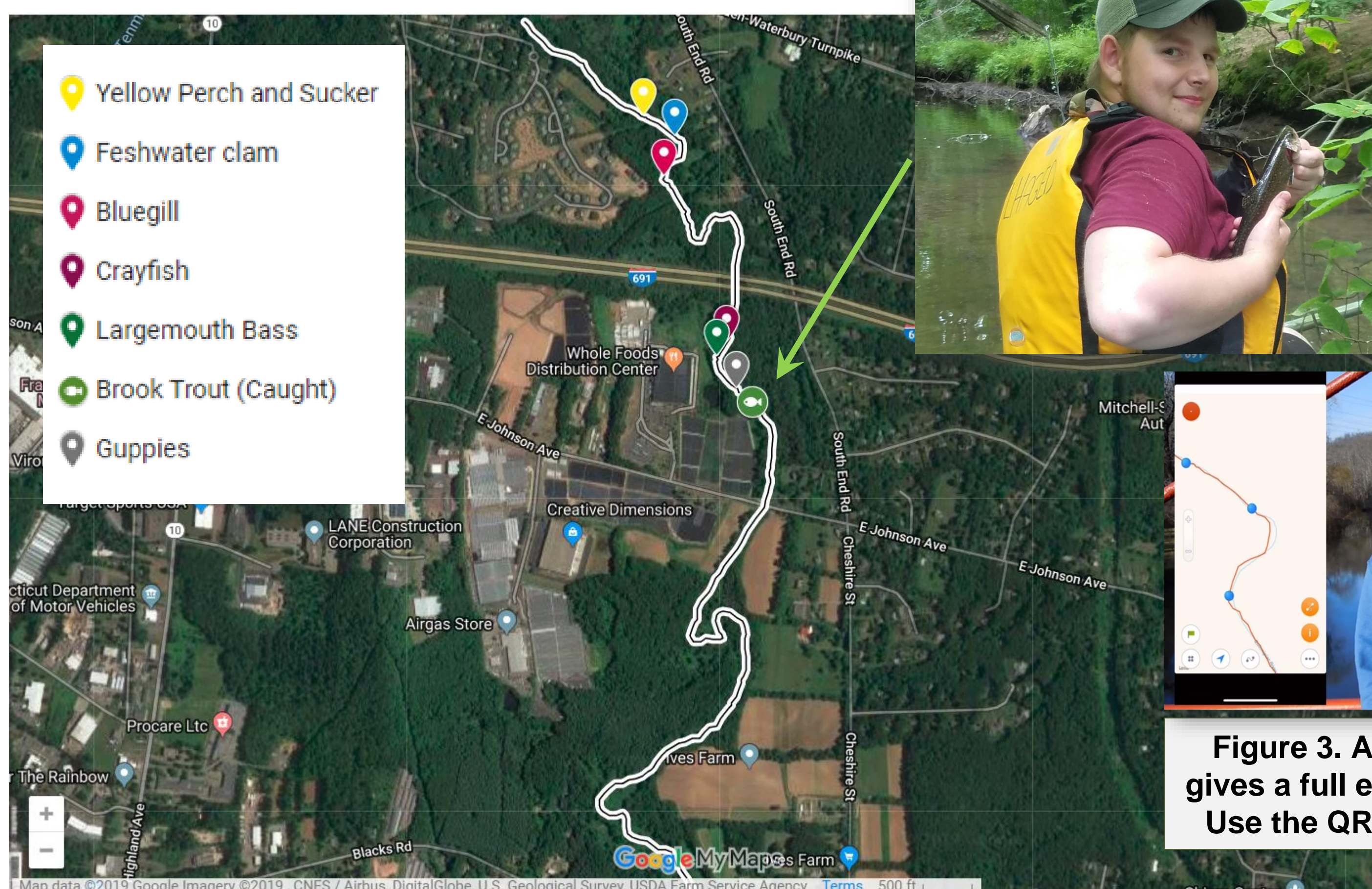


Figure 3. A scene in my video that gives a full explanation of the project. Use the QR code to view the video.

Next Steps

The next step in this project is to get the public involved. I would like to create a forum for people to post their angling adventures along the river and their catches. It can also be used to report issues found along the river, such as where a blockage in need of clean-up may be. The forum will contain a map with labeled access points.

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