

## Fundulus heteroclitus (“Mummichog”)

✓ Friends ▼

Cut along the dashed line for a cool bookmark!

### About

Hello! I am a *Fundulus heteroclitus*. You can call me “Mummichog”. I can be found in the Elizabeth River in Virginia, which is polluted with chemicals used by industries along the river to treat wood products.

### Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why did you leave your home in the Elizabeth River?

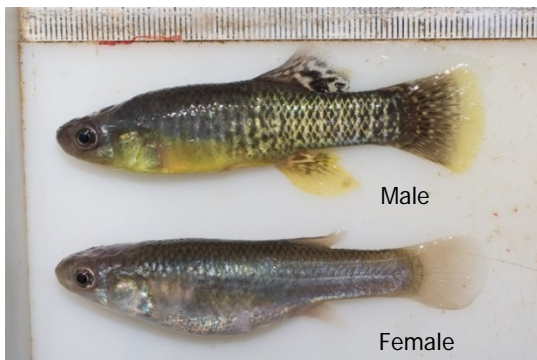
The Elizabeth River is extremely polluted with chemicals from creosote, which was used to treat wood products, in the 1900's. Duke University uses me to research how I have been able to adapt to my toxic habitat.

2. Why are you such a great model?

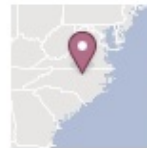
- Limited migration
  - This is helpful for scientists because they can assume a certain problem in the fish is related to something in the local environment
- Easy to collect from the river
- Easy to take care of in the lab
- Visible development

3. What types of research are you used for?

- Toxic chemical studies
- Ecological studies
- Estuary studies
- Adaptation research



### Living



**Durham, North Carolina**

Current City



**Portsmouth, Virginia**

Hometown

### Basic Information

Sex	Male
Birthday	September 17
Favorite Habitat	Marshes along the Atlantic coast
Body size	3-5 inches
Favorite Food	Hot Dogs Tetramin® Tropical Fish Food Diatoms Sea Grass Fish and fish eggs

### Achievements

(1973) First fish in space

### Contact Information

Email [choggin\\_along@facebook.com](mailto:choggin_along@facebook.com)

Provided by Duke University Superfund Research Center  
<http://sites.nicholas.duke.edu/superfund/education-and-outreach/resources-for-educators/>

## *Fundulus heteroclitus*/ "Mummichog"

I can be found in the Elizabeth River in Virginia, which is polluted by chemicals used to treat wood products. I am used by scientists to research how I have been able to adapt to my toxic habitat.

### **Fun(*dulus*) Facts**

- 3-5 inches in size
- live in marshes or estuaries along the Atlantic coast
- limited migration
  - I stay within 50 yards of my birthplace for my entire life. That's the same as half a football field!
- I am used to study adaptation, estuaries, and impacts of toxic chemicals.
- I was the first fish in outer space, aboard the SkyLab3.

