**Claim: The American Eel population along the coast of the United States was shrinking, but now it is coming back.**

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| I am a seventh grade student in a school near the Quassaick Creek in Newburgh, New York. Once a week we’ve gone down to the creek to collect baby eels. We collect them, count them, then move them to other places in the Creek. We have collected 6 buckets of baby eels so far. We are really changing the lives of the eels because we are saving so many babies that will someday grow up and become adult American Eels. We sometimes catch other animals too, which means we are saving them. Mostly I know we are helping to save the eels because we have collected so many baby eels and put them into buckets. | My grandfather watched the American Eels for 20 years. He wrote a book where he described the eel population in the creeks and rivers he visited every week. In the paper he described the waters being so full of baby eels that everywhere you looked you would see them wiggling around. He also drew pictures of what the creeks looked like when they were full of baby eels. His descriptions and drawings are very helpful for getting a feeling for what the rivers used to be like. Now, when he visits, he doesn’t see as many as he used to see, but he does think that the eel population might slowly be coming back. | One study of the American Eel population in 2005 and 2006 showed that fewer baby eels were living in the rivers and creeks of the United States each year. Scientists thought that this was because the baby eels were not able to swim far enough up the rivers to survive. Now volunteers are collecting the baby and moving them farther upstream. In 2008-2011, volunteers averaged catching 20-30 eels per day. By 2012-2013 there were over 500 volunteers working at ten different rivers and creeks. The volunteers in 2012-13 caught an average of 144 eels per day! It is estimated that over 100,000 eels were saved in this effort! |