

Animals in American Samoa Streams

When rain enters the soil, it moves deep underground. This is where our drinking water comes from. This water, called groundwater, is fairly clean. The American Samoa Power Authority digs wells to collect and further clean this water before piping it to our homes.

Each year more and more people live in American Samoa, but our supply of water stays the same. Soon we may have to find other sources of drinking water.

Our people once got all of their water from streams. But now many of our streams are polluted. Several agencies, both here and in the United States, are working to make streams clean again.

Some States know how clean their streams are by knowing what animals live in them. Here are some of the common animals we find in our streams. The American Samoa Community College, with help from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is trying to learn if our stream animals can tell us how clean our streams are too.

Fishes



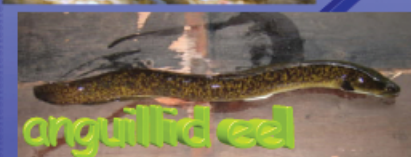
kuhlid



gobies



eleotrid



anguillid eel

Four basic types of fishes are in our streams: anguillids, eleotrids, gobies and kuhlids.



atyid



palaemonid



Shrimps

Two main types of shrimp are found in our streams. One type has feathery fingers that catch little things to eat (atyid). The other type has pinchers that can hold and tear larger things (palaemonid).

Insects



Our streams are home for some insects also.

Snails



Picture A



Picture B

There are two main types of neritid snails in our streams. One type has the operculum outside to close itself in (Picture A).

The other type has an open foot with the operculum inside (Picture B).



A cluster of baby snails on a rock



If we do not take care of our streams, these animals may not have a home, and we may not be able to use the water.

Please keep our streams clean.
Fa'afetai tele lava.

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