

Laboratory of Conservation Ecology

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Biodiversity possesses an intrinsic value that can be seen in the complexity of ecological systems and their resilience that has developed through evolutionary processes. Extinctions and the degradation of ecosystems due to human activity are unacceptable, and we believe that maintaining and restoring biodiversity is humanity's responsibility. Our research focuses primarily on freshwater fishes in order to understand the function of biodiversity in that group. Through open discussion, students will develop a deep understanding of how to quantify biodiversity among local populations of aquatic organisms. This experience will allow students to acquire solid decision-making skills with respect to future sustainability. Our recent research initiatives are shown below.



Fish sampling conducted in the Urakami River, an urban stream running behind Nagasaki University. Students learn how to use casting nets and to enjoy field work. Activities such as this provide students with an opportunity to see the value of conservation in a personal and ecological context.



Ayu, *Plecoglossus altivelis*, is considered to be one of the most delicious freshwater fish species. Ayu migrate between rivers and the ocean during its life cycle, and has a large distribution throughout the Japanese Archipelago that includes the Urakami River in Nagasaki Prefecture.