Data Analysis Guide for Larval Blue Crab Survey

By analyzing data collected from the thirteen field stations throughout the year, you should be able to:

- state where in the Chesapeake Bay each of the three stages of larval crabs are most likely to be found during different seasons;

- construct hypotheses which explain the location of larval crabs based on factors such as water chemistry, currents, season, etc.

To help you develop your hypotheses, provide answers to the following items.

A. List the stations where the mean number of first and second stage zoea collected during each time period was:

0 5 - 500 >500

B. What information from the data charts might help account for the differences in the abundance of zoea among the stations you listed above?

C. List the stations where the mean number of megalopae collected during each time periods was:

0 10 - 250 >350

D. What other data from the charts might help you account for the differences in the location of megalopae?

E. What is notable about the data on zoea from stages 3 - 7?

F. The data show that Stage 1 - 2 zoea are present, as well as the more mature young crabs, the megalopae. What explanations might there be for the absence of later stage zoea in the Chesapeake Bay?