Streams of the southeastern United States harbor exceptionally high biotic diversity, including hundreds of species of fishes. Stream fishes are integral to aquatic foodwebs and, for many of us, ecologically and evolutionarily fascinating. This fauna, although mostly unnoticed by the public, is also strongly affected by how we choose to develop on the landscape and manage water resources. I will highlight research aimed at understanding how fish populations and communities respond to changes in their environments, and discuss science needs for meeting aquatic conservation challenges in a world of increasing human demands and global change.

Biography

Mary C. Freeman is a Research Ecologist with the US Geological Survey’s Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Over the past 25 years, Mary has studied human and natural influences on fishes in rivers and streams of the southeastern US. She has authored or coauthored more than 60 scientific publications, provided technical assistance to managers and regulators dealing with controversial river management and species conservation issues, and taught courses in stream ecology, watershed conservation and ichthyology. Mary earned a Ph.D. in 1990 from the University of Georgia, where she currently serves as adjunct faculty in the Odum School of Ecology.