

Freshwater Jellyfish (*Craspedacusta sowerbii*)

Are there jellyfish in Indiana?

Freshwater jellyfish have been observed in over 43 different water bodies in Indiana in locations that possess relatively high water quality. The freshwater jellyfish has a clear or translucent white bell-shaped body about the size of a dime or nickel. Unlike some of the marine jellyfish, the freshwater jellyfish does not pose a hazard to swimmers. Freshwater jellyfish can occur in virtually any type of water body if conditions allow, including lakes, ponds, fish ponds, water-filled quarries, reservoirs, and even sluggish streams and rivers. Only one species of freshwater jellyfish occurs naturally in North America, but this species is found virtually worldwide. They are typically found in late summer during August and September. Their appearance is sporadic and unpredictable. Individuals become apparent as they rise to the water surface in afternoon to early evening, especially on clear and warm days in calm water. Many questions remain concerning the distribution and biology of freshwater jellyfish.



Will they sting me?

There has been no evidence that freshwater jellyfish sting people. They do have stinging cells that they use to catch their prey (zooplankton) however, there have been no reported cases of jellyfish stinging humans. These jellyfish are very small and you do not need to worry about swimming in a body of water with them.

