# Guidelines for how long an animal survey in Virginia is valid

If a survey, however old, has a positive species occurrence, further coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be required. This list provides a general guideline for how long a negative survey (a survey where no listed species was found) remains valid. These timeframes provide general recommendations; site-specific circumstances may require that these general guidelines be modified.

Surveys for listed species not on this list are dealt with on a case-by-case basis and should be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and either the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (for non-insects) or the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (for insects).

| **Ta****xon/Species** | **Number of Years a Negative Survey is Valid** |
| --- | --- |
| All listed bats | 5 |
| All listed fish | 2 |
| All listed isopods | 3 |
| All listed mussels | 2 |
| Shenandoah salamander (*Plethodon shenandoah*) | 3 |

All listed bats negative surveys are valid for five years, provided that survey was completed using the [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines](https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines). A survey completed using previous guidelines remains valid for three years.

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