

# OHIO RIVER BASIN HABITAT

## PARTNERSHIP



NATIONAL  
FISH HABITAT  
ACTION PLAN

[www.fishhabitat.org](http://www.fishhabitat.org)

### The Partnership

The Ohio River Basin Habitat Partnership will focus our conservation, restoration, and enhancement efforts on habitat for fish and mussels in the watersheds of the Ohio River Basin where priority habitat can be protected and in watersheds where habitat restoration is feasible, especially when they connect to watersheds with priority habitat.

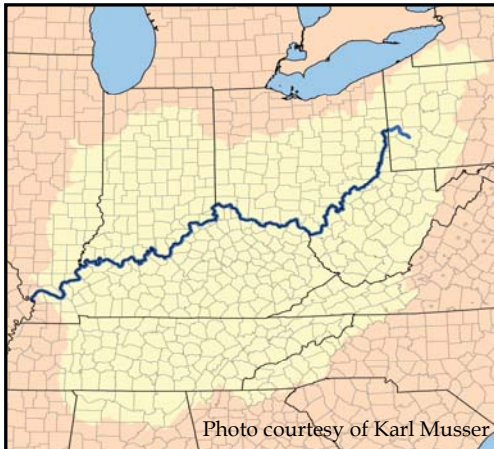


Photo courtesy of Karl Musser

### The Basin

The Ohio River is 981 miles long, and the Ohio River basin drains over 200,000 sq. mi. It is home to 300 species of fish including sport, commercial, and federally listed fish, as well as 130 species of mussels (38 federally listed).



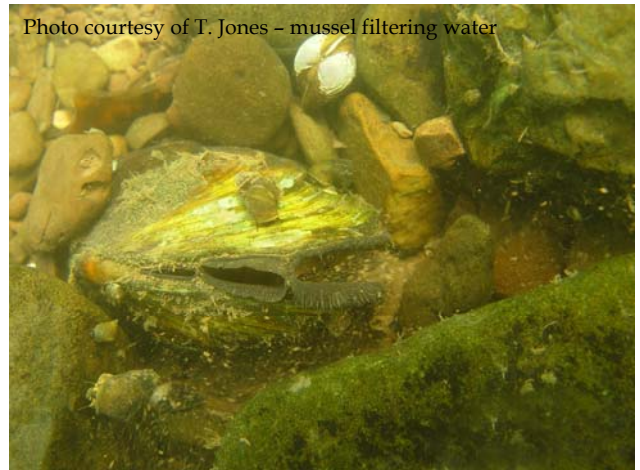
Photo courtesy of T. Jones

The Ohio River supports a \$1 billion sport fishery, over 150,000 people work for businesses that are directly or indirectly dependent on the river, and it is a source of drinking water for >3,000,000 people.

### Why Fish and Mussels?

Mussels need fish as hosts for part of their life cycle. Conversely, mussels help provide food, shelter, and clean water for fish. In 6 miles of river, 5000 mussels can filter 25 metric tons of silt per year! Mussels provide nutrients and a hard surface for algae growth, essential food for aquatic insects, which in turn feed fish. By burrowing in the river bottom, mussels also help stabilize sediments and provide shelter for fish during high flows.

Photo courtesy of T. Jones - mussel filtering water



**Healthy habitats, healthy fish,  
and healthy mussels - all good  
for the American people**

### How Can You Get Involved?

For information on how you can help, contact Rob Simmonds, Interim Coordinator at [rob\\_simmonds@fws.gov](mailto:rob_simmonds@fws.gov) or 618-997-6869 x14.