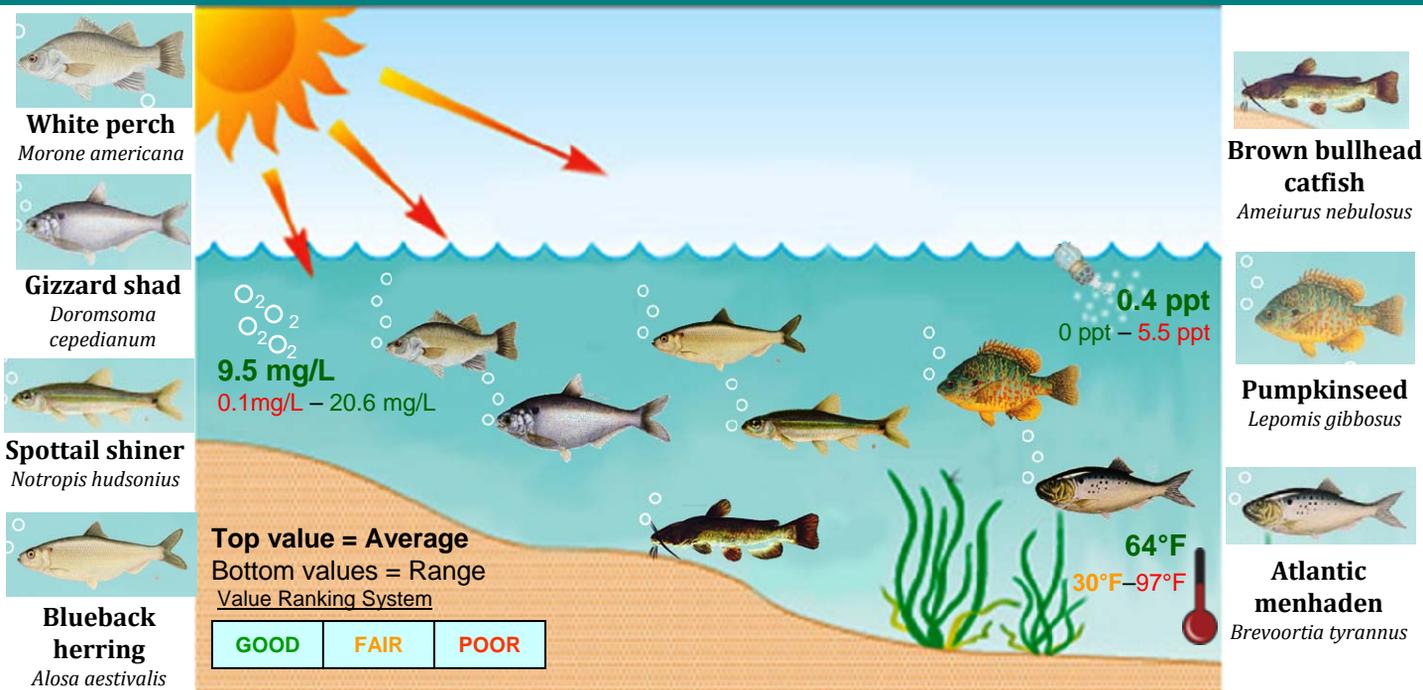


# WHAT'S IN THAT WATER?

## Most Common Fish Captured in the Bush River (2005-2011)



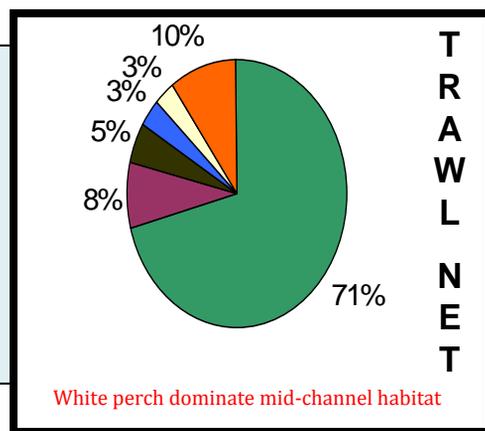
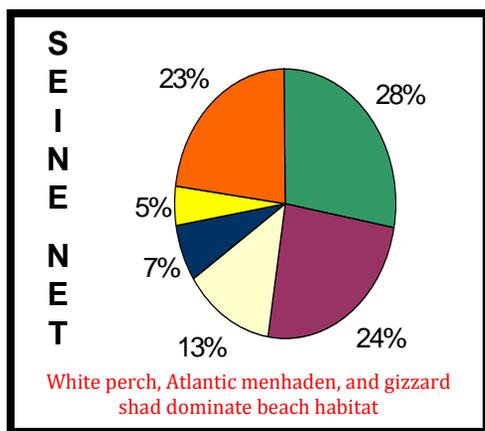
**Salinity:** OPC is a tidal freshwater system. Salinity ranges between 0-0.5 ppt. A salinity increase may alter habitat function.

**Underwater Grasses:** Juvenile fish use grasses for habitat, food, and hiding from predators.

**Water Temperature:** Water temperature affects fish breathing. Cool water = higher dissolved oxygen.

**Dissolved Oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>):** Oxygen levels above 5mg/L are best for fish health. Levels below 2mg/L may cause fish death.

The OPC Fish Volunteer Program tracks the juvenile fish populations of the Bush River from July-September. Fish are caught using seine nets on the beach and trawl nets towed by boat at mid-channel. Different nets are used to determine which species are using the near shore (beach) habitats versus the mid-channel (deeper) habitats. The common species caught from 2005-2011 are shown in the graphs below.



It is important to note that more fish are caught in the mid channel because the trawl net is towed for longer time periods. The shallow beach habitat shows greater juvenile fish diversity than the deeper mid-channel habitat.



**COME VOLUNTEER WITH US!**  
Ask Estuary Center Staff for More Details

Special Acknowledgement:

