MONTGOMERY POOL (2024) - HEALTHY CONDITION
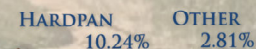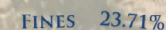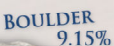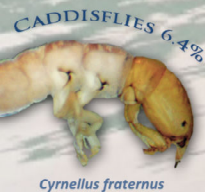
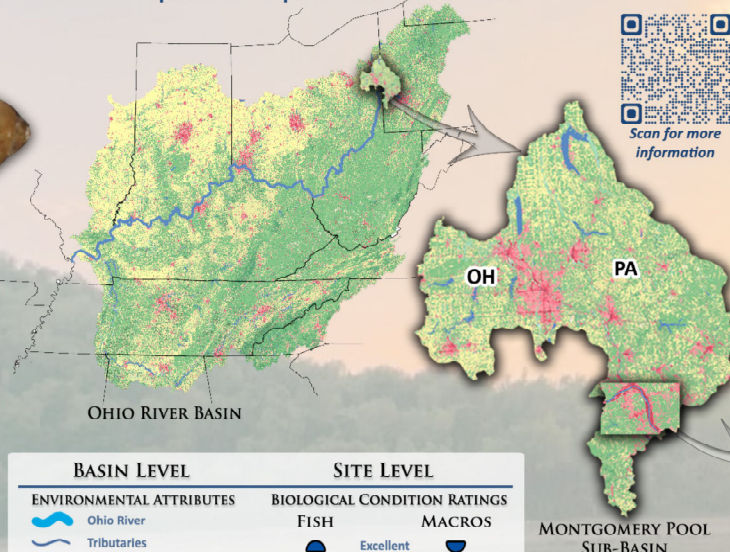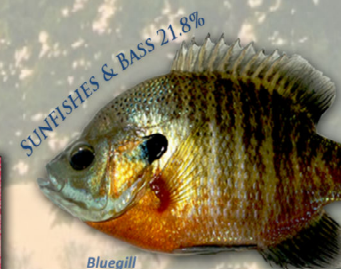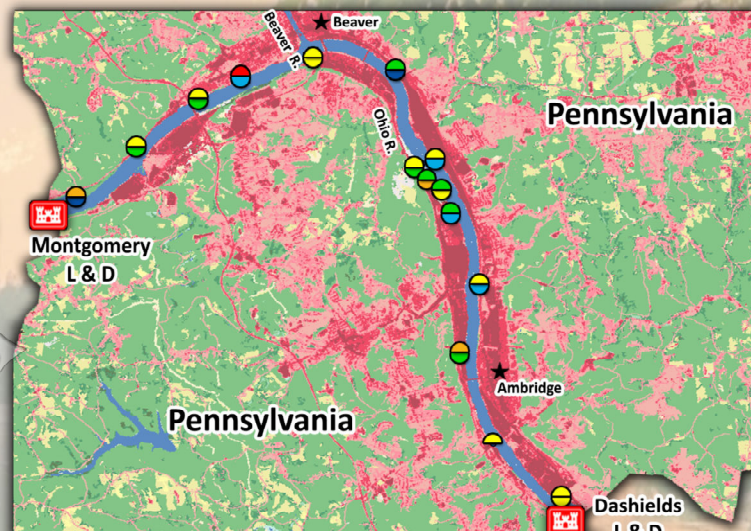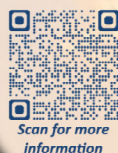This page summarizes the 2024 fish and macroinvertebrate (macro) surveys conducted by ORSANCO biologists in the Montgomery Pool of the Ohio River. Fish are collected via non-lethal electrofishing in the summer. Macros are collected in the fall from artificial substrate samplers placed in the water in late summer. Montgomery Pool is 18.5 miles long, extending from Dashields Locks and Dam (ORM 13.2) to Montgomery Locks and Dam (ORM 31.7). The pool lies entirely within the state of Pennsylvania and the surrounding area is best described as an urban extension of Pittsburgh. This proximity to the largest metropolitan area on the river results in high volumes of industry, barge activity, and recreational boaters. Most of the pool's shorelines are modified, to some extent, with rocks/metal walls to curb shoreline erosion. Though aquatic vegetation is increasing, the most abundant aquatic habitat remains fallen timber (trees and stumps). A major tributary to this pool, the Beaver River, is also heavily influenced by industry yet is still a valuable fishery and provides ample recreational access.

DOMINANT MACRO GROUPS

MIDGES 32.9%
Dicrotendipes sp

SNAILS 14.5%
Physella sp

MUSSELS 12.5%
Dreissena polymorpha

MAYFLIES 11.3%
Stenacron sp

CADDISFLIES 6.4%
Cyrnellus fraternus

DOMINANT FISH FAMILIES

MINNOWS 38.8%
Emerald Shiner

SUNFISHES & BASS 21.8%
Bluegill

HERRING AND SHAD 11.8%
Gizzard Shad

SUCKERS 10.3%
River Redhorse

PERCHES 8.8%
Logperch

Scan for more information

OHIO RIVER BASIN

MONTGOMERY POOL SUB-BASIN

OH | PA

Pennsylvania

Beaver R. | Beaver
Ohio R.
Montgomery L & D
Pennsylvania
Ambridge
Dashields L & D

MONTGOMERY POOL

Legend

BASIN LEVEL

ENVIRONMENTAL ATTRIBUTES
- Ohio River
- Tributaries
- Locks & Dam
- Most Populous Cities
- Developed Areas
- Agricultural/Pastoral Lands
- Natural Forests

SITE LEVEL

BIOLOGICAL CONDITION RATINGS

FISH	MACROS
Excellent	Excellent
Very Good	Very Good
Good	Good
Fair	Fair
Poor	Poor
Very Poor	Very Poor

AQUATIC INVASIVES WATCH

☐ *Silver Carp* ☐ *Bighead Carp* ☑ *Asiatic Clams* ☑ *Zebra Mussels* ☑ *Marine Scuds* ☑ *Hydrilla*

SURVEY SUMMARY

Electrofishing sampling took place over the last two weeks in August during the index period (July-Oct). Sampling conditions were favorable marked by normal flow and high Secchi readings, with average readings for temperature, conductivity, and disolved oxygen. Three species considered to be "irruptive species" comprised 39.4% of the total catch: Gizzard Shad (*Dorosoma cepedianum*, n=373), Channel Shiner (*Notropis wickliffi*, n=297), and Emerald Shiner (*Notropis atherinoides*, n=538). Notable catches included record catches of an Ohio species of concern (River Redhorse, *Moxostoma carinatum*, n=138). The Longhead Darter (*Percina macrocephala*), a species once thought to be extirpated in Ohio, was observed four times in 2024. The results (see above map) show that, on average, fish populations in Montgomery Pool were in 'Fair' condition. While there were not many individual species of note, a robust diversity of dragonflies/damselflies, caddisflies, and midges were consistently observed throughout the pool. This is likely associated with a substantial amount of available habitat that now exists because of the presence of the invasive species of submerged aquatic vegetation, *Hydrilla verticillata*. Macroinvertebrate results show that, on average, macro populations were in 'Good' condition.

POOL SUBSTRATE COMPOSITION

BOULDER 9.15%
COBBLE 8.01%
GRAVEL 21.11%
SAND 24.96%
FINES 23.71%
HARDPAN 10.24%
OTHER 2.81%