

Just keep Swimming, Swimming, Swimming

What fish inhabit the Ipswich River?

FISH ARE SOME OF THE MOST INTERESTING CREATURES in the world. They have been on this earth for more than 450 million years, and scientists have already identified 25,000 species. Of all the identified species, forty percent of them live in freshwater areas like the Ipswich River. From the Alewife, whose scales were once used as fake pearls during WWI, to the Brown Trout, which was first brought to America from Asia, there are many species that are lucky enough to call this pristine river home. Unfortunately though, many of the environmental issues that the Ipswich River is currently facing are having drastic effects on these unique fish species. One of the largest issues is called water export which occurs when water is taken out of the Ipswich River and exported out of the watershed to other

areas as drinking water. Unfortunately, this water never finds its way back to the same river, lowering local water levels and harming fish populations.

Another devastating environmental concern for the Ipswich River is the use of dams which prevent fish from moving upstream. Since many freshwater and saltwater species travel upriver to give birth, this critical reproduction stage is cut off by dams that do not have any means of allowing the fish to get above them. As the Ipswich River's water levels and fish population levels are lowered, fish populations are having trouble sustaining reproductive rates because of the dwindling amount of fish in their reproductive primes. In conclusion, the fish of the Ipswich River need our help to keep their home a haven.



THE COMMON SHINER

Habitat: The common shiner prefers faster pools in rivers and streams, but is also found in lakes.

Diet: A typical diet for the Common Shiner includes in clude terrestrial and aquatic insects insects, vegetation, and other fishes.

Interesting Facts: The male fish develops red to orange color on the tips of its fins and and tubercles on its head. Also male Common Shiners tend to be more precocious than female Common Shiners.



ATLANTIC SILVERSIDE

Habitat: They enjoy water within a temperature range of 51°N - 29°N.

Diet: A typical diet for an American Silverside includes copepods, mysids, amphipods, cladocer

Intresting Facts: The Atlantic Silversides are considered to be a young species. This is because most of the Atlantic Silversides that are found are between the ages of zero and one.



AMERICAN EEL

Habitat: American Eels were considered to be a freshwater eel until recently when it was discovered that some American eels swim up freshwater streams to mature, others remain and mature in both estu-arine and marine waters, and still others move between habitats. They exist best in deep water.

Diet: The larvae of American eels eat primarily plankton while adults eat insects, crustaceans, clams, worms, fish, frogs, toads, and dead animals.

Interesting Facts: The American Eel is on the endangered species list. The Unites States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service began reviewing the status of the American Eel in September 2004, in December that year it was added to the list.

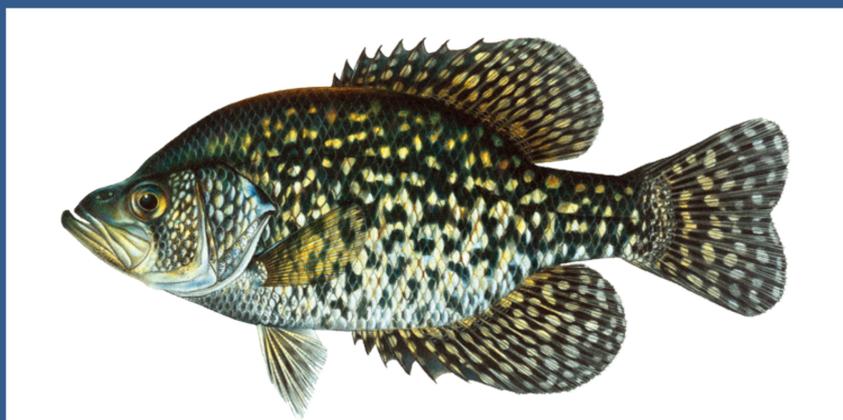


BROWN TROUT

Habitat: They tend to flourish in freshwater streams.

Diet: The diet of brown trout incorporates insects, mollusks, amphibians, small rodents and other fish

Interesting Facts: The brown tout was brought to North American waters from Europe and western Asia in 1883. Also they tend to have a long life span of about 13 years of age.



BLACK CRAPPIE

Habitat: Black crappie flourishes in clear waters, reservoirs and large slow moving streams.

Diet: Early in life the Black Crappie mostly eats Zooplankton, but as it matures is begins to each more insects and like species.

Interesting Facts: Black Crappies are a great asset to a population because they will eat almost anything; they are great at controlling the populations of species where they live.



ALEWIFE FISH

Habitat: They live in salt water seas but spawn in freshwater areas like the Ipswich River

Diet: The Alewife is primarily a plankton feeder but also consumes herring, eels, launce, and fish eggs

Interesting Facts: Alewife's scales were in high demand to make fake pearls during WWI.



THE COMMON CARP

Habitat: They prep freshwater streams

Diet: The common carp eats vegetation making it an omnivore

Interesting Facts: The common carp is not a native fish to the Americas, but it was actually brought over by the Europeans.