



Fish need a healthy living space to survive, grow, and reproduce.

Habitat influences the species and numbers of fish found in a waterway. If habitat meets a fish's needs, it can survive there. If it doesn't, it won't be found there.

Fish habitat includes: 1) **physical factors** such as temperature, water depth, current, waves, bottom types, and cover; and 2) **chemical factors** such as oxygen levels, dissolved minerals, and other substances. Habitat requirements for each stage of a fish's life cycle—egg, larvae, juvenile, and adult—may be different within the same water body.

Streams are generally cooler at their headwaters, becoming warmer as they widen and absorb sunlight. A larger stream typically supports more fish species if conditions permit.

This map displays prediction data for brook silverside, golden shiner, smallmouth bass, and blacknose shiner. Areas highlighted for each species indicate a probability of occurrence greater than 0.5 (equal chances of occurrence or absence).