



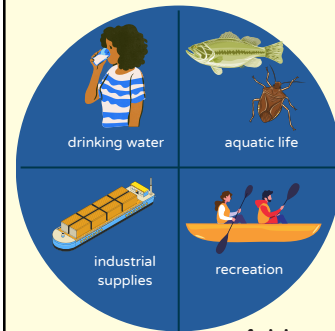
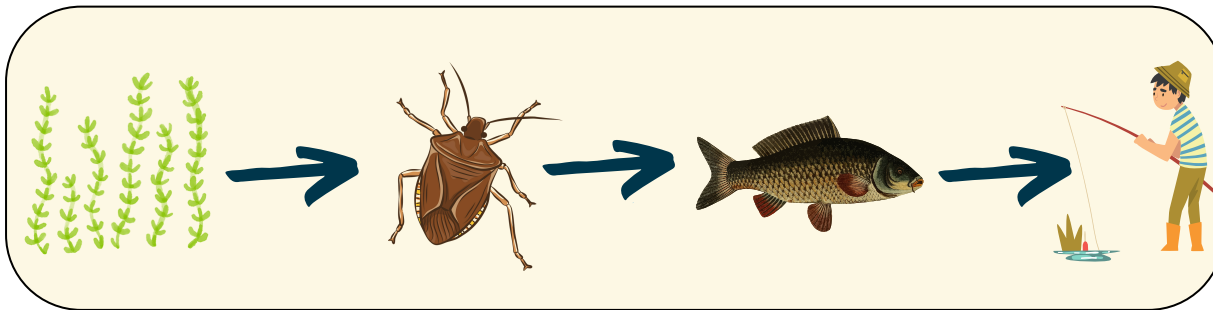
ORSANCO

Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission
orsanco.org/water-quality-information

The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission is a compact interstate agency. Since 1948, ORSANCO and its member states have cooperated to improve water quality in the Ohio River Basin ensuring the river supports its four designated uses. ORSANCO operates monitoring programs to check for pollutants and toxins that threaten water quality of the Ohio River.

Ohio River Ecosystem

An ecosystem is a community of organisms that live and interact within a particular environment. Freshwater ecosystems, such as the Ohio River provide valuable commodities to humans such as drinking water, recreation, and transportation in addition to providing essential habitat for plants and animals. The Ohio River and its tributaries are home to a diverse array of aquatic species.



4 Uses

Fish Populations

The Ohio River is home to over 160 species of fish

ORSANCO has monitored fish populations annually since 1957 and surveys all 19 Ohio River pools on a 7 year rotation



Macroinvertebrates

Many species of macroinvertebrates are highly sensitive to pollution and relatively immobile

Annual assessment of their populations provides valuable insights on water quality

ORSANCO Biological Programs

- Each year, ORSANCO conducts intensive habitat, water quality, fish population, and macroinvertebrate surveys to assess biological condition of the Ohio River
- Biological indices that include metrics of fish and macro communities (diversity, abundance, feeding, reproductive guilds, pollution tolerance, habits, and health) are used by ORSANCO to determine if the river is in full support of its aquatic life-use



Ohio River Basin