

Angler Creel Survey on the South River and South Fork Shenandoah River - 2016



Brad Fink
Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries
District Fisheries Biologist
February 1st, 2017

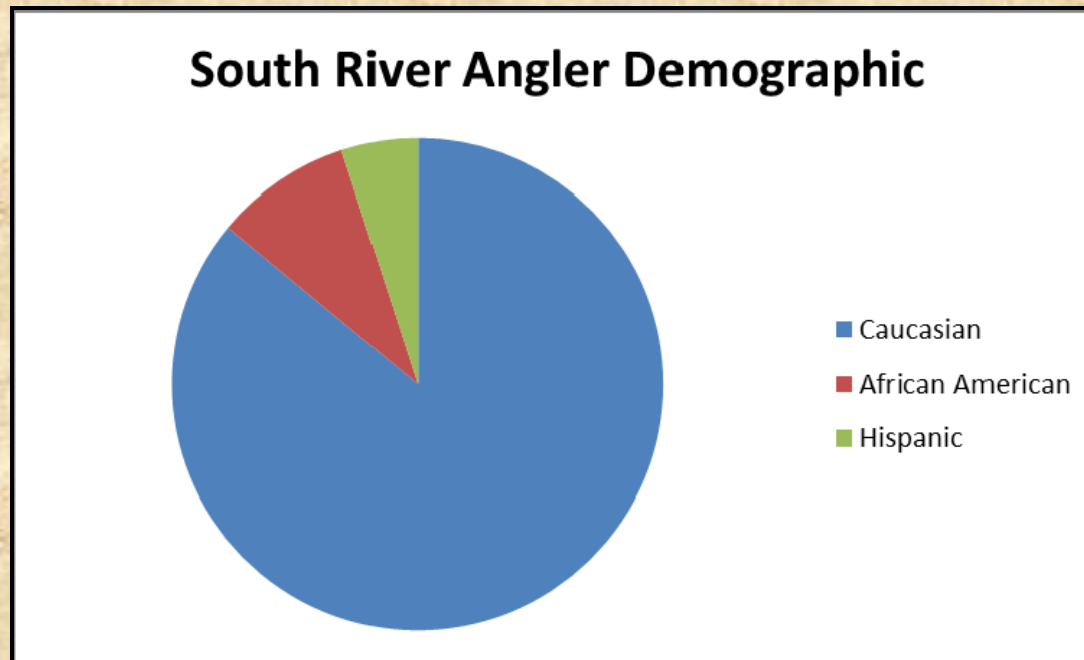


Sampling Design and Effort

- Roving angler creel surveys were chosen over access point angler creel surveys
- Surveyed both rivers from May 1st to Sept 5th – weather dependent
- South River = 5 Reaches - Waynesboro to Port Republic
- South River = 90 Interviews – 46 Days on the river
- SF Shenandoah = 10 Reaches - Port Republic to Front Royal
- SF Shenandoah = 287 Interviews – 71 Days on the river

South River 2016 Demographic Results

- South River – Average Age was 38
 - Caucasian (86%)
 - African American (9%)
 - Hispanic (6%)



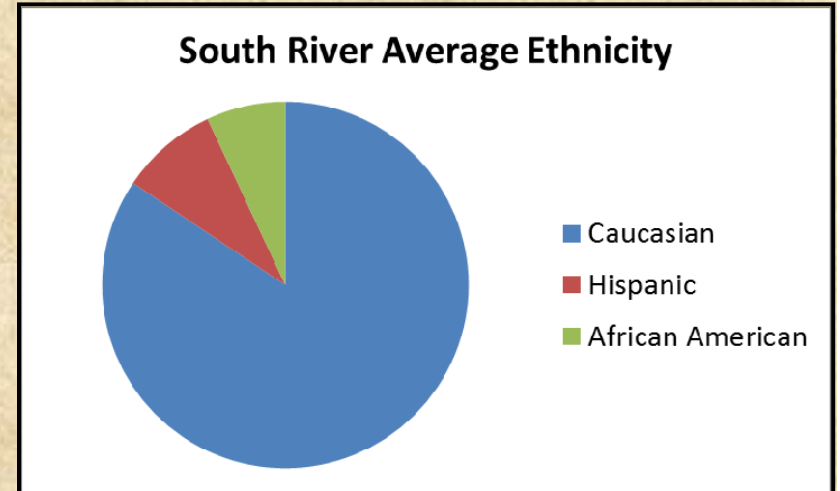
South River Past Demographics

No Trends

- 2005 = Caucasian (77%)
- 2011 = Caucasian (91%) Average 85%
- 2016 = Caucasian (86%)

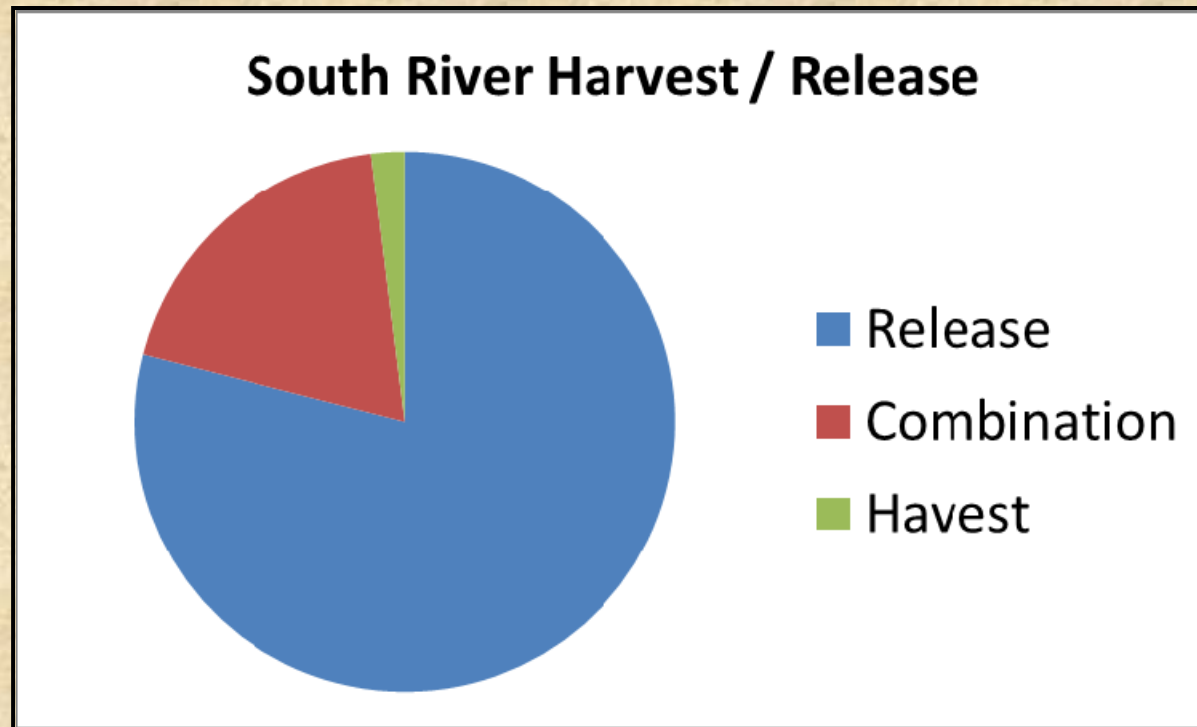
- 2005 = Hispanic (17%)
- 2011 = Hispanic (3%) Average 9%
- 2016 = Hispanic (6%)

- 2005 = African American (6%)
- 2011 = African American (6%) Average 7%
- 2016 = African American (9%)



South River Harvest / Release

- Released Fish (79%) – 28% Said Due To Advisory
- Harvest Fish (2%)
- Combination (19%)



South River Advisory Knowledge

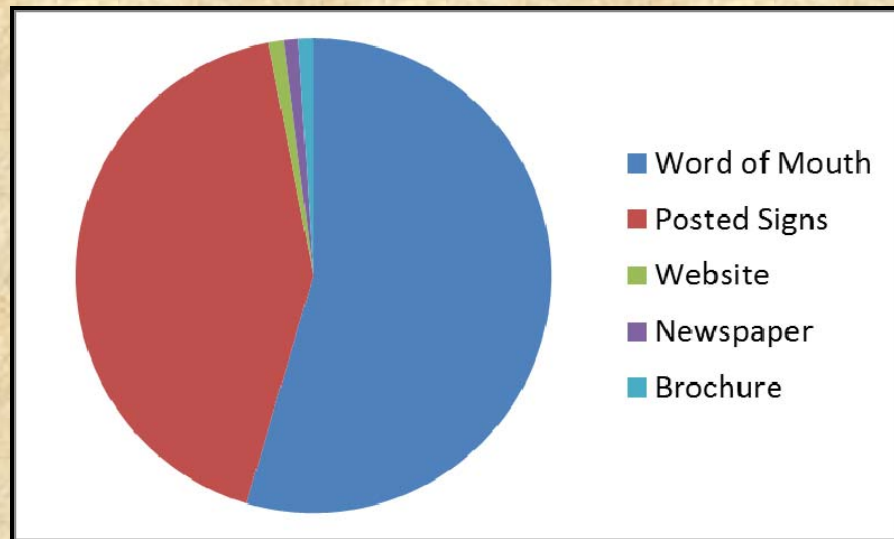
Are you aware of the Fish Advisory?

Yes = 87%

No = 13%

How do you know about the Fish Advisory?

- Word of Mouth (54%)
- Posted Signs (42%)
- Website (1%)
- Newspaper (1%)
- Brochure (1%)



Only 4% of Anglers on South River are from out of State

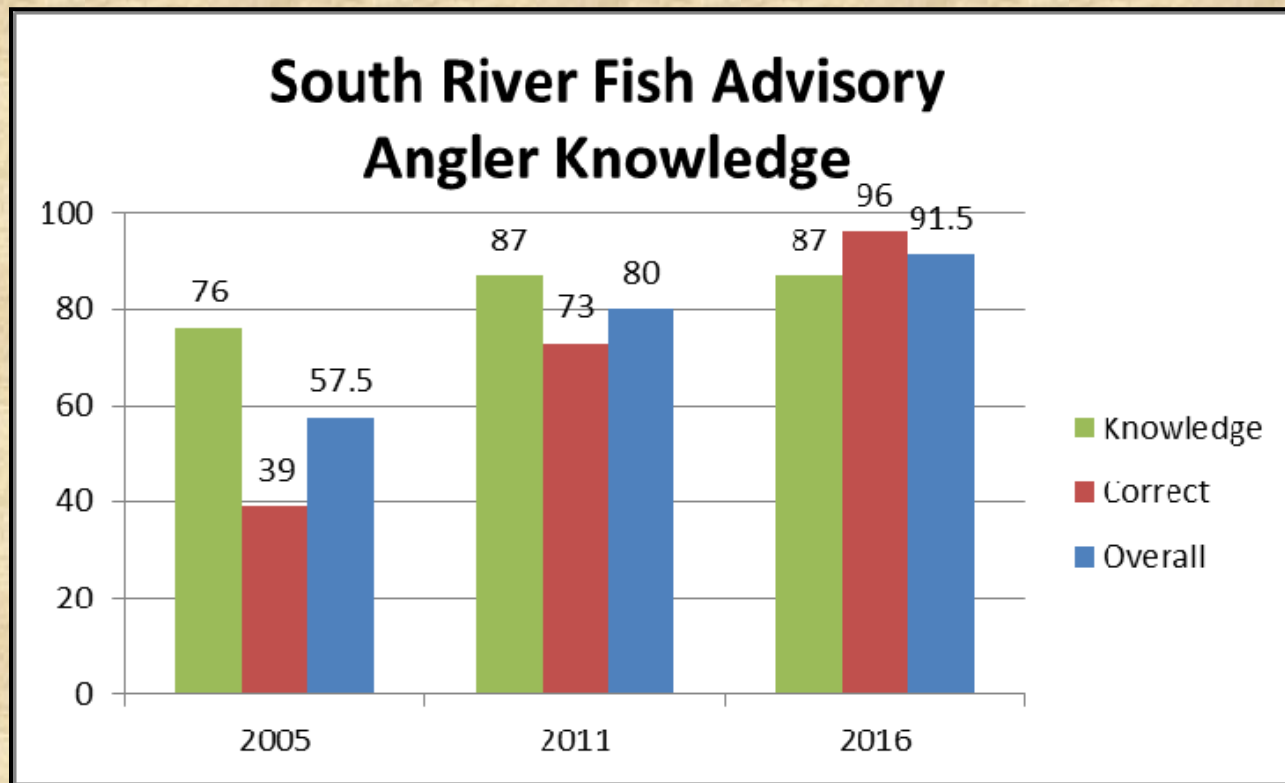
South River Past Comparisons

Knowledge of Advisory

- 2005 = 76%
- 2011 = 87%
- 2016 = 87%

Answered Correctly

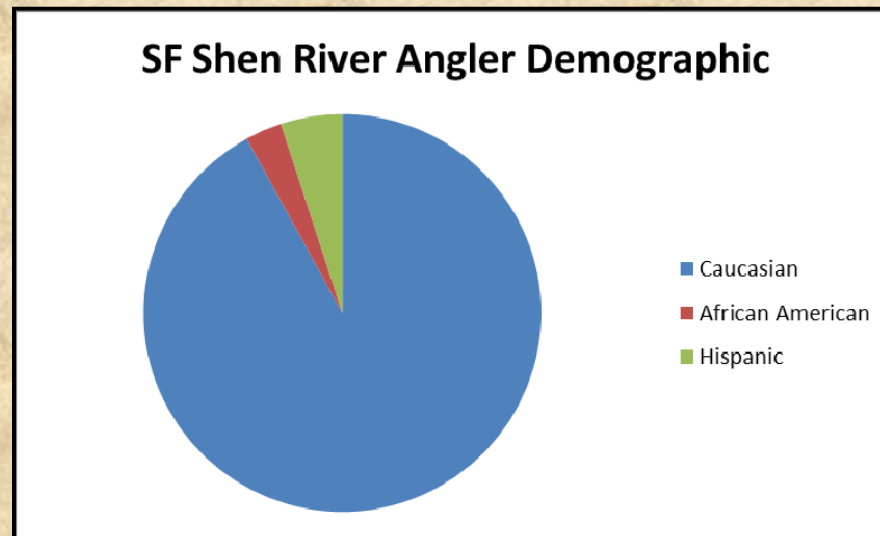
- 2005 = 39%
- 2011 = 73%
- 2016 = 96%



GOING DOWNSTREAM!!!!

SF Shen River 2016 Demographic Results

- South Fork Shenandoah River – Average Age was 41
 - Caucasian (92%)
 - Hispanic (5%)
 - African American (3%)



SF Shen River Advisory Knowledge

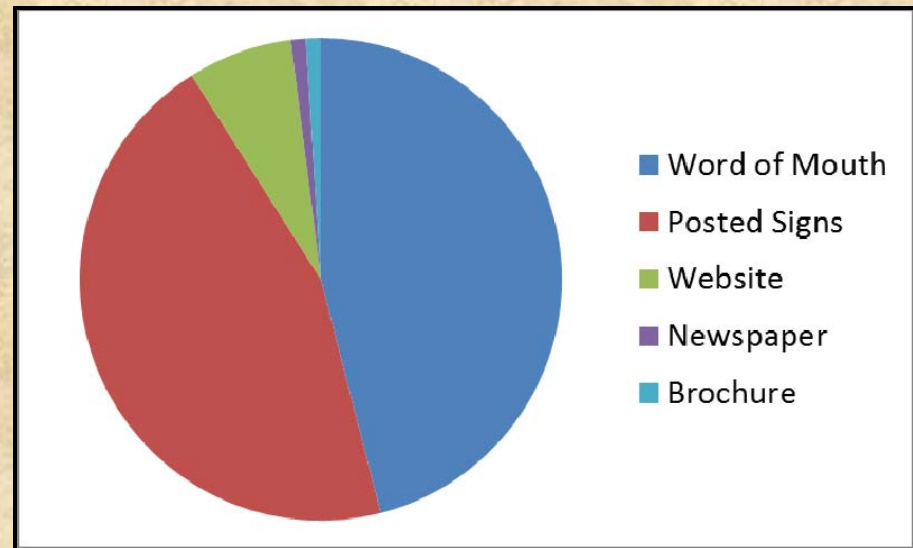
Are you aware of the Fish Advisory?

Yes = 75%

No = 25%

How do you know about the Fish Advisory?

- Word of Mouth (46%)
- Posted Signs (45%)
- Website (7%)
- Newspaper (1%)
- Brochure (1%)



Anglers from out of state made up 15% Interviewed

SF Shen River 2016 Harvest / Release

- Released Fish (82%) – Only 8% said due to advisory
- Harvest Any Fish? (18% said yes)

However, when asked earlier in the interview “Do Fish Consumption Advisories keep you from eating fish?” (2016)

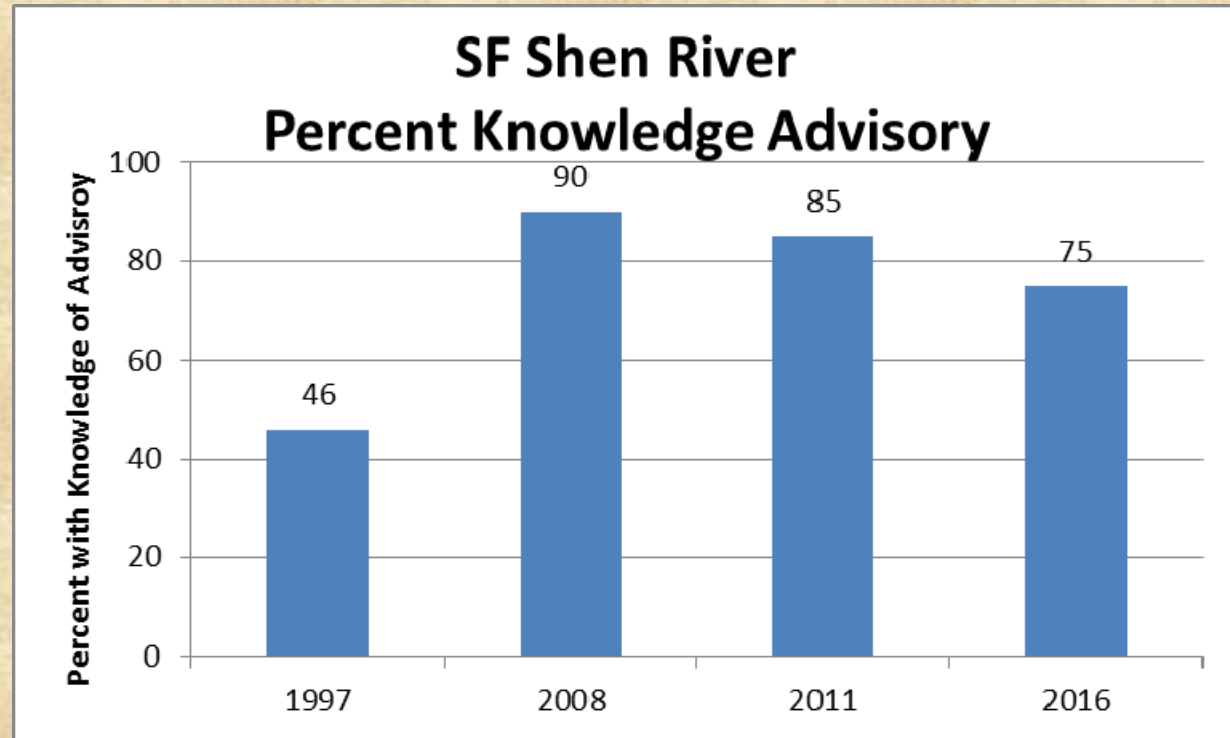
- Yes = 72%
- No = 28%



Past Comparisons of SF Shenandoah River Angler Creel Surveys

Knowledge of Advisory

- 1997 = 46%
- 2008 = 90%
- 2011 = 85%
- 2016 = 75%



Summary

- General angler is a Caucasian male from 30 to 50 years of age on both rivers
- South River Anglers are illustrating an increased understand of the fish consumption advisory over the past 11 years
- South Fork Shenandoah Anglers are illustrating a decreased understanding of the advisory over the past 8 years
- Decreased knowledge on SF may be due 15% of anglers from out of state in 2016

Summary

- Harvest of smallmouth bass in both rivers basically does not exist
- Only harvest in South River observed by creel clerks were trout species
- Twenty-eight percent of South River anglers release their catch due to advisory
- Angler satisfaction was 3.6 out of 5.0 on South River and 4.0 out of 5.0 on the SF Shenandoah

Creel Clerk Acknowledgements

- Collin George, Hunter Ritchie, Tony Villeda and Lindsey Carpenter



Questions?



Contact Information

Brad Fink

Brad.fink@dgif.virginia.gov

540-248-9360