



A vision for selective fish passage and invasive species management in the Great Lakes

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Connectivity conundrum?

Longnose suckers



Sea lamprey



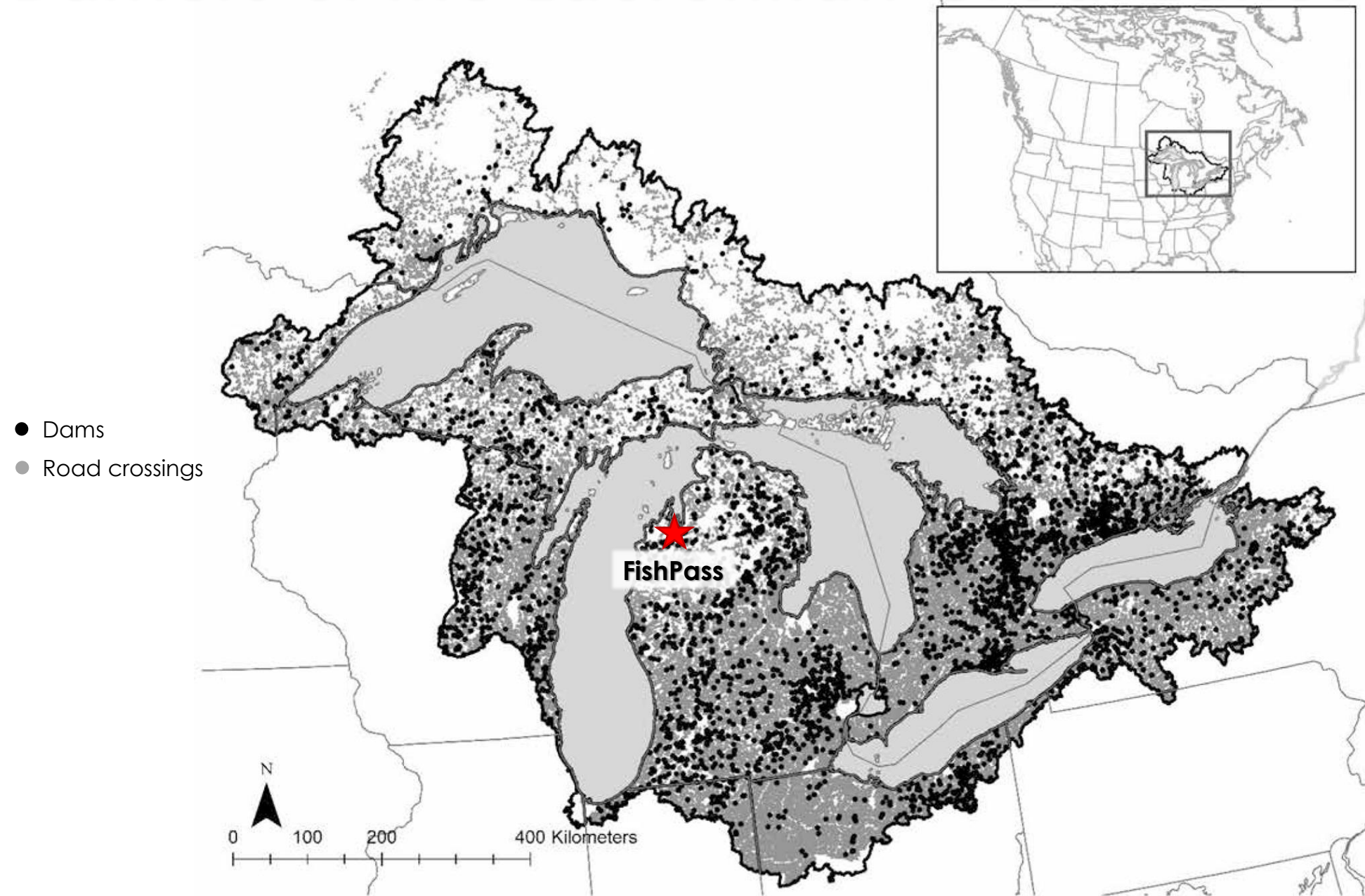
Lake sturgeon



A Global problem:

- Tension between improving passage for desirable species while decreasing or eliminating passage by invasive or undesirable species.

Barriers of the Laurentian Great Lakes



GLFC & Sea Lamprey Control

GLFC is a 1955 treaty organization between Canada and the United States (www.glfc.int) charged with sea lamprey control and maintaining healthy sustainable fisheries in the Great Lakes



Sea Lamprey Biology

- Attach to prey fish and feed on blood and other bodily fluids
- A single sea lamprey is capable of killing 40 pounds of fish
- Migrates up rivers and streams to spawn and females can lay ~100,000 eggs

Sea Lamprey Control

- Barriers used to deny access to spawning grounds and lampricide used to kill larvae
- Efforts have reduced population by over 90% of historic peak

Solutions to the connectivity conundrum

Selective connectivity

- Fish
- Sediments
- Nutrients

- Native fish
- Nutrients

- Some fish
- Nutrients

- Invasive fish
- Native fish
- Nutrients

Passing desirable taxa while restricting the dispersal of undesirable taxa would solve many aspects of the connectivity conundrum

Selective passage = How to sort an assortment of things?

- Evolution of single-stream-recycling can **inform approaches** and **expectations** for selective fish passage
- Emphasize **automation** and **attribute-driven sorting**



Tipping Floor

Drum Feeder

Initial Sorters

Large Star Screens

Second Sorters

Medium Star Screens

Glass Sorter

Magnetic Metal Sorter

Eddy Current Separator

Infrared lasers

Baler

Landfill

Biology Driven Engineering

P
HENOLOGY

M
ORPHOLOGY

B
EHAVIOUR

P
HYSIOLOGY

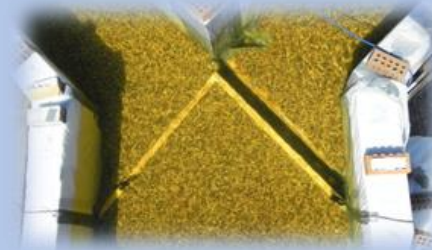
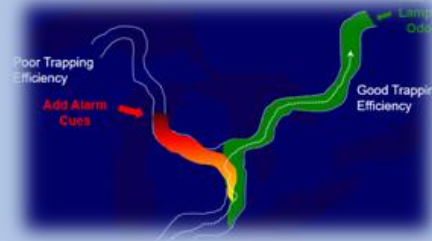
Run Timing; Species



Size, Shape



Guidance, Deterrence, Attraction



Hydraulic Challenges; Leaping ability

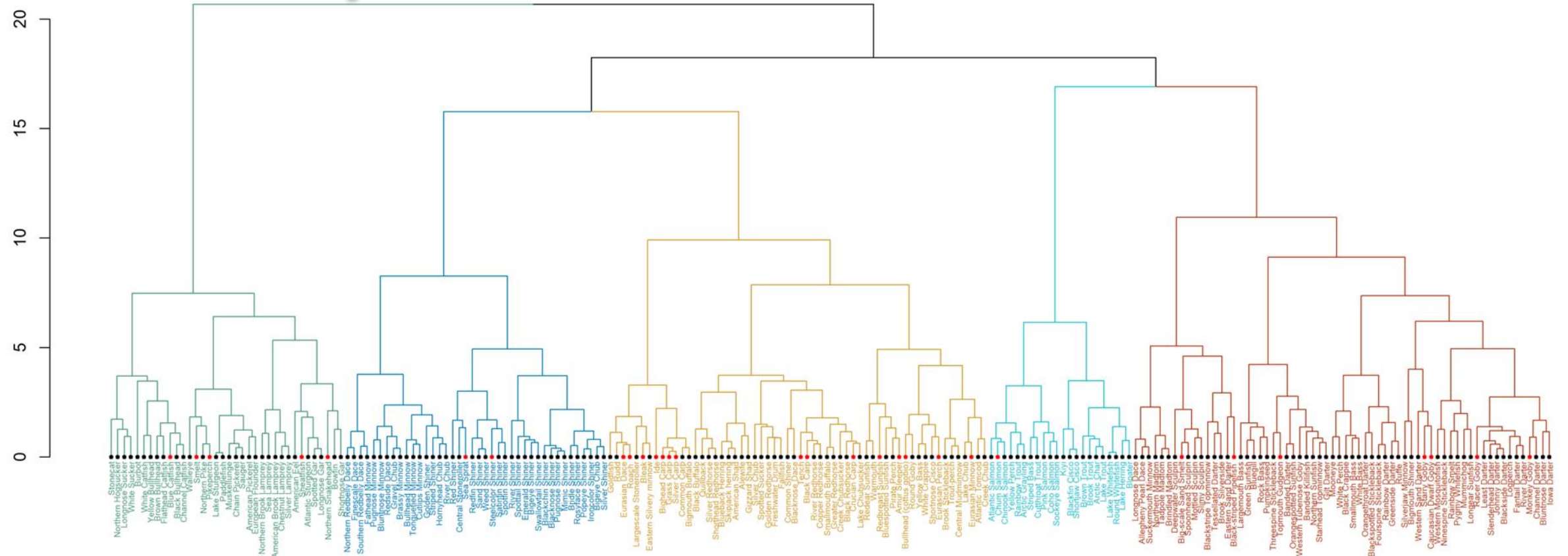


Where do we start...attributes?

- Number of migratory species in the Great Lakes is vast
 - 220 species
- Sortable attributes are numerous
 - 21 sortable attributes have been identified and tabulated
- Historically, single-factor designs have been largely ineffective for non-salmonids
- Differentiation/grouping based on attributes rather than species is one way forward



Guild Analysis



Cluster 1
N=36

Migratory
High trophic level
High max length
Cool water (spring)
Small eyes
Electroreceptors
Non-schooling

Cluster 2
N=40

- Undetermined migratory status
- Low trophic level
- Small max length
- Warm water (spring/summer)
- Large eyes
- Schooling
- Hearing specialization

Cluster 3
N=58

Migratory
Medium trophic level
Medium max length
Cool water (spring)
Schooling & non-schooling
Hearing specialization

Cluster 4
N=22

Migratory & non-migratory
High trophic level
High max length
Cool water (fall)
Schooling & non-schooling

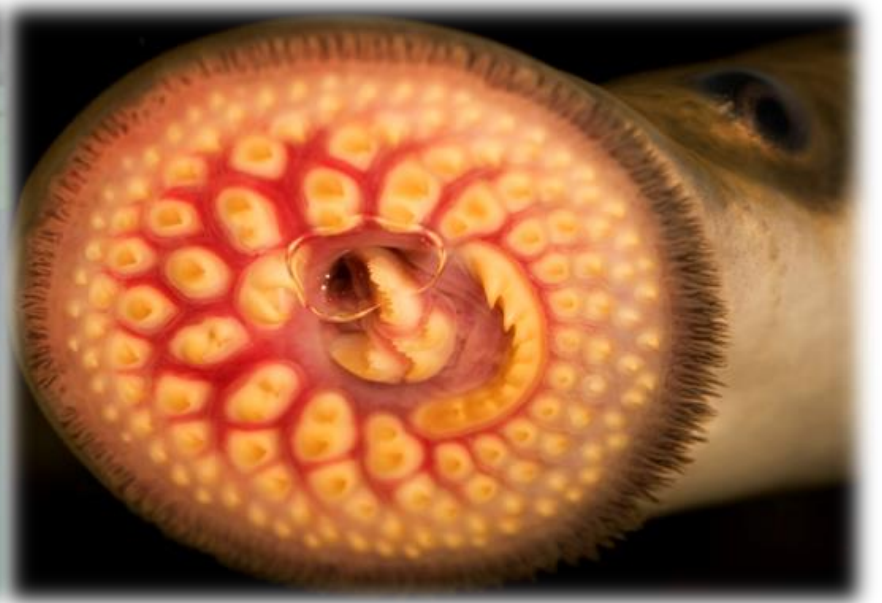
Cluster 5
N=64

Migratory & non-migratory
Medium trophic level
Small max length
Cool water (spring)
High/large pectoral fins
Schooling & non-schooling

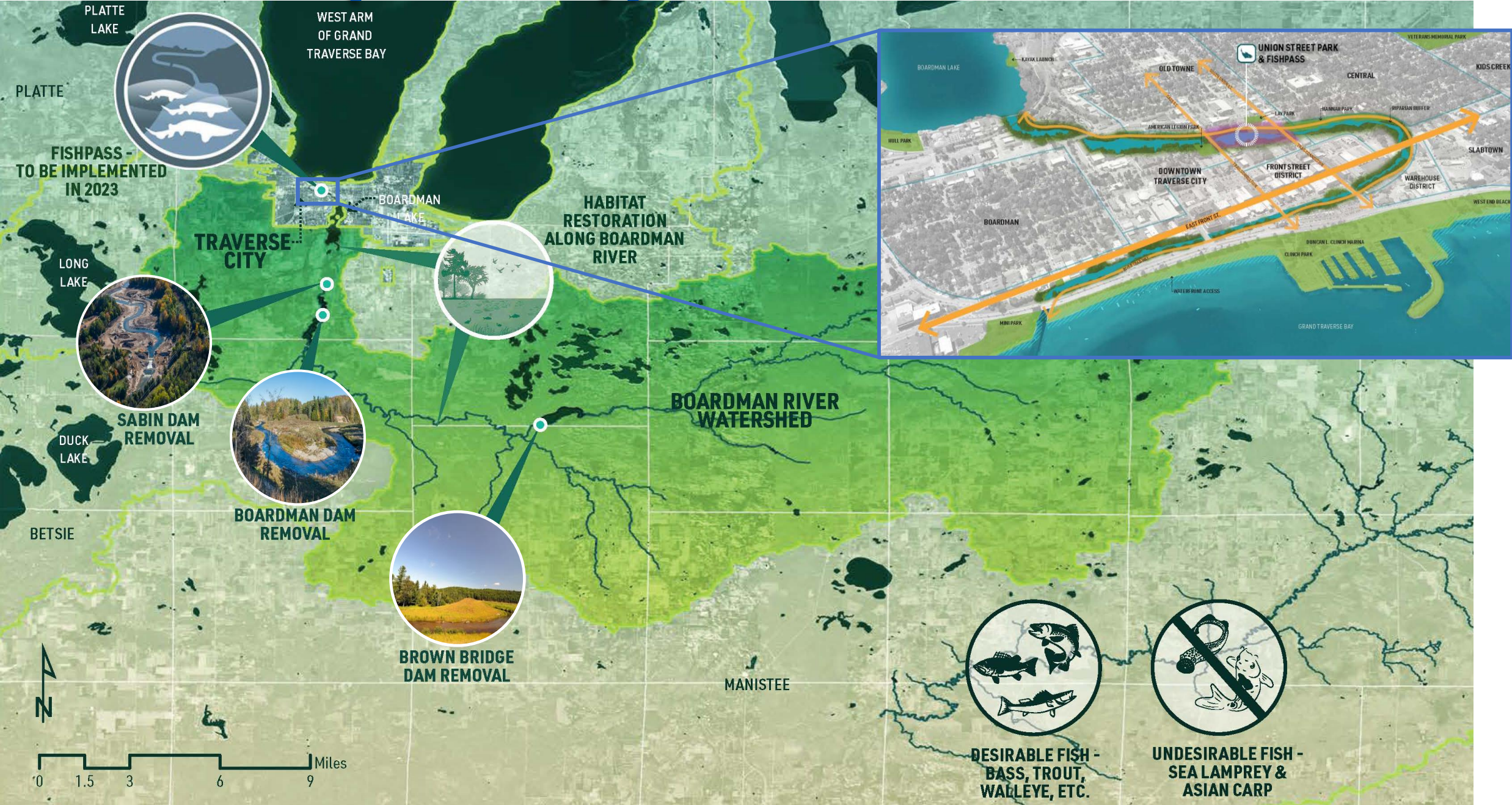
FishPass Mission

To provide up- and down-stream passage of desirable fishes while simultaneously blocking and/or removing undesirable fishes.

- 1) *develop and implement selective bi-directional fish guidance, sorting, and passage techniques and technologies;*
- 2) *determine protocols for implementing selective passage solutions within the Boardman River and throughout the Great Lakes Basin; and*
- 3) *set solutions in a global context so the approach can be exported.*



Boardman (Ottaway) River



FishPass

Existing Conditions

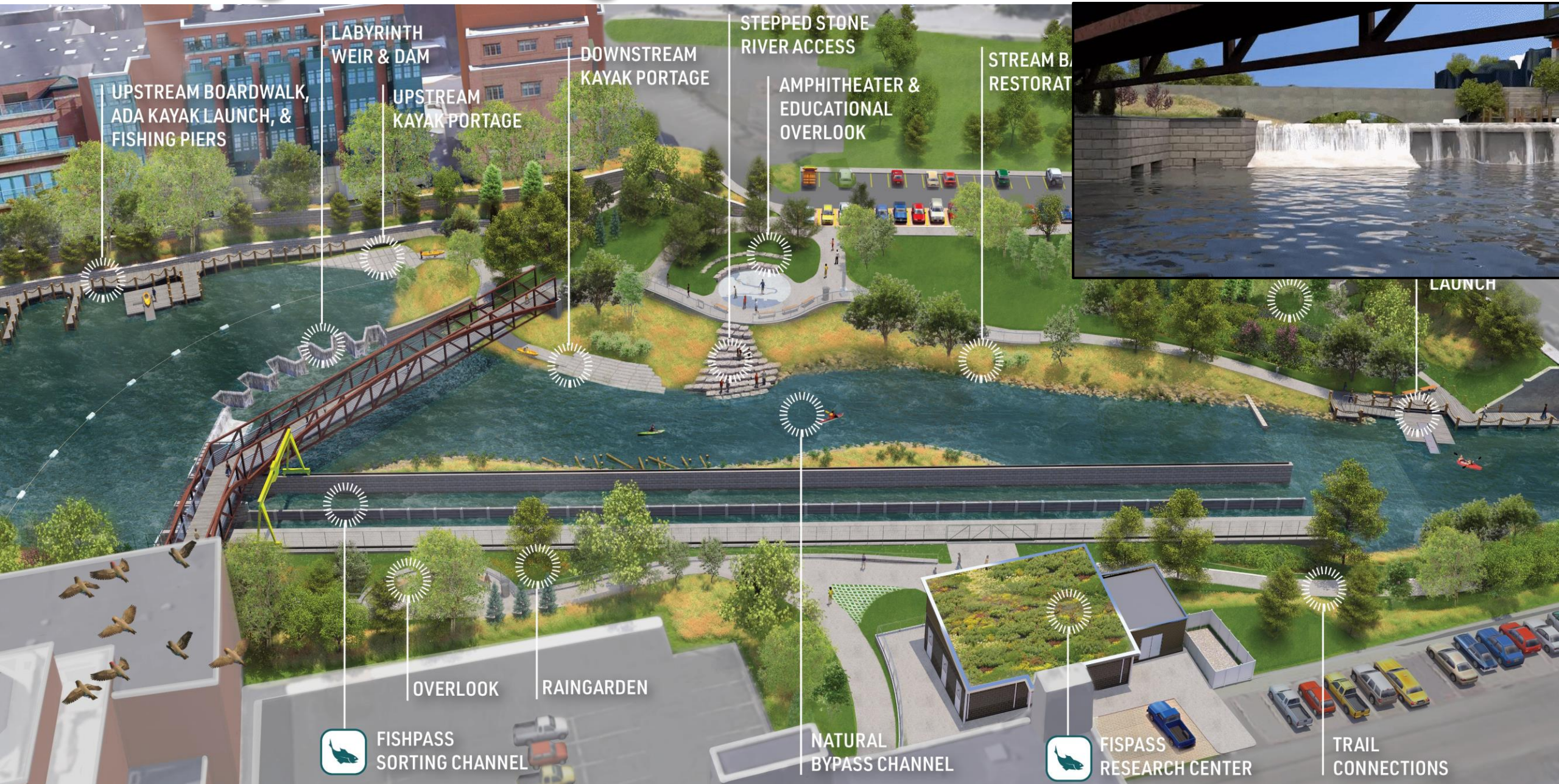


Proposed Conditions



1. **Replace** the Union Street Dam with an improved barrier with selective fish passage capabilities
2. **Optimize** various sorting technologies below a barrier
3. **Develop** into a living laboratory
4. **Convert** to a permanent selective fishway

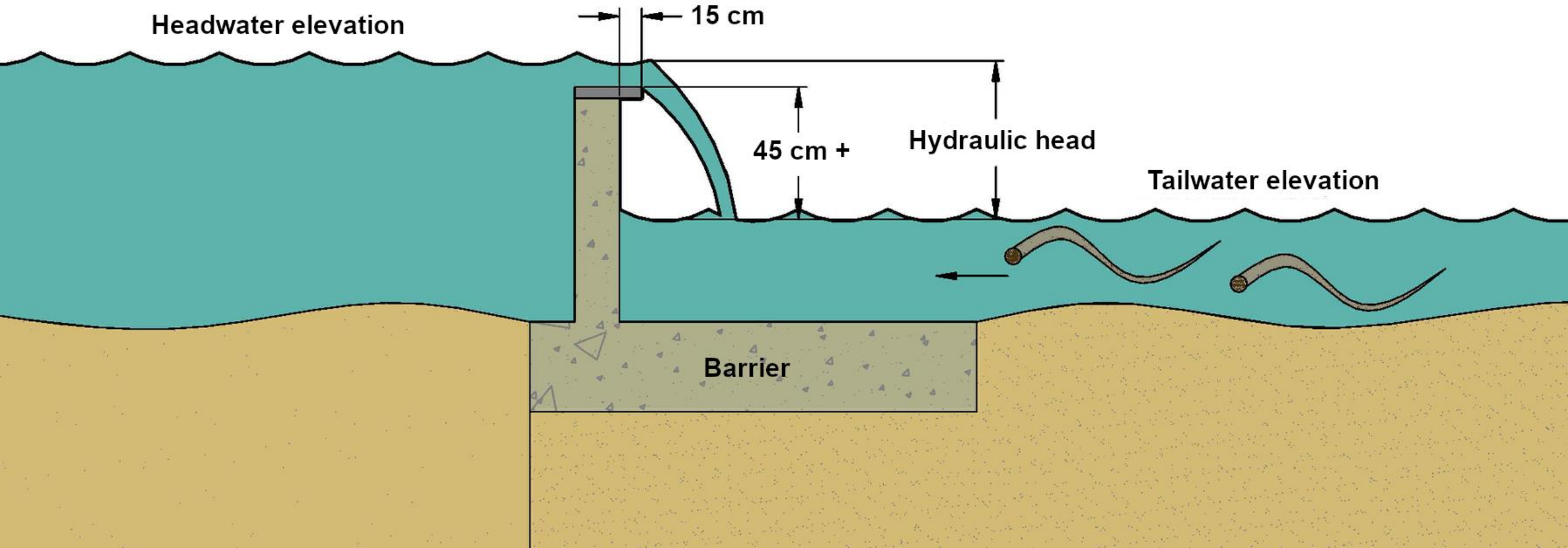
Planning and design



FishPass: An improved barrier

Sea lamprey and salmonid passage analysis was used to:

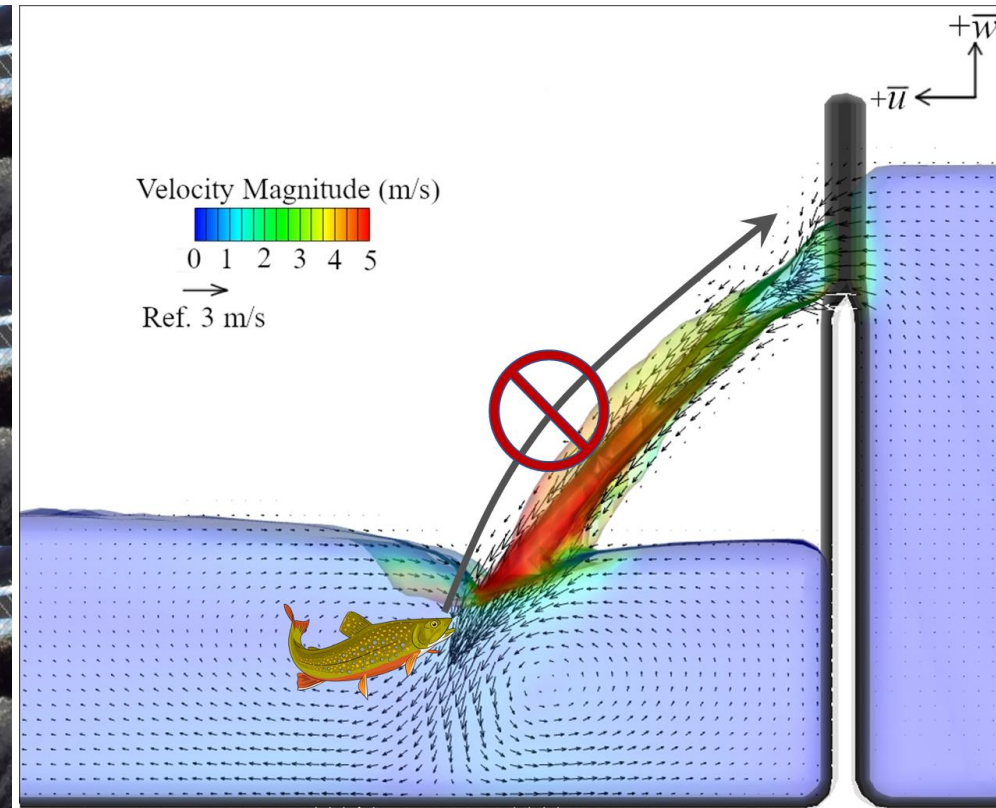
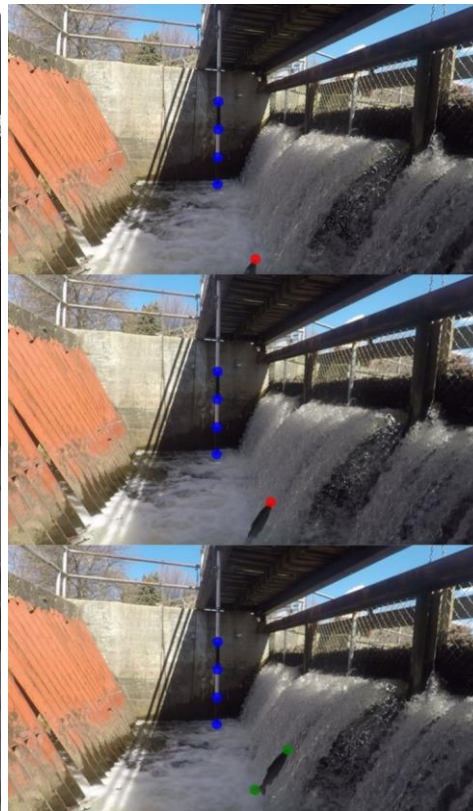
- Define operational constraints for fish-sorting channel gates
- Estimate relative risk of uncontrolled passage based on historic flows
- Establish hydraulic thresholds to trigger additional monitoring



FishPass: An improved barrier

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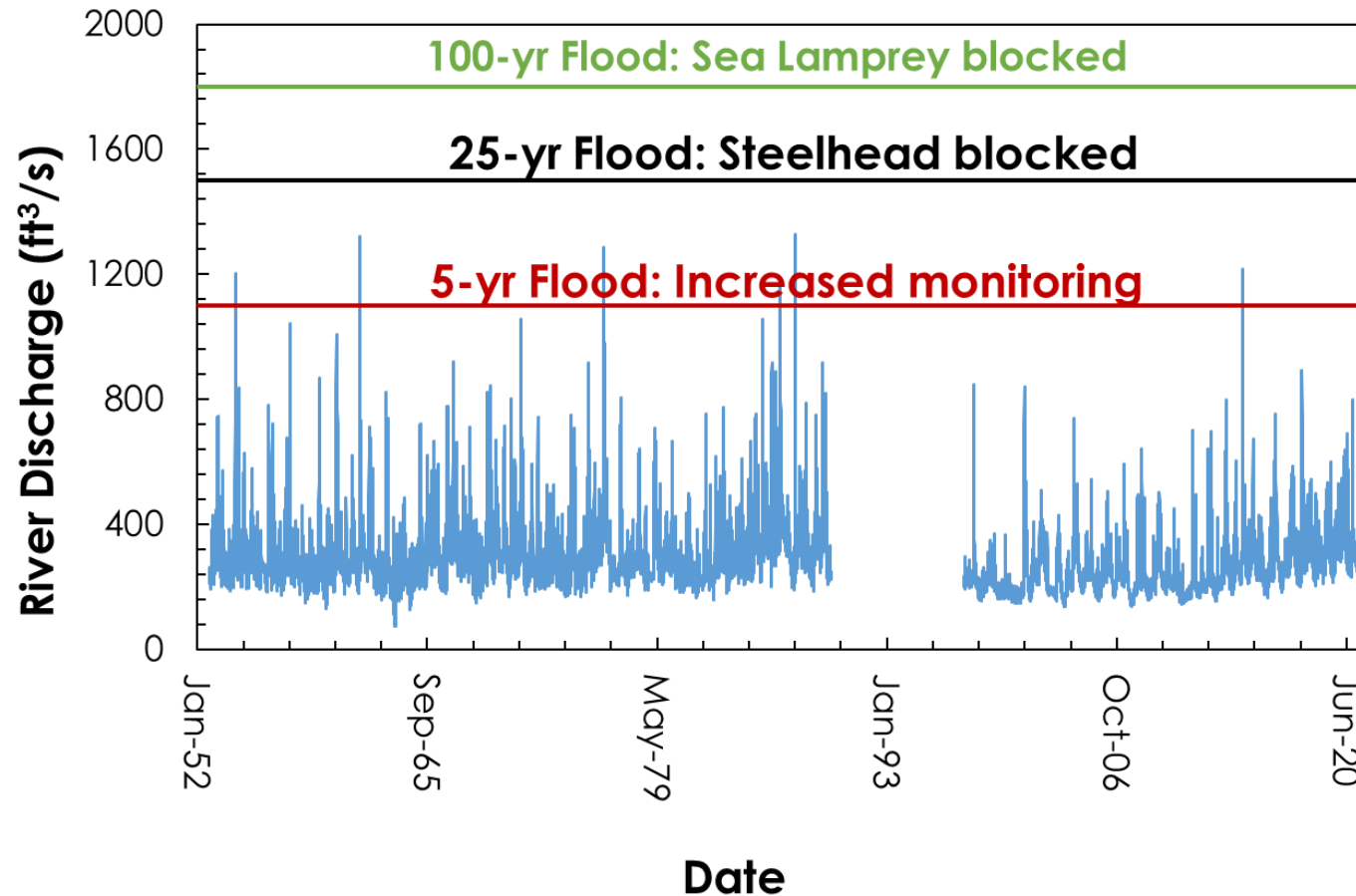
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FishPass: An improved barrier

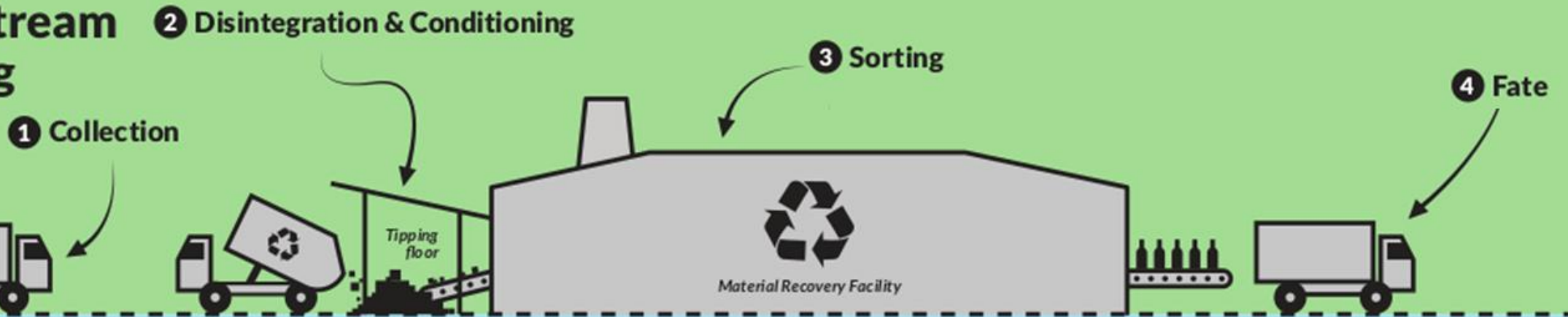
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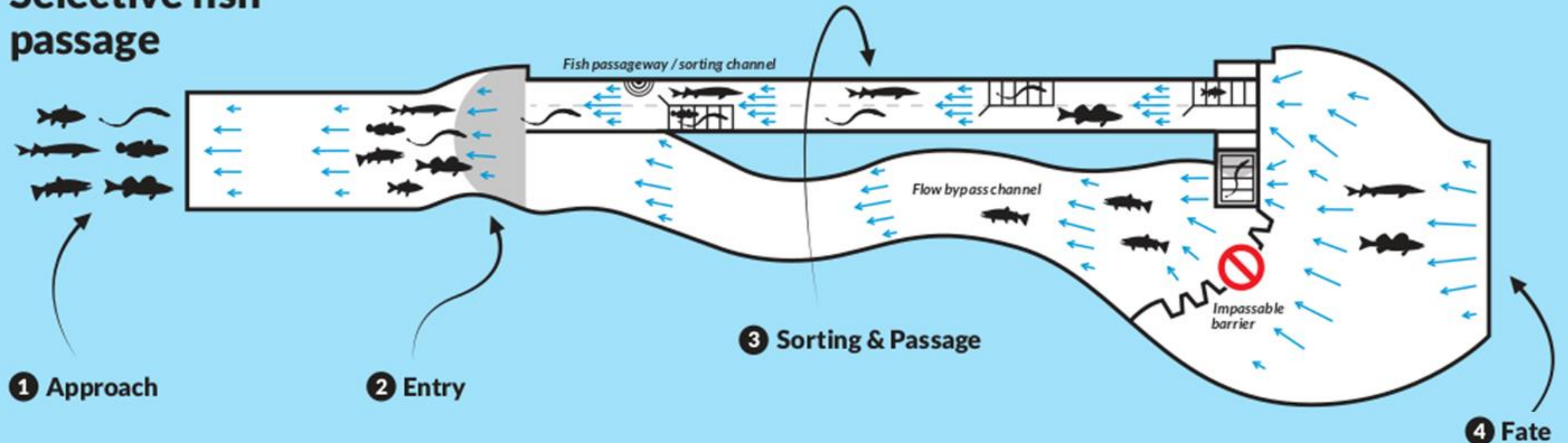


Parallel mechanics of fish passage and recycling

Single-stream recycling

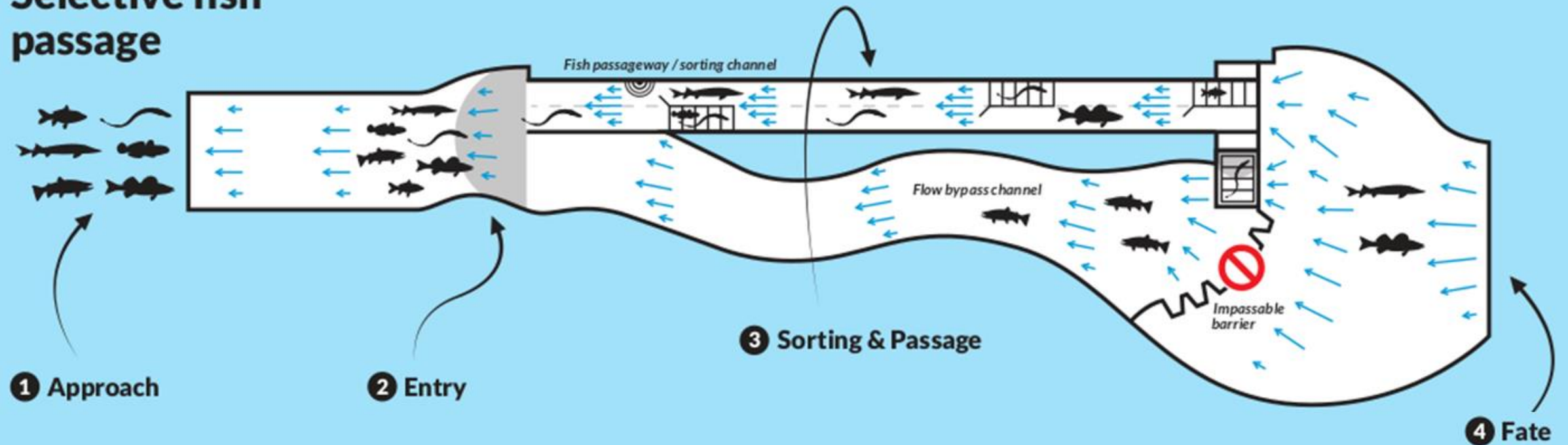


Selective fish passage

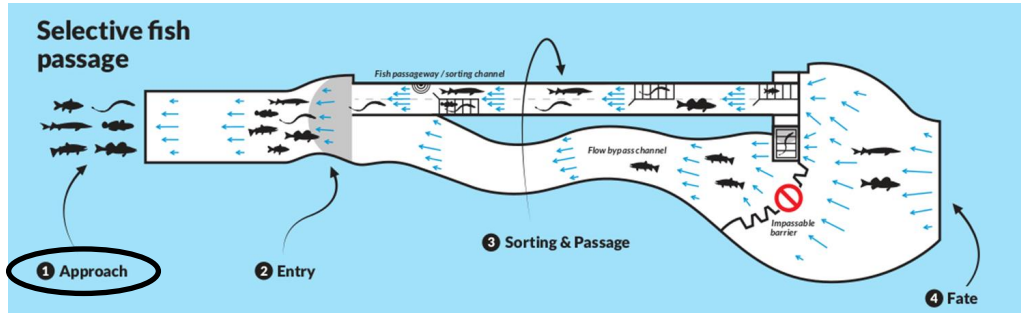


Parallel mechanics of fish passage and recycling

Selective fish passage



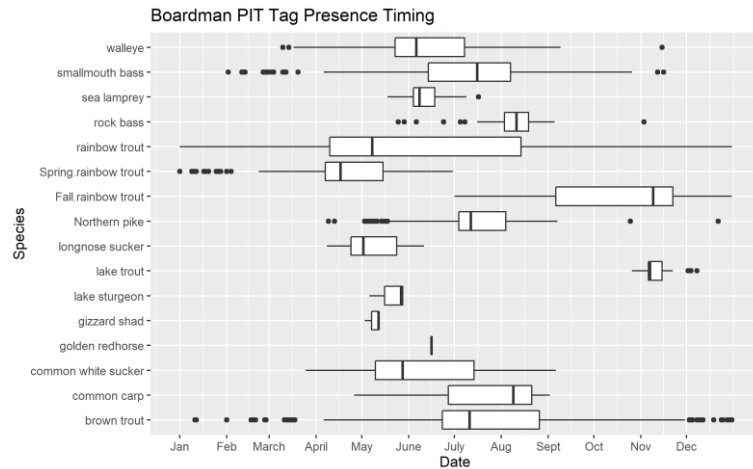
Attribute based selective passage at FishPass



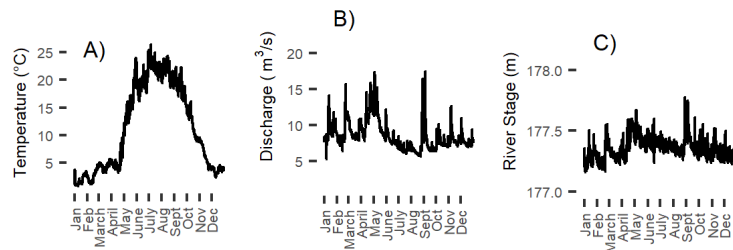
Stage: Approach

Attribute: Phenology, Behavior

Monitoring:



Telemetry:
I.D. migration timing of fish assemblage

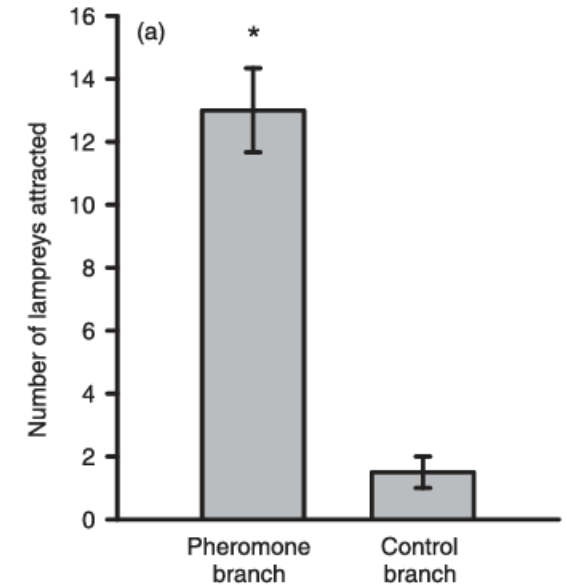
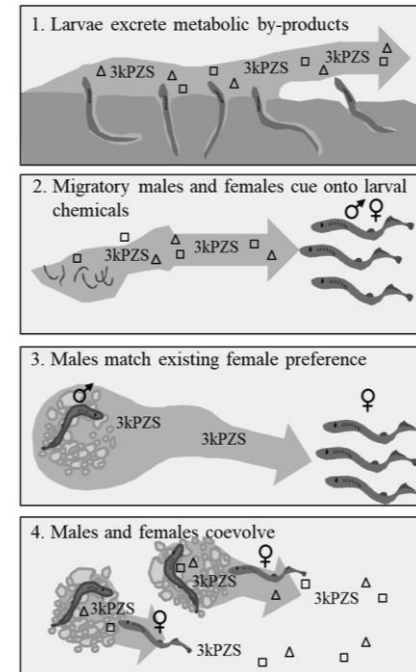


Enviro. sensing:
Quantify cues of movement timing

Sorting:

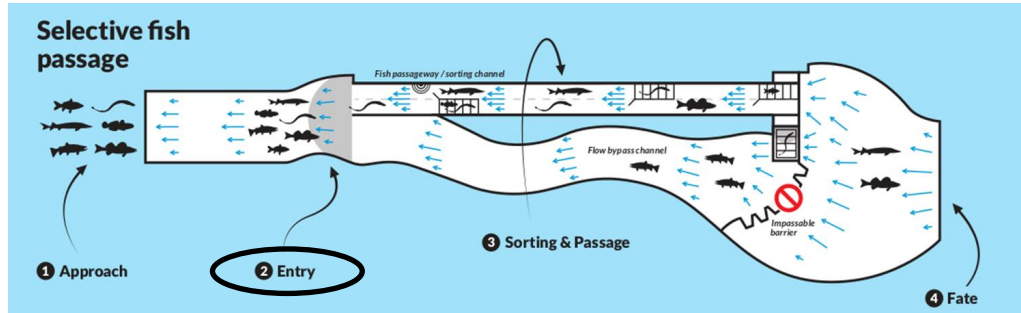
Pheromones:

Chemical cues used to attract sea lamprey



Fisette et al. 2021. J Great Lakes Res 47:S660-S672.
Wagner et al. 2006. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 63(3):475-479.

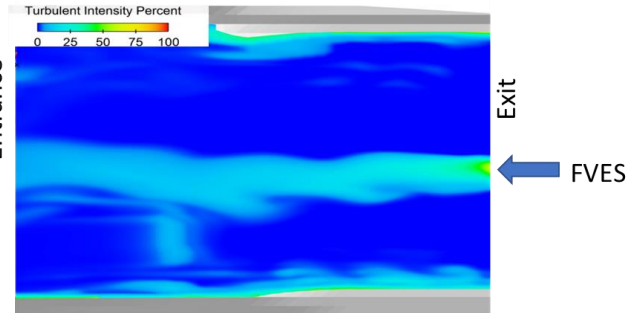
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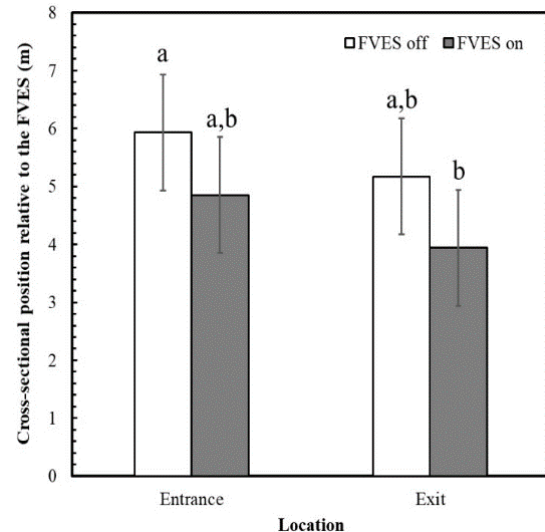
Stage: Entry

Attribute: Phenology, Behavior, Morphology, Physiology

Sorting:

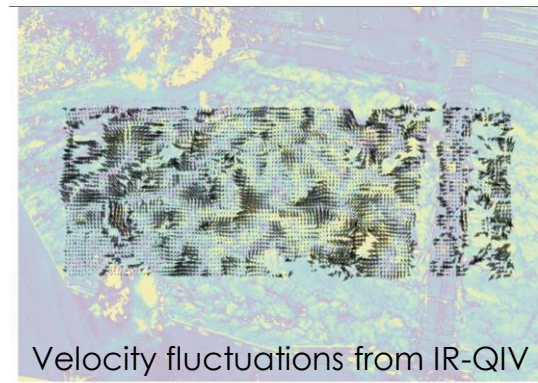
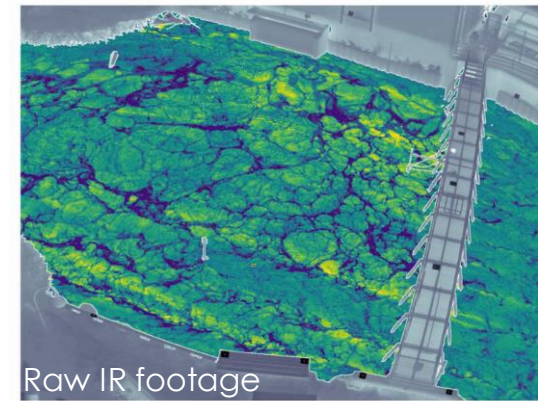


Turbulence:
Flow Velocity Enhancement System (FVES) creates a turbulent plume that attracts fish



Zielinski et al. 2020. *J. Ecohydraulics* 6:82-90.

Monitoring:

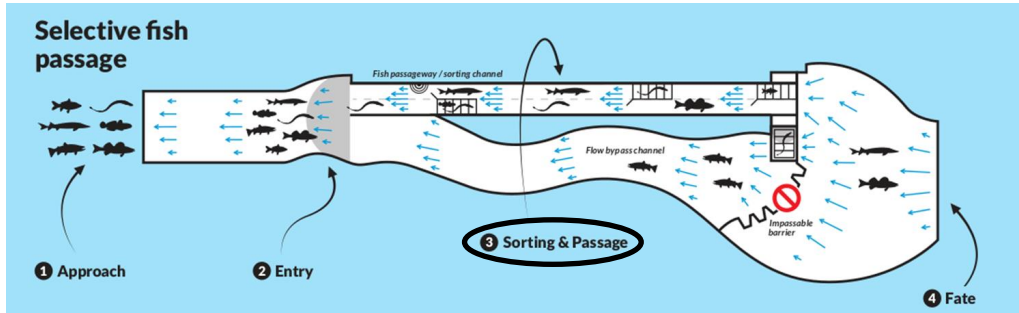


IR-QIV:

- Near-real time sampling of water surface velocities
- Use in conjunction with baffles or other modifications to direct fish movement in real time

S. Schwitzer (Cornell)

Attribute based selective passage at FishPass



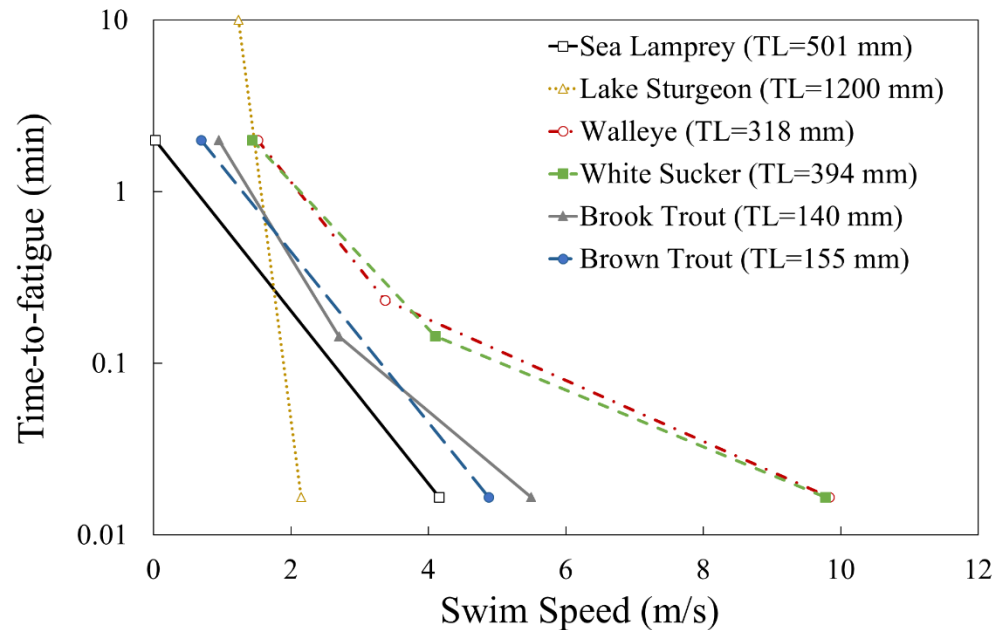
Stage: Sorting & Passage

Attribute: Phenology, Behavior, Morphology, Physiology

Sorting:

Velocity barrier:

Exploit sea lamprey attachment and swimming performance relative to desirable species



Size:

Sea lamprey have unique morphology that can be exploited by screens...



...or image recognition...

Morphological sorting – Image recognition

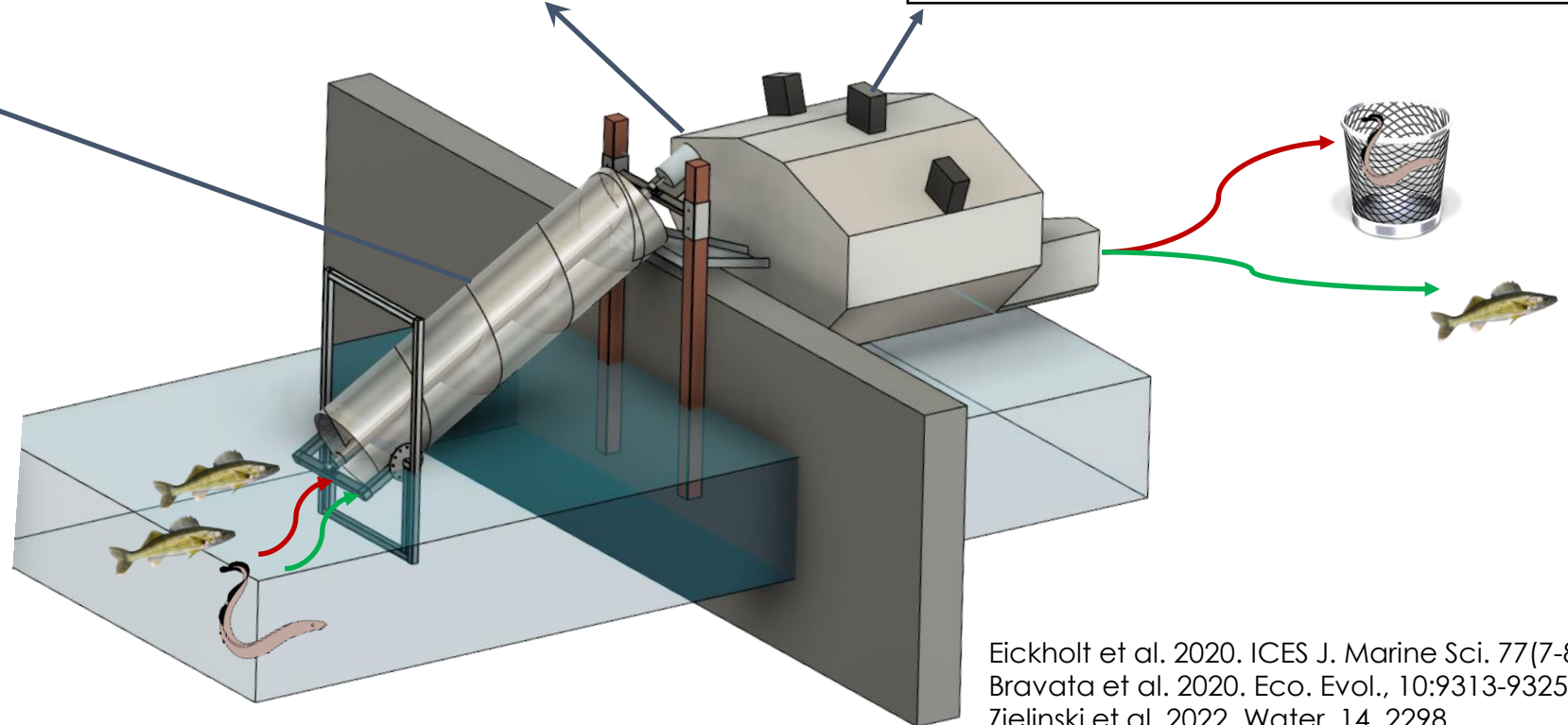
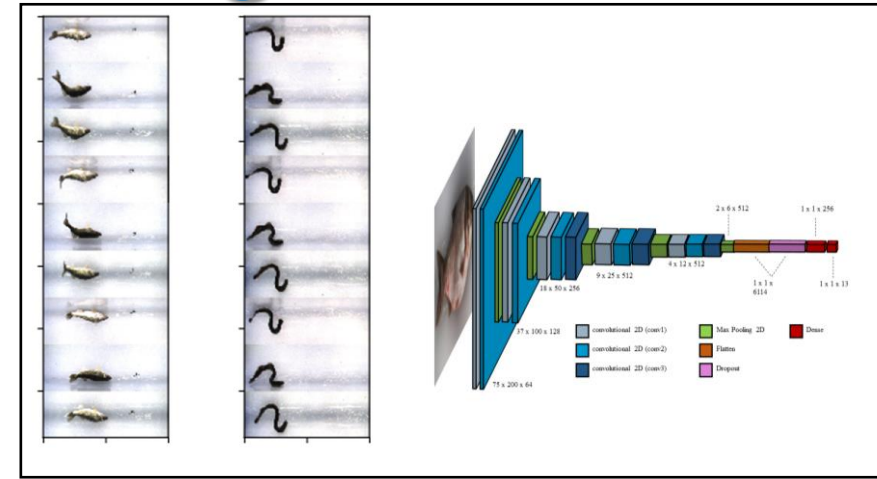


2021: Test of a screw-style fish lift for introducing migratory fish into a selective fish passage device.

2023-2025: Resolving uncertainty in capture and lift efficacy to further develop a novel optical sorting process.



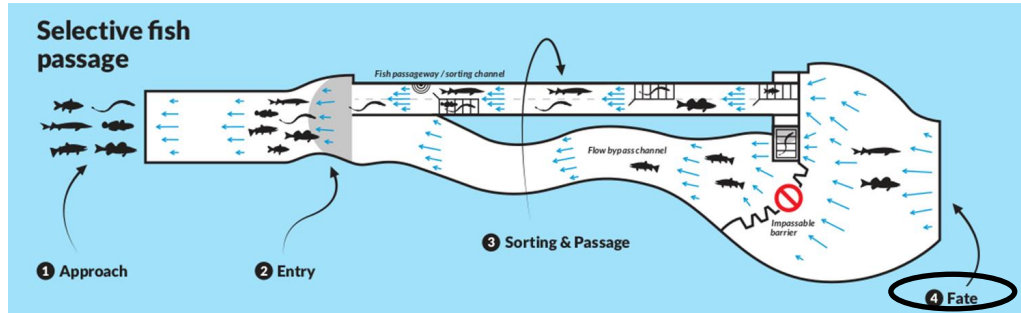
2017-2020: Collection of fish images to be used in development of autonomous fish identification and sorting tool.



Eickholt et al. 2020. ICES J. Marine Sci. 77(7-8):2804-2813
Bravata et al. 2020. Eco. Evol., 10:9313-9325
Zielinski et al. 2022. Water, 14, 2298.

Created by Jon Lemerond

Attribute based selective passage at FishPass



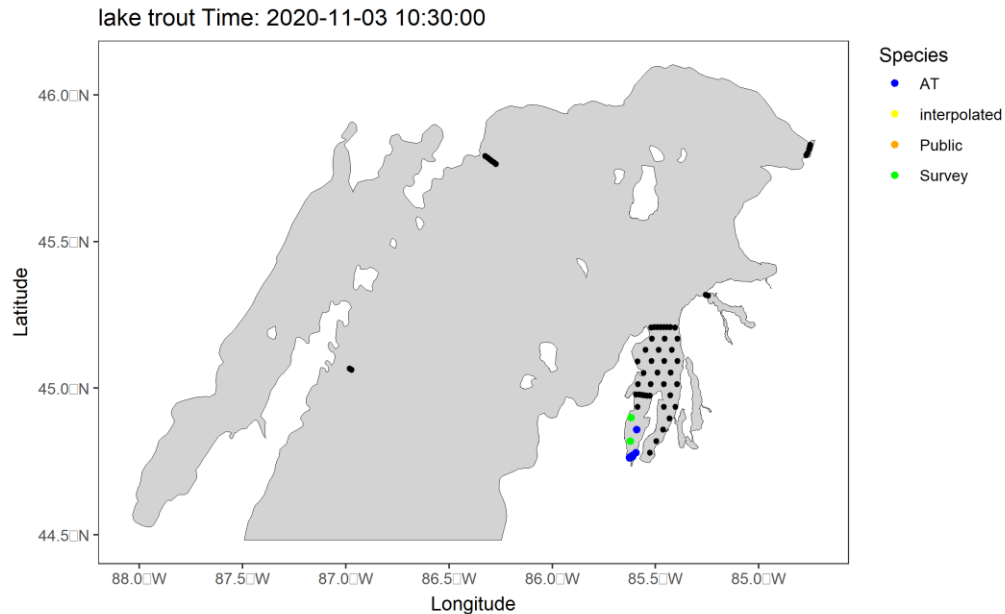
Stage: Fate

Attribute: N/A

Assessment:

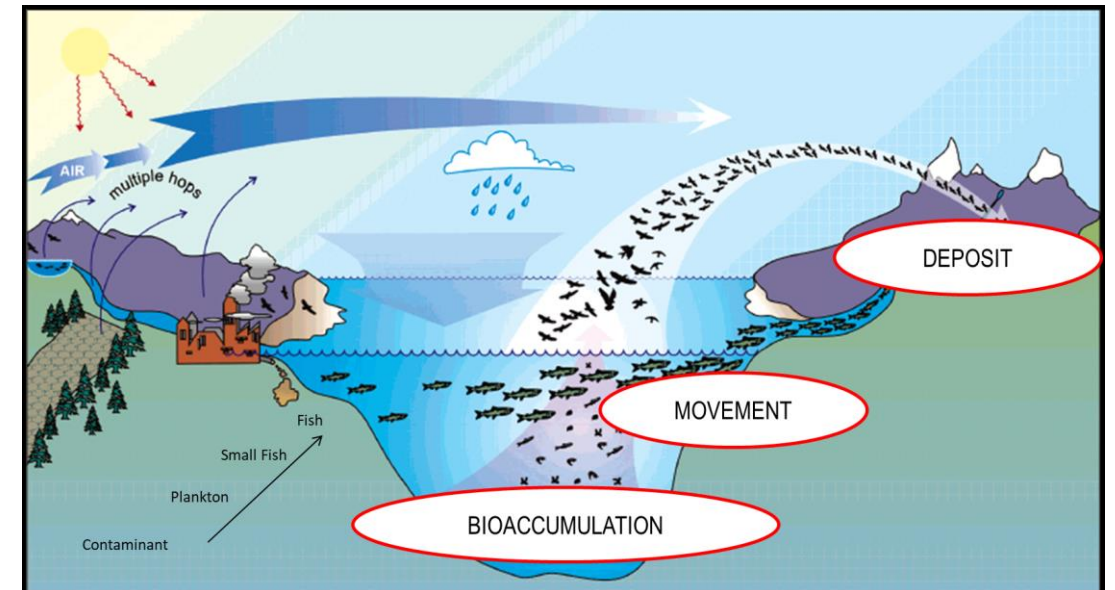
Telemetry:

I.D. where fish are coming from and where do they go in the watershed



Effects of selective connectivity:

Monitor energy, nutrients, contaminants, and gene flow before and after connectivity is restored



Project Timeline



2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025+

Commission and CLC
identify Selective Bi-
Directionality a High
Priority

Workshop #1:
Partnership &
Needs

Assessment
Begins

Workshop #2:
Alternatives
Analysis

Workshop #3:
30% Design
Review

65% Engineering
Design

Final Engineering
Design

Construction

Research
to
Optimize
Passage
Selectivity

Contact us

- Dan Zielinski, Principal Engineer/Scientist (dzielinski@glfc.org)

<http://www.glfc.org/fishpass.php>



Existing Conditions



Proposed Conditions

