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# Merging biology and technology to achieve selective bi-directional fish passage

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#### **Presenter Information**

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## Merging biology and technology to achieve selective bi-directional passage

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Great Lakes Fishery

Commissio

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# GLFC & Sea Lamprey Control

GLFC is a 1955 treaty organization between Canada and the United States (<u>www.glfc.int</u>) charged with <u>sea lamprey control</u> and maintaining <u>healthy sustainable fisheries</u> 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

#### What is FishPass

An innovative project to **enhance fish passage and connectivity** between the Boardman River and Lake Michigan **while removing invasive or non-desirable fishes** through controlled sorting



### What will FishPass Do?

- Replace deteriorating Union Street Dam with an improved barrier
- Optimize various sorting technologies and techniques <u>below a barrier</u> to maximize efficiency of passing desirable fishes and removing invasive fishes
- Develop into a living laboratory with education & outreach
- Convert to permanent selective fishway completing the Boardman River Restoration Project





#### **Union Street Dam**



### 65% Design Layout





#### Flow/-3D Simulations - Water surface velocities at base flow/



5. LES Turbulence Model

### Eco-engineering approach Selective How to sort an passage = assortment of things

- Evolution of single-stream recycling (SSR) centered around automation and attribute-driven sorting
- SSR can inform development and expectations for selective fish
  passage



Aug 2013 Popular Science

### Eco-engineering approach

- Applied to fish passage framework:
  - 1. Approach 3. Internal Passage
  - 2. Entry 4. Fate



# Research Plan

**Phase 1:** What are the sortable attributes of fish at FishPass and how can they be used to promote passage of desirable fish and block and/or remove undesirable fish in the Boardman River?

**Phase 2:** How can technologies and techniques that exploit or overcome sortable attributes be improved or used synergistically to direct, sort, assess, and manage (pass or remove) fish moving in a river?

**Phase 3:** How can selective fish passage improve watershed connectivity and improve fishery management?



- Currently 8 research projects in Phase 1 funded at \$772, 877
- 3 more research proposals in Phase 1 submitted and under review

# Potential technologies

#### LIFE HISTORY

 Seasonal or daily sorting



#### MORPHOLOGY

- Video shape recognition
- Elevators
- Screens
- Ladders
- Water velocity barriers



Fish passage solutions typically rely on a single technology targeting a single species (or group of like species). FishPass will integrate several technologies and techniques to optimally pass all desirable and block undesirable species.

#### BEHAVIOR

- Eel-ladder style traps
- Funnel
- Pheromones
- Alarm cues
- CO<sub>2</sub>
- Sound deterrents
- Hydraulic challenges









Wagner Lab: Bottling Fear



### Assessment Plan

Current monitoring program focused on establishing baseline data prior to construction:

- 1. Long-term monitoring
- 2. Sea lamprey assessment
- 3. Movement studies

- 4. Genetic studies and eDNA sampling
- 5. Contaminant transfer



# **Project Feasibility**

The project has a high likelihood of success built on strong partnerships and support and expert judgement

#### Partnerships and Support



#### Expert Judgement

- Project plans and designs developed through 3 planning workshops
- 50 experts in fish passage, behavior, engineering, hydrology
- Local, national, and international participation







### Contact us

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#### http://www.glfc.org/fishpass.php

