

1 HABITAT USE AND DISTRIBUTION OF LITHOPHILIC SPAWNING AND  
2 RIFFLE FISHES IN THE EAST FORK BLACK RIVER

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13 by  
14 JOHN BRANT  
15 Dr. Craig Paukert, Thesis Supervisor  
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The undersigned, appointed by the dean of the Graduate School, have examined the  
thesis entitled

HABITAT USE AND DISTRIBUTION OF LITHOPHILIC SPAWNING AND  
RIFFLE FISHES IN THE EAST FORK BLACK RIVER

Presented by John Brant,  
a candidate for the degree of master of science,  
and hereby certify that, in their opinion, it is worthy of acceptance.

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207 HHCs sampled within this reach. “-” represents that reaches were not sampled.

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297 substrate between 8 and 23 millimeters in diameter; therefore, we distributed four

298 substrate size groups to identify what substrate grain size is potentially of most

299 importance to the construction of Hornyhead Chub Spawning mounds.

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**Chapter Two: Fish Communities of Riffle-Run Habitat in the  
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330 using the Interquartile Range (IQR): Minimum value =  $Q_{25} - 1.5 \cdot \text{IQR}$ , and  
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335 points relative to area size of 14 riffle run habitat areas identified within the 6.4  
336 km stretch of the East Fork Black River, Missouri.

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346 Mean and 95% credible intervals of the standardized coefficient for each habitat  
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356 and  $D_{\text{equal weighted}}$ ; i.e. indices of diversity). A dashed line denotes a value of 0 for a  
357 parameter.

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367 Mean and 95% credible intervals of the standardized coefficient for each habitat  
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369 ( $D_{\text{equal weighted}}$ ). Generalized linear models (GLMs) using a Bayesian Framework  
370 were run to evaluate the effect of habitat characteristics on the fishes sampled  
371 with prepositioned electrofishing grid diversity in 14 reaches within the East Fork  
372 Black River, Missouri. Each reach was sampled annually using backpack  
373 electrofishing between August-October of 2017 and 2018. Standardized habitat  
374 characteristics values (mean depth (m), surface gradient (%), mean wetted width  
375 (m), mean canopy cover (%), substrate distribution, and distance from Taum Sauk  
376 Dam (m)) were predictor variables (i.e., parameters) in the GLMs for selected Hill  
377 numbers ( $D_{\text{rare weighted}}$  and  $D_{\text{equal weighted}}$ ; i.e. indices of diversity). A dashed line  
378 denotes a value of 0 for a parameter.

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388 Mean and 95% credible intervals of the standardized coefficient for each habitat  
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394 shiner in 14 reaches within the East Fork Black River, Missouri. Each reach was  
395 sampled annually using backpack electrofishing between August-October of 2017  
396 and 2018. Standardized habitat characteristics values (mean depth (m), surface  
397 gradient (%), mean wetted width (m), mean canopy cover (%), substrate  
398 distribution, and distance from Taum Sauk Dam (m)) were predictor variables  
399 (i.e., parameters) in the GLMs for selected Hill numbers ( $D_{\text{rare weighted}}$  and  $D_{\text{equal}}$   
400  $_{\text{weighted}}$ ; i.e. indices of diversity). A dashed line denotes a value of 0 for a  
401 parameter.

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408 **HABITAT USE AND DISTRIBUTION OF LITHOPHILIC SPAWNING**

409 **AND**

410 **RIFFLE FISHES IN THE EAST FORK BLACK RIVER**

411 John D. Brant

412 Dr. Craig Paukert, Thesis Supervisor

413 **ABSTRACT**

414

415 Freshwater streams are dynamic ecosystems that house diversity of taxa adapted  
416 to and dependent on habitat characteristics these flowing systems. Conservation of these  
417 ecosystems, requires an understanding of the abiotic and biotic factors and relationships  
418 that influence the presence, survival, and persistence of stream organisms. Stream fishes  
419 face natural challenges inherent to stream life and anthropogenic threats such as  
420 fragmentation and impoundment of streams. In addition to inhibiting movement of fish,  
421 dams influence habitat characteristics such as substrate distribution and size. Dams alter  
422 downstream substrate characteristics, which in turn influences availability of habitat  
423 characteristics necessary for native lithophilic spawning fishes. The goal of our project  
424 was to determine if substrate size and distribution are limiting habitat characteristics for  
425 lithophilic spawning fishes of the East Fork Black River downstream of Taum Sauk  
426 Reservoir in the Missouri Ozarks. Our questions were: 1) What habitat characteristics do  
427 Hornyhead Chubs, *Nocomis biguttatus*, select for spawning in the East Fork Black River?  
428 and 2) What habitat characteristics are associated with fish communities within riffles  
429 and runs in the East Fork Black River?

430           Spawning mounds were identified in riffle-run habitats, and habitat characteristics  
431 measured at the microhabitat scale included water depth, canopy cover, distance to the  
432 nearest bank, presence of velocity shelters, and stream wetted width. Habitat  
433 characteristics at the mesohabitat scale included water surface area within the defined  
434 riffle-run habitat, distance from dam, mean depth, mean wetted width, mean canopy  
435 cover, water-surface gradient, and substrate size distribution. Discrete-choice models  
436 within a Bayesian framework were utilized at the microhabitat scale, and selected habitat  
437 characteristics for spawning mounds included depths of 0.20 m to 0.35 m, velocities of  
438 0.10 m/s to 0.30 m/s, wetted widths of 7 m to 10 m, and the presence of velocity shelters  
439 for Hornyhead Chub spawning mounds. At the mesohabitat scale, shallower mean depths  
440 and increased amounts of small substrate were the most important habitat characteristics  
441 for the presence of spawning mounds. To answer the second objective, we sampled fish  
442 from riffle-run habitats on the East Fork Black River downstream of Taum Sauk  
443 Reservoir using backpack electrofishing and prepositioned grid electrofishing. Hill  
444 number diversity indices were used with Generalized Linear Models (GLMs) to predict  
445 the relationship between habitat characteristics (area, distance from dam, mean depth,  
446 mean wetted width, mean canopy cover, water surface gradient, and substrate size  
447 distribution) and fish diversity. Two Hills number indices were used for three groups of  
448 fishes including the overall fish community, fishes sampled with prepositioned  
449 electrofishing grids, and Hornyhead Chubs spawning associates. Increased reach area and  
450 smaller substrate size were the most important habitat characteristics for increased  
451 diversity in the overall fish community and Hornyhead Chub spawning associates. For  
452 fishes sampled with prepositioned electrofishing grids, lesser mean depths lead to

453 increased diversity. Substrate size distribution was an important habitat characteristic for  
454 both objectives, based on our research, and we believe that riffle-run habitats in the East  
455 Fork Black River have diminished substrate sizes in the range 8 mm to 32 mm. The lack  
456 of this small substrate may be influencing the fish communities within riffle-run habitat  
457 downstream of Taum Sauk reservoir.

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## GENERAL INTRODUCTION

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469       Freshwater streams are dynamic ecosystems that are often influenced by  
470 anthropogenic activities in attempt to control flow for various purposes (Pohl 2002), and  
471 these actions frequently lead to degraded lotic habitat causing a threat to freshwater  
472 organisms (Ward and Stanford 1983; Bunn and Arthington 2002; Dudgeon et al. 2006;  
473 Jelks et al. 2008). Anthropogenic threats to freshwater streams include but are not  
474 limited to increased nutrients, increased fine substrate, chemical pollution, dewatering,  
475 and fragmentation through the construction of dams and dewatering (Malmqvist and  
476 Rundle 2002; Van Looy et al. 2014). In mid-size streams, fragmentation can be  
477 influential not only for disconnecting populations and habitats (Perkin and Gido 2011),  
478 but also influencing hydrology and downstream habitat (Ward and Stanford 1983;  
479 Kondolf 1997).

480       Dams are frequently constructed on freshwater streams for flood control, water  
481 consumption, recreation, hydropower, and navigation (Pohl 2002), and in the last few  
482 decades, dams have been removed to increase stream connectivity, especially for  
483 diadromous species dependent on long-distance migration (Liermann et al. 2012). Dams  
484 affect aquatic habitat by altering temperature and flow temperature and flow regimes  
485 (Ward and Stanford 1983; Nilsson et al. 2005), and this can affect fish spawning triggers  
486 (Schlosser and Angermeier 1995; Bunn and Arthington 2002) and aquatic communities  
487 (Ligon et al. 1995). Physical habitat is also affected by dams by changing substrate  
488 characteristics (Kondolf 1997), diminishing woody debris (Foster et al. 2003), and  
489 altering stream channel shapes (Kondolf 1997). Streams are dynamic, constantly  
490 changing, ecosystems, but when a dam is constructed, homogenous habitat is frequently

491 created directly downstream of the dam. Streams may not return to their natural state  
492 until further downstream depending on characteristics of the habitat and landscape  
493 (Kondolf 1997; Cooper et al. 2016).

494 Substrate-altered streams occur when bed movement continues downstream of  
495 dams, but substrate is not replaced in a continuous cycle because of interruption of  
496 bedload supply. Substrate-altered streams present multiple threats to aquatic organisms  
497 including increased bank erosion, decreased riparian shading, and homogenization of  
498 substrate (Kondolf 1997; Bunn and Arthington 2002). Substrate heterogeneity may be  
499 associated with provision of critical spawning habitat, and interstitial spaces for benthic  
500 and lithophilic fishes in fast-flowing water. Substrate-altered streams have been studied  
501 to understand their influence on Salmonid fishes of the western United States (Kondolf  
502 1997), but few studies have been done to understand the influence of substrate alteration  
503 on small-bodied fishes native to the Mississippi River drainage.

504 The East Fork Black River (EFBR) is located in southeast Missouri (Figure 1-1),  
505 and like many Ozark streams, has a high fish diversity of more than 60 species. Starting  
506 in the St. Francis Mountains, the EFBR has very few springs and is highly dependent on  
507 surface runoff; it has a high gradient with an average of 3.2% (Cieslewicz 2004). Once  
508 leaving the St. Francis Mountains and flowing onto the Ozark Plateau, the EFBR joins  
509 the main stem of the Black River, a 7<sup>th</sup> order stream, and continues into the lowland  
510 faunal region of Missouri.

511 The East Fork Black River downstream from Taum Sauk Reservoir was selected  
512 for this study because previous habitat studies by the Missouri Department of  
513 Conservation (MDC) have shown that it is a substrate-altered system. Understanding the

514 importance of substrate size distribution may help with future gravel augmentation  
515 practices. Taum Sauk Reservoir stores water for a pump-storage facility used to generate  
516 electricity (Figure 1-2). Because the pump-storage operation is independent of outflows  
517 from the reservoir, the outflow of the reservoir closely matches the inflow from the two  
518 streams that feed the reservoir. This prevents some potential complications frequently  
519 created by hydropower releases create high variation in stream discharge (Ellis and Jones  
520 2013). In addition, Taum Sauk Reservoir utilizes a meso-limnetic release, leading to  
521 minimal influence on the Lower East Fork Black River (LEFBR) water temperature and  
522 dissolved oxygen.

523         The goal of our research was to determine the influence of a substrate-altered  
524 stream on small-bodied lithophilic spawning fishes. The first portion of our research  
525 focused on Hornyhead Chub, *Nocomis biguttatus*, spawning habitat characteristics.  
526 Hornyhead Chubs were chosen because it was of concern that the presence of their  
527 spawning mounds was decreasing. Hornyhead Chubs are known to have spawning habitat  
528 preferences related to depth and velocity (Vives 1990; Wisenden et al. 2009), and their  
529 constructed spawning mounds are easily located making it feasible to measure habitat  
530 characteristics at spawning locations. In addition, five other species of fish previously  
531 sampled on the EFBR are known to be spawning associates with the Hornyhead Chub. In  
532 some studied streams, *Nocomis* fish spawning mounds create required spawning habitat  
533 for multiple species that is not readily available (Vives 1990; Peoples and Frimpong  
534 2013; Peoples et al. 2014). The second portion of our research focused on fish  
535 communities in the riffle-run habitats of the LEFBR and the habitat characteristics that



536 drive species richness and diversity of this system. In order to answer questions in these  
537 areas of focus, we defined two objectives

538 Objectives

539 1) Determine habitat characteristics that Hornyhead Chubs select for spawning in  
540 the East Fork Black River

541 2) Determine habitat characteristics that influence fish communities within riffle  
542 and run habitat of the East Fork Black River

543 With the results from our study, we hope to provide recommendations of substrate  
544 size and locations for future gravel augmentations on the East Fork Black River  
545 downstream of Taum Sauk Reservoir.

546

547 Site Selection

548 The Black River is a seventh order stream that begins in the Ozark Highlands of  
549 Southeastern Missouri and flows into the Mississippi Lowlands before continuing into  
550 Arkansas and joining the White River. The Lower Taum Sauk Reservoir (80 hectares)  
551 was completed in 1963 on the East Fork Black River, and is immediately upstream of our  
552 study sites (Figures 1-1 and 1-2). Clearwater Reservoir (670 hectares) was completed in  
553 1951 on the main stem of the Black River 24.8 km downstream of the East Fork Black  
554 River and Black River confluence.

555 Our study sites are within East Fork Black River, a fifth order stream located near  
556 Lesterville, Missouri on Highway 72 (Figure 1-1). Starting within the St. Francis

557 Mountains of the Ozark Highlands, the East Fork Black River has a mean discharge (for  
558 2008 through 2016) below Taum Sauk Reservoir (USGS stream gauge 07061290) of 3.73  
559 cubic meters per second, and an average gradient of 6.6 m/km with a maximum of 37.9  
560 m/km. The watershed of the East Fork Black River covers 246 square kilometers, and  
561 the land use is primarily forest and woodlands with small amounts of grasslands in the  
562 river bottoms and glade complexes throughout the drainage in the St. Francis Mountains  
563 (Cieslewicz 2004). In an assessment of stream habitat conducted by MDC in 1988  
564 (Cieslewicz 2004), the riparian corridor of the East Fork of the Black River was rated  
565 50% fair, 38% good, and 12% poor.

566 All of the study sites are within 6.3 km downstream of Taum Sauk Reservoir  
567 (Figure 1-2) operated by Ameren Missouri, an electric company based out of St. Louis,  
568 Missouri. Downstream of the dam, valley bottom land use is made up of row crops,  
569 pasture, forest, and few cabins. The outflow from Lower Taum Sauk Reservoir is  
570 approximately equal to the inflow of the East Fork of the Black River, but release from  
571 the reservoir is not able to achieve the rate of variation in flow events or change in water  
572 temperature in the East Fork upstream from the reservoir (Cieslewicz 2004). At the  
573 upstream end of the reservoir, there is a small dam that creates a gravel trap (Figure 1-2)  
574 to prevent coarse sediment from entering the reservoir and reducing the storage capacity.  
575 The trap has an approximate capacity of 23,000 cubic meters and is emptied every eight  
576 to ten years (Cieslewicz 2004). The discontinuity in bedload transport has led to a  
577 decrease in availability of small bed material to aquatic organisms downstream of the  
578 reservoir (Lobb 2016).

579           The fish community of the East Fork Black River is similar to other south flowing  
580 drainages in the Ozark Mountains. Many fishes in this stream require silt free gravel, low  
581 turbidity, and higher velocity habitat. Due to these habitat requirements, many species  
582 are believed to be sight feeders (Pflieger 1997). In the intensive sampling by MDC for  
583 two years following the flood event in 2005, 57 species were sampled in the East Fork  
584 Black River downstream of Taum Sauk Reservoir (Combes and Dunnaway 2009).  
585 Bleeding Shiners *Luxilus zonatus* and Rainbow Darters *Etheostoma caeruleum* were the  
586 most abundant species (Cieslewicz 2004), with other abundant species including Striped  
587 Shiners *Luxilus chrysocephalus*, Ozark Minnows *Notropis nubilus*, Largescale  
588 Stonerollers *Campostoma oligolepis*, and Longear Sunfish *Lepomis megalotis*.

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## CHAPTER ONE

666

### **Hornyhead Chub Spawning Habitat in the East Fork Black River, Missouri**

667

668

John D. Brant and Craig P. Paukert

669

#### **Abstract**

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Dams frequently influence stream habitat and affect aquatic biota. Habitat factors are strongly influenced by the presence of dams, which alter the flow, sediment, temperature, and wood regimes, thereby changing substrate and habitat structure. The presence of dams commonly leads to homogenization of habitat and therefore diminished species diversity. Substrate size and distribution are influenced because dams typically trap bedload. Lithophilic-spawning fishes are sensitive to changes in flow and physical habitat including substrate size and quantity for reproduction success. The Hornyhead Chub *Nocomis biguttatus* is a widely distributed lithophilic-spawning minnow that occurs at low densities in suitable streams and that constructs large spawning mounds in locations that provide habitat for multiple other lithophilic-spawning fishes in locations that meet specific habitat requirements. Our objectives were to determine spawning-habitat characteristics, particularly substrate distribution, for Hornyhead Chub spawning mounds at the microhabitat and mesohabitat spatial scales. Microhabitat has been described for Hornyhead Chub spawning habitat, but little is known why mounds are frequently found in congregations and not in other mesohabitat locations. At the microhabitat scale Hornyhead Chubs constructed their spawning mounds at depths from 0.25 m to 0.45 m, water velocities of 0.10 m/s to 0.35 m/s, and behind the presence of velocity shelters. These conditions were selected in all systems observed. In the Lower East Fork Black

689 River, spawning mounds were constructed at stream wetted widths of 7 m to 11 m, but in  
690 other streams, the distanced to the nearest bank was selected for rather than the stream  
691 wetted width. At the mesohabitat scale, it was found that shallower mean depths than our  
692 mean value (0.24 m), and smaller substrate sizes were related to the presence of spawning  
693 mounds. Based on our findings, we recommend that future gravel augmentations  
694 primarily include substrate of sizes 8 mm to 32 mm in addition to a heterogenous  
695 mixture. We recommend that gravel augmentations take place within 1.26 km  
696 downstream of the dam.

697

## 698 **Introduction**

699 Dams are one of the most prominent disturbances to stream ecosystems. Dams are  
700 typically constructed for flood control, hydroelectric power, water storage, navigation,  
701 and recreation (Pohl 2002). They alter aquatic ecosystems by creating discontinuities,  
702 which in turn can decrease faunal diversity, and affect ecosystem processes, stream-bed  
703 movement, and ecological functions (Ward and Stanford 1983; Kondolf 1997; Poff et al.  
704 1997; Bunn and Arthington 2002; Paukert and Galat 2010). Dams alter hydrology and  
705 water quality downstream (Ward and Stanford 1983; Ellis and Jones 2014), which may  
706 affect fish spawning and fish community composition. Dams often create reservoirs that  
707 act as buffers for extreme flow events, alter stream temperature, decrease dissolved  
708 oxygen downstream of the dam, and affect nutrient dynamics depending on seasonal  
709 changes and characteristics of the impoundment (Ellis and Jones 2014; McManamay et  
710 al. 2015). However, these disturbances vary in time and space, and among dams (Ward  
711 and Stanford 1983; Kondolf 1997). As distance downstream from the dam increases, the  
712 effects on the stream typically decrease creating a longitudinal gradient (Ward and

713 Stanford 1983; Bunn and Arthington 2002; Ellis and Jones 2014).The effects are often  
714 mediated by stream size and the amount of hydrologic alteration caused by the dam  
715 (Ward and Stanford 1983; Kondolf 1997; Bunn and Arthingtonm 2002; Paukert and  
716 Galat 2010).

717 All dams trap substrate to some degree and interrupt continuity of sediment  
718 transport (Kondolf 1997). Streams below reservoirs are often referred to as “hungry  
719 water” because the sediment load is reduced, and excess energy moves substrate from the  
720 stream bed below the reservoir until equilibrium is met where the bed can no longer be  
721 moved or the banks eroded (Kondolf 1997). The stream below the impoundment has  
722 diminished supply of smaller substrate, and the remaining habitat becomes more  
723 homogeneous (Kondolf 1997). Reduction in the abundance of substrate may also lead to  
724 channel-morphology and habitat changes (Kondolf 1997). Therefore, fishes with specific  
725 substrate requirements may be affected by dams and segmented streams (Ellis and Jones  
726 2014; McManamay et al. 2015).

727 Over timeframes of years to decades, slope can be considered an independent  
728 control on sediment transport capacity. A direct relationship exists between stream slope  
729 and substrate particle size (Richards 1982: 170, 229). When bedload flux or sediment  
730 size is altered, it can lead to alterations in fish spawning habitat (Kondolf 2000; Peoples  
731 2014). Salmonids have been heavily studied in substrate-altered western streams to  
732 understand the influence of impoundments on spawning habitat (Kondolf 2000; Merz and  
733 Setka 2004; Zimmerman and Lapointe 2005; Zeug et al. 2014). However, spawning  
734 habitat requirements of common small bodied fishes are often overlooked, but likely play  
735 an important role for community diversity (Peoples 2014).



736 Fish community diversity is strongly driven by habitat complexity because many  
737 species fill niches within specific habitat types (Gorman and Karr 1978). Aquatic  
738 organisms depend on variation in habitat including substrate spatial distribution, ranges  
739 of velocities and depths, temperature regime, size of habitat areas, and cover that may  
740 enable protection, foraging, and spawning (Gorman and Karr 1978; Johnston and Page  
741 1992; Peterson and Rabeni 2001; Merz and Ochikubo Chan 2005; Zeug et al 2014). In  
742 particular, substrate is a critical component for lotic fishes, which depend on substrate for  
743 spawning and foraging. If these substrate requirements are not met, populations may  
744 decrease or become extirpated (Berkman and Rabeni 1987).

745 Stream habitat can be evaluated at multiple spatial scales (Fausch et al. 2002).  
746 Analyzing stream habitat at multiple spatial scales can reveal patterns in habitat traits and  
747 fish distributions. Patterns can be connected to variables that are continuous throughout  
748 the stream such as temperature or distance downstream (Vadas and Orth 2000; Fausch et  
749 al. 2002). Relying on only one spatial scale to assess fish habitat selection may lead to  
750 biased results because characteristics may be overlooked or habitat scale may be  
751 misjudged compared to the actual size of habitat used (Heggenes et al. 1999). Studying  
752 suitable spawning habitat for fish at two spatial scales is essential in understanding the  
753 differences in required mesohabitat and microhabitat characteristics (Hamann et al. 2014)  
754 because fish may have further habitat requirements beyond the immediate (microhabitat)  
755 surroundings.

756 Dams and habitat alterations associated with stream fragmentation affect  
757 lithophilic-spawning fishes, species that require particular sizes of substrate to be  
758 available for successful spawning (Johnston and Page 1992), but habitat characteristics

759 that are drivers for the presence or absence and spawning success of these species are not  
760 fully understood. Lithophilic-spawning fishes are often sensitive to changes in substrate  
761 size, embeddedness, and composition because their spawning habitats require movable  
762 and silt-free substrate (Smith and Kraft 2005; Wisenden et al. 2009, Manny et al. 2015;  
763 Whitney et al. 2020). In particular, the Hornyhead Chub *Nocomis biguttatus* (hereafter  
764 “HHC”) is a large minnow (commonly 13 to 18 cm in total length) that reaches sexual  
765 maturity at ages of 2-3 and rarely live longer than four years (Pflieger 1997. These fish  
766 are considered mound builders because in preparation for spawning, males construct a  
767 gravel mound by moving gravel with their mouth (Lachner 1952) and excavate a shallow  
768 pit, followed by constructing several layers of gravel on which fishes spawn. To complete  
769 the mound, the *Nocomis* male will place a final layer of gravel on the outside to protect  
770 the mound from erosion and predation (Lachner 1952). Spawning mounds for *Nocomis*  
771 species provide spawning habitat for over 30 species of North American minnows; thus,  
772 *Nocomis* have been considered a keystone species (Lachner 1952).

773         Research has described microhabitat characteristics immediately surrounding  
774 Hornyhead Chub spawning mounds (Vives 1990; Wisenden 2009), but habitat  
775 characteristics at a larger stream scale (habitat not adjacent to spawning mounds) have  
776 not been studied to understand why spawning mounds are densely present in some areas  
777 but not others. Hornyhead Chubs are thought to depend on having the right size of  
778 distribution of gravel available to construct spawning mounds (Wisenden et al 2009) for  
779 protection and aeration of eggs (Maurakis et al. 1991); velocity and depth are thought to  
780 relative to spawning habitat (Vives 1990; Wisenden 2009). Therefore, understanding the  
781 mesohabitat and microhabitat requirements for these fishes and how stream alterations

782 may affect substrate (and thus spawning) is needed to help resource management  
783 agencies guide efforts to restore or enhance habitats for lithophilic spawning stream  
784 fishes. At the mesohabitat scale, our hypothesis is mesohabitats with Hornyhead Chub  
785 spawning mounds will have a surface gradient leading to average spring season velocities  
786 between  $0.1 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  and  $0.5 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  (Vives 1990; Wisenden et al., 2009; Peoples et al., 2014),  
787 an average depth between 0.2 m and 0.6 m (Vives 1990; Wisenden et al., 2009; Peoples  
788 et al., 2014), a presence of structures including macrophytes and boulders, substrate  
789 distribution including sizes of 22.6 mm and smaller, and no direct response to distance  
790 from the dam. In addition, we hypothesize that spawning mounds will be located in  
791 microhabitats at a depth between 0.2 m and 0.5 m, a mean velocity between  $0.1 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  and  
792  $0.4 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , and within two meters of a velocity shelter (e.g. woody debris, boulders) (Vives  
793 1990; Wisenden et al. 2009).

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## 796 **Methods**

### 797 Study Site

798         The East Fork Black River (EFBR) is a fifth order stream that flows for 32 km out  
799 of the St. Francis Mountains within the Southeastern Missouri Ozark Highlands (Figure  
800 1-1), which typically have pristine streams with low turbidity, small amounts of silt, high  
801 gradients, and high biodiversity. The EFBR watershed covers  $246 \text{ km}^2$  with a primary  
802 land use of forest and woodlands and, a small amount of grasslands in river bottoms and  
803 glade complexes throughout the drainage in the St. Francis Mountains (Cieslewicz 2004).  
804 The EFBR joins the Black River, an Ozark stream of seventh order, and continues to flow

805 through the Ozark Highlands and the Mississippi Lowlands before entering Arkansas and  
806 joining the White River.

807 Two reservoirs are present in the Missouri portion of the Black River drainage  
808 including Lower Taum Sauk Reservoir on the EFBR and Clearwater Reservoir on the  
809 Black River 25 km downstream of the EFBR and Black River confluence. Lower Taum  
810 Sauk Reservoir, which is immediately upstream of our study sites, has been operated as a  
811 pump-storage hydroelectric facility since 1963 by Ameren Missouri Electric Company.  
812 Water is stored in an upper reservoir, 230 m higher in elevation, which allows water to  
813 flow through turbines during times of energy high demand. Because the pump-storage  
814 operation is largely independent from the inflows, outflow from Lower Taum Sauk  
815 Reservoir is approximately equal to in the inflow of the East Fork Black River and Taum  
816 Sauk Creek on a daily basis. The exception is that release from the reservoir is not able to  
817 achieve the rate of variation in flow or water temperature of inflowing water (Cieslewicz  
818 2004). At the upstream end of the reservoir, there is a small dam that creates a gravel  
819 trap (Figure 1-2) to prevent coarse sediment from entering the reservoir and reducing the  
820 storage capacity. The trap has an approximate capacity of 23,000 cubic meters and is  
821 emptied every eight to ten years (Cieslewicz 2004). The discontinuity in bedload  
822 transport caused by the dam and gravel bin trap has led to a decrease in availability of  
823 small substrate to aquatic organisms downstream of the reservoir (Figure 1-3; Lobb 2016;  
824 Figure 1-4).

825 On December 14, 2005, the upper reservoir's dam at the Taum Sauk  
826 Hydroelectric Facility failed, allowing nearly one billion gallons of water to rush down  
827 Proffit Mountain, which resulted in a large amount of damage to terrestrial and aquatic

828 habitat, nearly eliminating the fish community in the main river downstream of the upper  
829 reservoir (Combes and Dunnaway 2009). Beginning on December 20, 2005, fish and  
830 habitat sampling by Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) began to monitor the  
831 impact of the flood throughout the EFBR. Initially, large amounts of fine sediments were  
832 deposited within the river downstream from the lower reservoir, but the fine sand and silt  
833 moved downstream of the study area by 2007, returning the river to a similar state before  
834 the flood event (Combes and Dunnaway 2009). In 2010, a new upper reservoir was  
835 completed constructed of roller compacted concrete.

836           The EFBR downstream from the Lower Taum Sauk Reservoir has been  
837 monitored by the MDC for instream habitat, substrate size and distribution, aquatic  
838 invertebrate communities, and fish communities to maintain licensing for Ameren  
839 through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The river downstream of  
840 the lower reservoir is considered substrate-altered through continuous bed movement and  
841 lack of bedload replacement. Therefore, the lack of small substrate may affect the  
842 biological community of the East Fork Black River.

843           The fish community of the EFBR is similar to other southern flowing drainages of  
844 the Ozark Highlands where many fishes in this stream require silt-free gravel, low  
845 turbidity, and high velocity habitat. Due to prevalence of low turbidity, many species in  
846 this stream are believed to be sight feeders (Pflieger 1997). In the intensive sampling by  
847 MDC for two years following the flood event in 2005, 57 species were sampled in the  
848 East Fork Black River downstream of Taum Sauk Reservoir (Combes and Dunnaway  
849 2009). Hornyhead Chubs occur on the EFBR and many other streams throughout the  
850 Ozark region (Pflieger 1997; Combes and Dunnaway 2009). Nest associates (species that

851 use HHC constructed mounds for spawning) of the HHC that occur in the East Fork  
852 Black River include Bleeding Shiner, Striped Shiner, Carmine Shiner *Notropis*  
853 *percobromus*, and Ozark Minnow (Vives 1990; Pflieger 1997; Combes and Dunnaway  
854 2009).

855 The West Fork Black River (WFBR) and Big Creek (BGCK) of the St. Francis  
856 River system are both fifth order streams and were added for the second field season of  
857 this study when HHC spawning mounds were scarce in the EFBR. Both the WFBR and  
858 BGCK are located in the Ozark Highlands and flow south into the Mississippi River  
859 Lowlands. Big Creek joins the St. Francis, and the WFBR meets the Middle Fork Black  
860 River to create the Black River 2.5 km before the confluence of the Black River and the  
861 EFBR.

862 Our study goal was to help conservation agencies determine management actions  
863 that may benefit native stream fishes where disturbances have altered habitats, including  
864 substrate, wetted width, depth, gradient, and velocity. Our objective was to determine  
865 how the lack of small substrate in the EFBR may influence spawning habitat selection of  
866 HHCs.

867 Objective 1: Determine spawning habitat characteristics for Hornyhead Chubs in the East  
868 Fork Black River.

869

870 Hornyhead Chubs may select spawning habitat at both the mesohabitat and  
871 microhabitat spatial scales. As used in this document, the mesohabitat scales defines the  
872 stream area delineated longitudinally by low velocity pools. This scale was used to  
873 delineate riffle-run complexes that are available to HHCs for the selection of a mound

874 site within flowing water habitat (Figure 1-5). Hornyhead Chubs may also select  
875 spawning locations for specific habitat characteristics within a given mesohabitat to  
876 construct spawning mounds, and thus, we also determined microhabitat selection of  
877 spawning mounds within a mesohabitat. We define the microhabitat scale as the area  
878 within one meter of HHC spawning mounds.

879 We addressed the following questions:

- 880 1) Do substrate size distribution, water temperature, gradient, depth, area, stream  
881 width, mesohabitat length, distance from the dam, or the presence of habitat  
882 structure differ among mesohabitats with and without HHC spawning mounds?
- 883 2) Do substrate size distribution, stream width, depth, velocity, canopy cover, or  
884 distance to the bank differ at the microhabitat scale for the location of mounds  
885 within a mesohabitat?

#### 886 Approach

887 Prior to searching for HHC spawning sites, 20 riffle-run complexes (i.e.,  
888 mesohabitats) were defined within a 6.3 km study area downstream of Lower Taum Sauk  
889 Reservoir. We sampled each mesohabitat for HHC spawning mounds, substrate size and  
890 distribution, gradient, depth, area, stream width, and distance from the dam to determine  
891 which characteristics best predicted the presence of Hornyhead Chub spawning mounds  
892 (Table 1-1).

893 Mound searches were conducted systematically by surveying riffle/run  
894 mesohabitats with two people approximately every 10 days from mid-April through the  
895 end of June 2017 and 2018, or until no active spawning activity was observed for two

896 consecutive search periods. The stream channel was split in half and the observers  
897 (wearing polarized glasses) started at the downstream end of the mesohabitat and moved  
898 upstream, while maintaining a constant pace at each site. Search time was recorded by the  
899 time spent searching a riffle-run complex and divided by the area of the mesohabitat to  
900 standardize the effort (per area) used to search for mounds. All located spawning mounds  
901 were marked using a GPS unit and habitat characteristic measurements were recorded.  
902 At the location of found HHC spawning mounds, water depth, velocity, stream wetted  
903 width, canopy cover, distance to the closest bank, distance to the nearest upstream or  
904 adjacent habitat structure (i.e., presence/absence of woody debris greater than 1 m in  
905 length and 0.15 m in diameter (Wohl et al. 2010), boulders, macrophytes, or other  
906 stabilized objects creating velocity shelter), mound dimensions, and distance to other  
907 present mounds were measured (Table 1-1). These characteristic measurements defined  
908 the microhabitat surrounding the spawning mound.

909         In addition to measuring habitat at each HHC spawning mound, substrate, depth,  
910 stream wetted width, and canopy cover density were measured from between 20 and 120  
911 random points in each mesohabitat, related to the measured area (Table 1-2). A metal  
912 cross of a 60 x 60 cm was be used to select five substrate particles from each random  
913 point (Figure 1-6; Litvan et al., 2010). The first piece of substrate touched when a finger  
914 was placed at each indicated point was measured. Depth was measured using a wading  
915 rod with 2 cm increments. A tape measure and Sonin<sup>®</sup> electronic distance measuring tool  
916 were used to measure stream wetted width. The percent canopy cover was measured  
917 using a concave spherical densitometer at each random point (Lemmon 1956). Stream  
918 surface gradient for each mesohabitat was measured using a self-leveling laser and a



919 stadia rod. Measurements were taken at each end of the mesohabitat and the thalweg  
920 length was used to calculate the gradient. The boundaries of the riffle-run mesohabitats  
921 were defined by observing substrate deposition, depth, water velocity, and water surface  
922 disturbance.

923         We randomly selected seven out of 29 spawning mounds to be collected from the  
924 LEFBR in 2017 when it was that they were based on minimal fish activity and the  
925 presence fine sediment collecting on previously clean substrate. Mounds were collected  
926 using a small trowel with a small net held immediately downstream to collect drifting  
927 substrate. Collected substrate was dried prior to being separated using sieves. Mass was  
928 measured for each size class, and mass of 20 individual particles from each size class to  
929 calculate the number of particles.

930         All mesohabitats within 4 km downstream of the dam were surveyed, and  
931 alternating riffle-run habitats for the remaining study length of river were surveyed. This  
932 was based on the preliminary data that Lower Taum Sauk Reservoir Dam has the  
933 strongest effect on the substrate size and particle-size distribution within the first 4 km  
934 downstream of the reservoir (Lobb 2016).

935         During the spring of 2018, only one spawning mound was located in the East  
936 Fork Black River downstream of the Lower Taum Sauk Reservoir leading to a shift in  
937 sampling strategy. In addition to replicating 2017 sampling on the Lower East Fork Black  
938 River, we surveyed mesohabitats identified using the same criteria in nearby streams of  
939 the West Fork Black River, the East Fork Black River upstream from Taum Sauk  
940 Reservoir, and Big Creek (Figure 1-1). Each of the additional sites was searched twice for

941 Hornyhead Spawning mounds, and mesohabitat measurements were collected in addition  
942 to microhabitat measurements in the presence of spawning mounds.

943

#### 944 Data Analysis

945         We analyzed the mesohabitat scale using Generalized Linear Models (GLMs)  
946 with a Bayesian framework in the programs R and RStudio to determine which habitat  
947 characteristics best predicted the presence of Hornyhead Chub spawning mounds. The  
948 variables used were based on characteristics found to be relevant in other studies of  
949 *Nocomis* spawning site selection (Vives 1990; Wisenden et al. 2009), or that we believed  
950 may affect suitability for Hornyhead Chub spawning sites (Table 1-1). Generalized  
951 Linear Models are based on logistic regression, which is a flexible method appropriate for  
952 situations where continuous variables can analyze habitats or situations and calculate the  
953 probability of a positive response (that is, presence of a spawning mound). A global  
954 model was used to compare which variables have the highest influence on site selection  
955 and included mean depth, mean wetted width, and mean canopy cover from the random  
956 points, in addition to distance from Lower Taum Sauk Reservoir, area of mesohabitat,  
957 length of mesohabitat, water surface gradient, and 50<sup>th</sup> percentile size of sampled  
958 substrate particles ( $D_{50}$ ). Prior to running the model, a correlation analysis was completed  
959 with all variables, and highest value for  $r$  was 0.38, therefore, no variables were removed.  
960 JAGS (Just Another Gibbs Sampler) package was used in R to operate the Bayesian  
961 framework using uninformative prior probability distributions ( $\bar{x} = 0, \pm 0.001$ ).  
962 Parameter outputs were interpreted using 95<sup>th</sup> percentiles as guidelines for posterior  
963 distributions.

964 Discrete choice analysis within a Bayesian framework was used to compare  
965 which parameters affect the microhabitat site selection for Hornyhead Chub spawning  
966 mounds. Discrete choice selection models, based in linear regression, were used when  
967 comparing habitat selection with the assumption that individuals gain satisfaction from  
968 the selection of given resource (Cooper and Millspaugh 1999; Edge et al. 2020). Data  
969 collected from the location of the mounds were compared to three random points within  
970 the same mesohabitat to determine microhabitat selection of Hornyhead Chub spawning  
971 sites.

972 The discrete choice model used included depth, velocity, canopy cover density,  
973 presence of velocity shelters, and wetted width. Depth and velocity were included as  
974 quadratic relationships to determine if there is a selected range of values for spawning  
975 habitat. As with the GLM, JAGS package was used in R to operate the Bayesian  
976 framework using uninformative prior probability distributions ( $\bar{x} = 0, \pm 0.001$ ).  
977 Parameter outputs were interpreted using 95<sup>th</sup> percentiles as guidelines for posterior  
978 distributions.

979

980

## 981 **Results**

982 We conducted 8 HHC spawning mound surveys in 2017 and 10 surveys in 2018  
983 at 19 mesohabitats on the Lower EFBR starting when water temperatures reached 14  
984 degrees C until active spawning mounds were not observed for two consecutive weeks.  
985 Active spawning mounds were observed in water temperatures ranging from 16 C to 27

986 C. Hornyhead Chub spawning mound surveys were conducted from April 2017 through  
987 November 2018 in the Lower East Fork Black River, and from June 2018 through  
988 November 2018, data were collected in the Upper East Fork Black River, West Fork  
989 Black River and Big Creek. During the 2017 field season, 29 Hornyhead Chub spawning  
990 mounds were located in the LEFBR, and measurements were taken at 15 spawning  
991 mound microhabitats. During the 2018 field season only 1 spawning mound was located  
992 on the Lower EFBR, but additional surveys located 6 mounds on the Upper EFBR, 31 on  
993 the WFBR, and 4 on BGCK (Table 1-3).

994

#### 995 Mesohabitat Scale

996 During the 2017 field season, HHC spawning mounds were found in 3 of the 17  
997 mesohabitats surveyed on the LEFBR. For the 2018 field season, spawning mounds were  
998 found at 1 of the 17 mesohabitats surveyed in the LEFBR. In addition, 1 of 2  
999 mesohabitats had spawning mounds present in the WFBR, 2 of 3 mesohabitats had  
1000 spawning mounds present in BGCK, and 1 of 2 mesohabitat in the UEFBR (Table 1-3).  
1001 For our full study, HHC spawning mounds were present at 7 out of 26 mesohabitats  
1002 surveyed.

1003 In the LEFBR, the substrate size and gradient (Figure 1-7:  $r = -0.981$ ,  $n = 19$ )  
1004 were unrelated in comparison to mesohabitats on the UEFBR, WFBR, and BGCK  
1005 (Figure 1-7:  $r = 0.815$ ,  $n = 7$ ). In addition, depth and gradient were not strongly related in  
1006 the LEFBR (Figure 1-7:  $r = -0.300$ ,  $n = 19$ ) compared to the typical streams (UEFBR,  
1007 WFBR, BGCK; Figure 1-7:  $r = -0.732$ ,  $n = 7$ ).

1008           At the mesohabitat scale, mean stream depth and substrate size were the most  
1009 influential habitat characteristics for predicting the presence of a Hornyhead Chub  
1010 spawning mound when data from all streams were included (Figure 1-8A). In the  
1011 LEFBR, none of the measured habitat characteristics were influential at the mesohabitat  
1012 scale, and for BGCK and WFBR (other streams), mean depth and substrate size were the  
1013 most influential for the presence of HHC spawning mounds (Figure 1-8B and 1-8C).  
1014 Mesohabitats in all streams had a mean depth less than 0.25 m the probability of HHC  
1015 spawning bounds being present increased with amounts of small substrate in comparison  
1016 to the mean value. None of the measured habitat characteristics were of high importance  
1017 in the LEFBR at the mesohabitat scale (Figure 1-8C). There is a difference in available  
1018 substrate size for mesohabitats with mounds present compared to mounds absent between  
1019 in mesohabitats with less substrate between sizes of 8 mm to 64 mm (Figure 1-9).

1020

#### 1021 Microhabitat Scale

1022           In 2017, microhabitat measurements were recorded at 15 of the 29 HHC  
1023 spawning mounds in the LEFBR. For 2018, measurements were recorded at 6 of the  
1024 mounds identified on the WFBR. Hornyhead Chub mounds were constructed at depths  
1025 between 0.11 m and 0.63 m, and at velocities between 0.00 and 0.49 m/s. The mean depth  
1026 at mounds was  $0.35 \text{ m} \pm 0.03 \text{ m}$  ( $\pm$  standard error), and average velocity was  $0.17 \text{ m/s} \pm$   
1027  $0.015 \text{ m}$ . Distance to nearest banks was  $2.59 \text{ m} \pm 0.37 \text{ m}$  (range: 0.45 m, 5.90 m), and  
1028 channel mean wetted width was  $14.79 \text{ m} \pm 1.26 \text{ m}$  (range: 7.23 m, 27.60 m). Mean  
1029 percent canopy cover for spawning mounds was  $41\% \pm 7\%$  (range: 0%, 80%).

1030           The discrete choice models determined that in all streams (EFBR and WFBR data  
1031 combined), depth, velocity, presence of velocity shelter and the distance to bank were the  
1032 most important microhabitat characteristics (Figure 1-10). Based on the relative  
1033 probability results, Hornyhead Chubs were most likely to create spawning mounds at  
1034 microhabitats with depths of 0.25 m to 0.45 m, velocities 0.10 m/s to 0.35 m/s,  
1035 downstream of velocity shelters, and a less than 2 m from the nearest bank (Figure 1-11).

1036           The microhabitat location of spawning mounds in the Lower EFBR was  
1037 influenced by depth, velocity, the presence of velocity shelters, and wetted width (Figure  
1038 1-10). Spawning mounds in the Lower East Fork Black River were most likely to be  
1039 found at depths of 0.20 m to 0.35 m, velocities 0.10 m/s to 0.30 m/s, downstream of  
1040 velocity shelters, and stream wetted widths of 7 m to 11 m (Figure 1-11). The distance to  
1041 the nearest bank was not influential for mounds located on the LEFBR. Microhabitat  
1042 measurements were only taken at 6 spawning mounds on the WFBR creating a large  
1043 confidence interval with the discrete choice model results. The results from this small  
1044 dataset indicate that none of the covariates were significantly important (Figure 1-10).

1045           Based on mass of substrate grain sizes, 8 mm to 23 mm were the dominant  
1046 substrate in HHC spawning mounds (Figure 1-12). The count of grain size classes  
1047 showed that 16 mm grains make up more than 30 % of spawning mounds closely  
1048 followed by 11.2 mm grains. The remaining substrate was made up of 8 mm and 23 mm  
1049 particles (Figure 1-13).

1050

1051

1052 **Discussion**

1053           Our results suggest that HHC selection for spawning mound could be occurring at  
1054 both the mesohabitat and the microhabitat scale. Fishes may need to minimize the risk of  
1055 three key threats when selecting spawning habitat: desiccation, deoxygenation, and  
1056 predation. *Nocomis* fishes construct spawning mounds to decrease these risks but in  
1057 doing so add another criteria: prevent nest deconstruction (Peoples et al. 2014).  
1058 Therefore, *Nocomis* spp, including HHC may select sites based on several criteria  
1059 dictated at the microhabitat measurements (Lobb and Orth 1988; Vives 1990; Wisenden  
1060 et al. 2009; Peoples et al. 2014), but also multiple spatial scales (Peoples et al. 2014).

1061

1062 Mesohabitat

1063           We found HHC spawning mounds in 6 of the 21 mesohabitat samples in all  
1064 streams. Our results suggest similar patterns where HHC congregate in certain riffle-run  
1065 habitat for spawning, and the riffle-run mesohabitats on the LEFBR with spawning  
1066 mounds present were between 2.0 and 2.4 km downstream of the dam. The mesohabitat  
1067 distance from the dam on the LEFBR ranged from 0.05 km to 5.6 km.

1068           Peoples et al. (2014) noted that River Chub *Nocomis micropogon* spawning  
1069 mounds were often found in groups on stretches of the Cheoah River of North Carolina.  
1070 Chub spawning mounds are often relatively close to each other (Vives 1990; Peoples et  
1071 al. 2014), but not adjacent to one another as frequently found with *Lepomis* species  
1072 (Pflieger 1997).

1073           The first limiting factor for HHCs to construct spawning mounds is most likely  
1074 the temperature spawning range. Our results found that HHC began constructing

1075 spawning mounds at about 16 C and continued until about 26 C, which is consistent with  
1076 Vives (1990) and Wisenden et al. (2009) that found spawning mounds constructed from  
1077 16 C to 26 C. Following water temperature, suitable spring flow that last one week or  
1078 more may provide preferred habitat to allow HHCs to construct mounds and spawn  
1079 before multiple high flow events that can destruct mounds or lower water levels that may  
1080 desiccate eggs (Peoples et al. 2014).

1081         The mesohabitat scale revealed two important habitat characteristics, shallower  
1082 mean depth and smaller substrate, best predicted the presence of HHC spawning mounds  
1083 when data was included from the LEFBR, UEFBR, WFBR, and BGCK, but this pattern  
1084 was not evident when only the LEFBR was included. This contrasts with the results of  
1085 Peoples et al. (2014) that found River Chubs nest sites at the mesohabitat scale were  
1086 dependent on gradient and shallower depth in addition to the average number of outcrops  
1087 from the bank that decrease flow velocity. The discrepancy between these two studies  
1088 may be related to Peoples et al. (2014) defining mesohabitats as a habitat type (i.e. pool,  
1089 run, riffle, and glide) rather than fast flowing habitat excluding pools. In addition, depth  
1090 and substrate distribution are frequently related to the stream gradient or water surface  
1091 slope (Beschta 1979; Keller and Swanson 1979; Keller and Tally 1979). Our results  
1092 suggest that with increased gradient in a riffle-run habitat lead to a substrate distribution  
1093 with larger particles and a decrease in mean depth. Therefore, depth and substrate  
1094 distribution are not the first limiting habitat factor, but gradient was possibly the strongest  
1095 habitat indicator for the presence of HHC spawning mounds at the mesohabitat scale  
1096 similar to River Chub spawning habitat in Cheoah River (Peoples et al. 2014). However,  
1097 gradient was possibly not observed as a significant indicator because we measured



1098 gradient using only two points rather than multiple points at a fixed distance and allowing  
1099 gradient variance to be used as a habitat characteristic.

1100           It is likely that substrate size and depth were not observed as significant indicators  
1101 in the LEFBR because of substrate deprivation caused by Tom Sauk Dam immediately  
1102 upstream of our study sites. Gradient, substrate distribution, depth, and wetted width are  
1103 related (Frissell et al. 1986), and in substrate-altered habitat, it may influence the  
1104 relationship between the remaining habitat characteristics (Kondolf 1997). Therefore,  
1105 substrate may be important but likely driven by the gradient and water velocity. With the  
1106 Taum Sauk Dam reducing substrate movement on the LEFBR, gradient may be difficult  
1107 to measure as an influential habitat characteristic without further research on limiting  
1108 habitat factors.

1109

#### 1110 Microhabitat

1111           At the microhabitat scale across all streams, HHCs generally selected spawning  
1112 locations at intermediate depths, lower velocities, and downstream of velocity shelters.  
1113 These results were relatively consistent across all streams except in the LEFBR, where  
1114 distance to bank was not a significant predictor. We are not confident in reasoning for  
1115 this, but it may involve higher inclined banks from erosion making depth and velocity  
1116 more consistent in cross sections. Our results fit the hypothesis that chubs may minimize  
1117 multiple threats; i.e., spawning mounds must be constructed in high enough velocity to  
1118 remove small substrate and provide oxygen, but not fast enough velocity to destruct the  
1119 spawning mound (People et al. 2014).

1120 Hornyhead Chubs constructed mounds in microhabitats of the East and West Fork  
1121 Black River with increased depth and higher velocities relative to available habitat within  
1122 studied riffle-run complexes, which is inconsistent with results from Vives (1990) and  
1123 Wisenden (2009), and in studies of River Chubs and Bigmouth Chubs, mounds were  
1124 primarily found in more shallow and slower habitat (Lobb 1988; Peoples 2014). In our  
1125 study, we did not include pool habitat, and the EFBR is a larger stream than those in  
1126 previous HHC research possibly explaining differences in results. Even though studies  
1127 have found differences between available and used habitat, the ranges of habitat  
1128 characteristic values are similar. This is likely related to stream size and gradient.

1129 At the microhabitat scale, it is uncertain if depth or velocity is more important, but  
1130 other studies have suggested that velocity is most important to provide oxygen for eggs  
1131 (Wisenden et al. 2009). If suitable velocity is not present, velocity shelters provide  
1132 protected habitat from higher velocities and increased flow that frequently occur.  
1133 Hornyhead Chubs constructed spawning mounds in our study at velocities and depths  
1134 similar to previous studies of multiple *Nocomis* species (Lobb and Orth 1988; Vives  
1135 1990; Wisenden et al. 2009; Peoples et al. 2014; Peoples et al. 2016) (Table 1-4). This  
1136 supports that habitat preferences are not relative to available habitat, but HHCs are  
1137 dependent on specific habitat characteristics and ranges for successful construction of  
1138 spawning mounds and the same is also likely for recruitment.

1139 Once spawning temperature and flow conditions are met, gradient is likely to be  
1140 the next important habitat characteristic at the mesohabitat scale for the presence of  
1141 *Nocomis* spawning mounds (Frissell et al. 1986; Peoples et al. 2016). However, we  
1142 found that gradient was not an influential habitat characteristic in our models, but

1143 substrate size and distribution is likely related to water surface gradient in Ozark streams  
1144 that are not substrate-altered. The substrate used to construct spawning mounds must be  
1145 available but the gravel sizes used in spawning mounds may not have to be the primary  
1146 sizes of substrate within a mesohabitat. If so, gradient may be more limiting, and  
1147 preferred substrate particles must be available to construct spawning mounds. Although,  
1148 it is not required for substrate for construction of mounds to be the dominate substrate in  
1149 a mesohabitat as spawning mounds have been observed on bedrock and sand if small  
1150 gravel is available for chubs to construct mounds.

1151

## 1152 **Conclusions and Management Recommendations**

1153 We found that HHC spawning mound site selection was based on multiple spatial  
1154 scales. Once suitable temperatures occurred in spring (16 to 26 C), HHC selected sites in  
1155 mesohabitats 10.5 and 11, 2.0 and 2.4 km from Taum Sauk Dam. Although distance from  
1156 the dam was not a significant predictor on our models, sites closer to the dam retained  
1157 lesser amounts of small substrate. Hornyhead Chub spawning mounds in the LEFBR  
1158 were typically in mesohabitats with mean depth of 0.25 m or less, with mean wetted  
1159 width near 11 m during summer flow. Therefore, mesohabitats that meet these criteria  
1160 may be suitable locations for substrate additions, if these sites do not have substrate of 8  
1161 to 23 mm. In the LEFBR the mesohabitat 1.26 km downstream of Taum Sauk Dam is the  
1162 only site that had suitable depths, and gradient if of importance and may be limited by  
1163 substrate distribution. Even though the first riffle-run mesohabitat meeting criteria other  
1164 than substrate size is 1.26 km downstream of Taum Sauk Dam, access limitations may  
1165 only allow substrate to be placed within the first 0.55 km. Based on our study, substrate

1166 of sizes classes 8 mm to 23 mm is dominant in HHC spawning mounds, and therefore  
1167 should be of focus when adding substrate to the system in order to aid lithophilic  
1168 spawning fishes.

1169

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1277 **Tables & Figures**

1278

1279 Table 1-1. Habitat characteristics measured (acronym and units) at the mesohabitat and  
 1280 microhabitat scales to determine Hornyhead Chub spawning site selection. A dash  
 1281 indicates the specific parameter was not measured at that scale.

<b>Habitat Variable</b>	<b>Scale</b>	
	<b>Mesohabitat</b>	<b>Microhabitat</b>
Distance from Dam	$D$ (km)	-
Mesohabitat Area	$\bar{x}$ (m <sup>2</sup> )	-
Stream Width	$\bar{x}$ (m)	$x$ (m)
Depth	$\bar{x}$ (m)	$d$ (m)
Velocity	-	$v$ (ms <sup>-1</sup> )
Gradient	h %	-
Substrate	Distribution Curve	-
Velocity Shelter	-	Presence of velocity shelter
Canopy Cover	$\bar{x}$ (%)	Canopy Cover (%)
Distance to Bank	-	$D$ (m)

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1295 Table 1-2. Habitat characteristics were measured in riffle-run mesohabitats on the Lower  
 1296 East Fork Black River (LEFBR), East Fork Black River (EFBR) upstream of Taum Sauk  
 1297 Reservoir, Big Creek (BGCK), and the West Fork Black River (WFBR) in 2017 and  
 1298 2018. The number of random points was based on the size of the habitats with a  
 1299 minimum of 20 points and a maximum of 120 points. Mesohabitats 10.5 and 11.5 were  
 1300 labeled differently because they were side channels that run adjacent to the main channel  
 1301 of the East Fork Black River.

Mesohabitat	Stream	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Habitat Points	
1	LEFBR	620	20	1303
2	LEFBR	4550	83	
3	LEFBR	1160	20	1304
5	LEFBR	1870	33	
6	LEFBR	1930	35	1305
7	LEFBR	1100	20	1306
8	LEFBR	6840	120	
9	LEFBR	2060	37	1307
10	LEFBR	3170	57	
10.5	LEFBR	2140	38	1308
11	LEFBR	3670	66	1309
11.5	LEFBR	4770	87	
12	LEFBR	6550	120	1310
13	LEFBR	2750	49	
14	LEFBR	2440	44	1311
16	LEFBR	940	20	1312
18	LEFBR	2450	44	
20	LEFBR	4680	85	1313
21	UEFBR	2610	49	
22	UEFBR	1800	35	1314
23	WFBR	2540	47	1315
24	WFBR	1660	32	
25	BGCK	2610	48	1316
26	BGCK	2560	48	
27	BGCK	3460	63	1317

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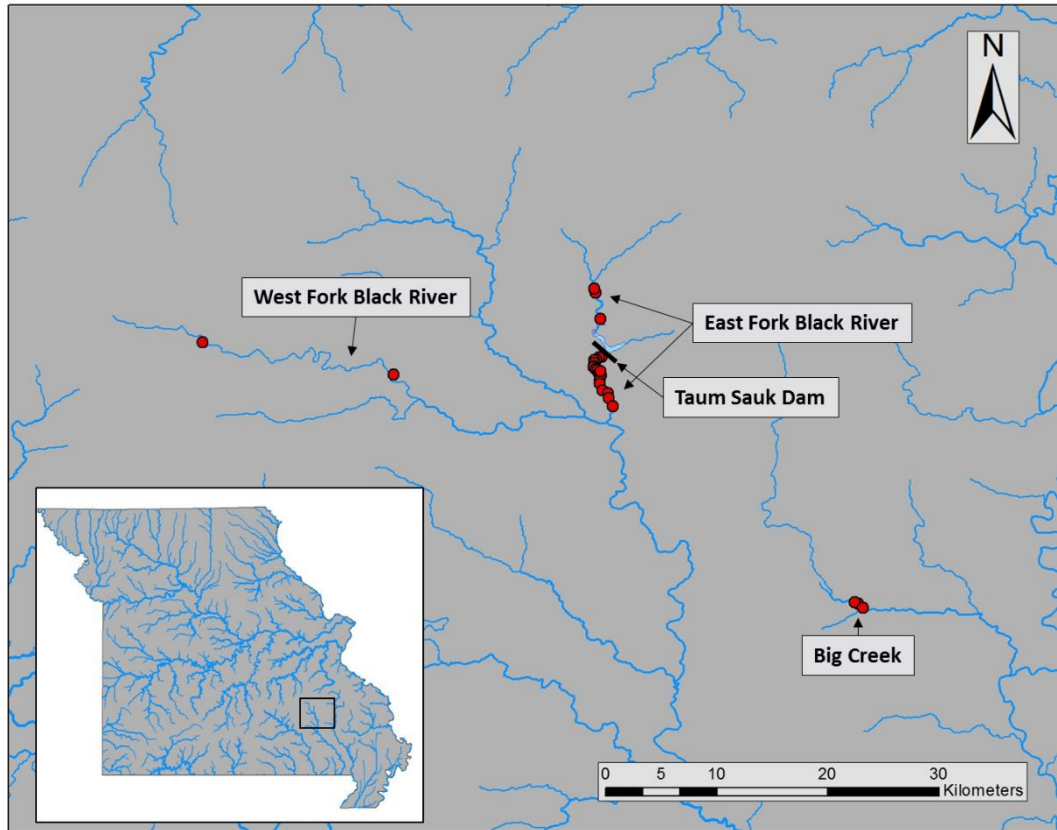
1325 Table 1-3. Searches revealed 29 Hornyhead Chub Spawning mounds in the Lower East  
 1326 Fork Black River in 2017. In 2018, the Upper East Fork Black River, West Fork Black  
 1327 River, and Big Creek, Missouri were added to the study, and an additional 42 Hornyhead  
 1328 Chub spawning mounds were located. Microhabitat measurements were recorded at 15  
 1329 randomly selected spawning mounds in 2017 and seven spawning mounds in 2018.

Stream	Spawning Mounds Found		Spawning Mounds Measured	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
Lower East Fork Black River	29	1	15	1
Upper East Fork Black River	-	6	-	0
West Fork Black River	-	31	-	5
Big Creek	-	4	-	1

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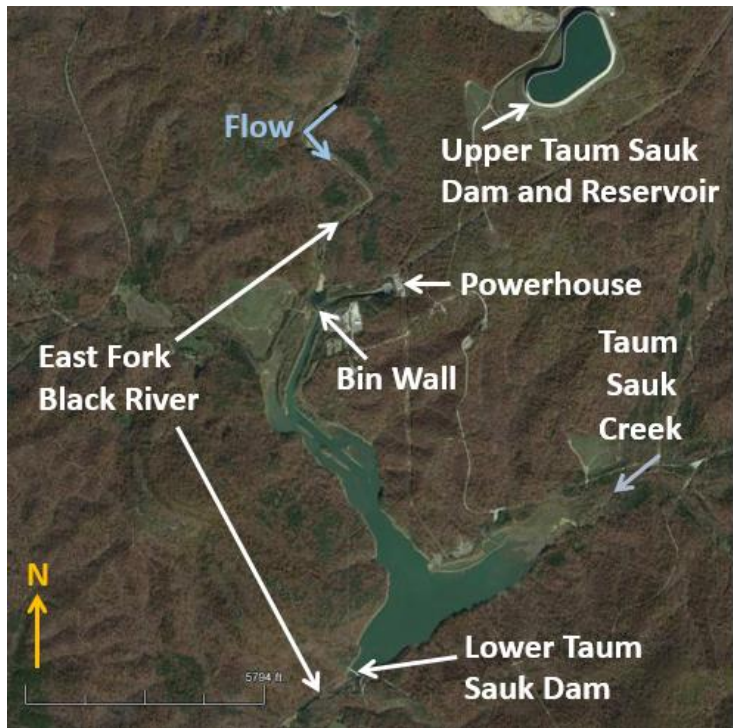
Table 1-4. Microhabitat habitat characteristics recorded at *Nocomis* spawning mounds in other studies.

Study	Species	Mounds	Depth (m)		Velocity (m/s)	
			Mean (SD)	Range	Mean (SD)	Range
Peoples et al. 2014	<i>N. micropogon</i>	78	0.42 (0.14)	0.19-0.96	0.22(0.01)	0.02-0.70
Lobb and Orth 1988	<i>N. platyrhynchus</i>	90	0.38 (-)	0.15-0.75	0.33(-)	0.07-0.69
Peoples et al. 2016	<i>N. leptcephalus</i>	7	0.35 (0.08)	-	0.006 (0.0004)	-
Vives 1990	<i>N. biguttatus</i>	85	0.431 (0.01)	0.09-0.71	0.18 (0.075)	0.02-0.36
Wisenden et al. 2009	<i>N. biguttatus</i>	13	0.354 (0.05)	-	0.38 (0.02)	-
This study	<i>N. biguttatus</i>	22	0.33 (0.14)	0.11-0.63	0.14 (0.02)	0.04-0.49



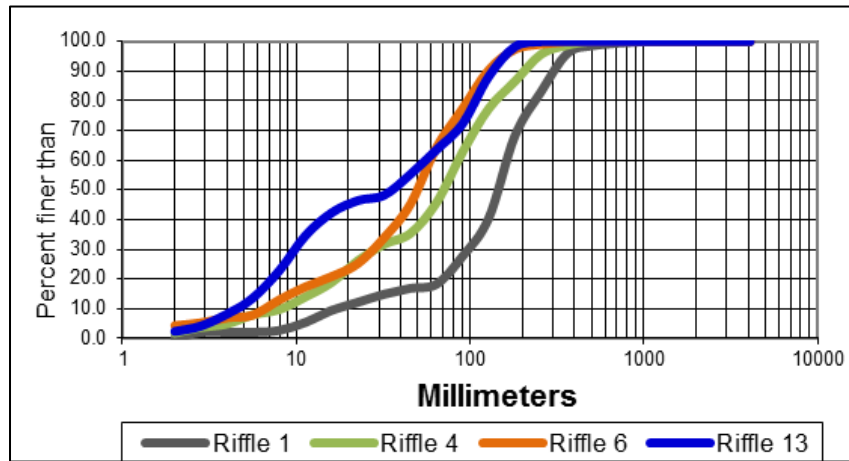
1  
2 Figure 1-1. Map of Missouri, USA and the streams included in this study. The red dots  
3 indicate study mesohabitats; the black dark line indicates Taum Sauk Dam on the East  
4 Fork Black River.

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8 Figure 1-2. Map of Taum Sauk Project Facilities located on the East Fork Black River  
9 and Taum Sauk Creek, Missouri (reprinted from Lobb 2016)

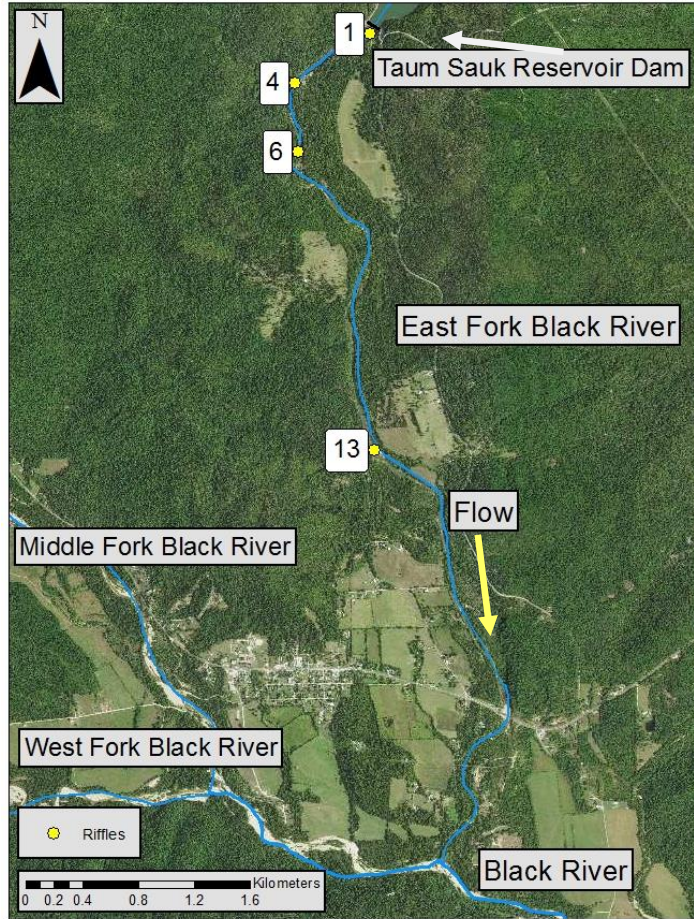
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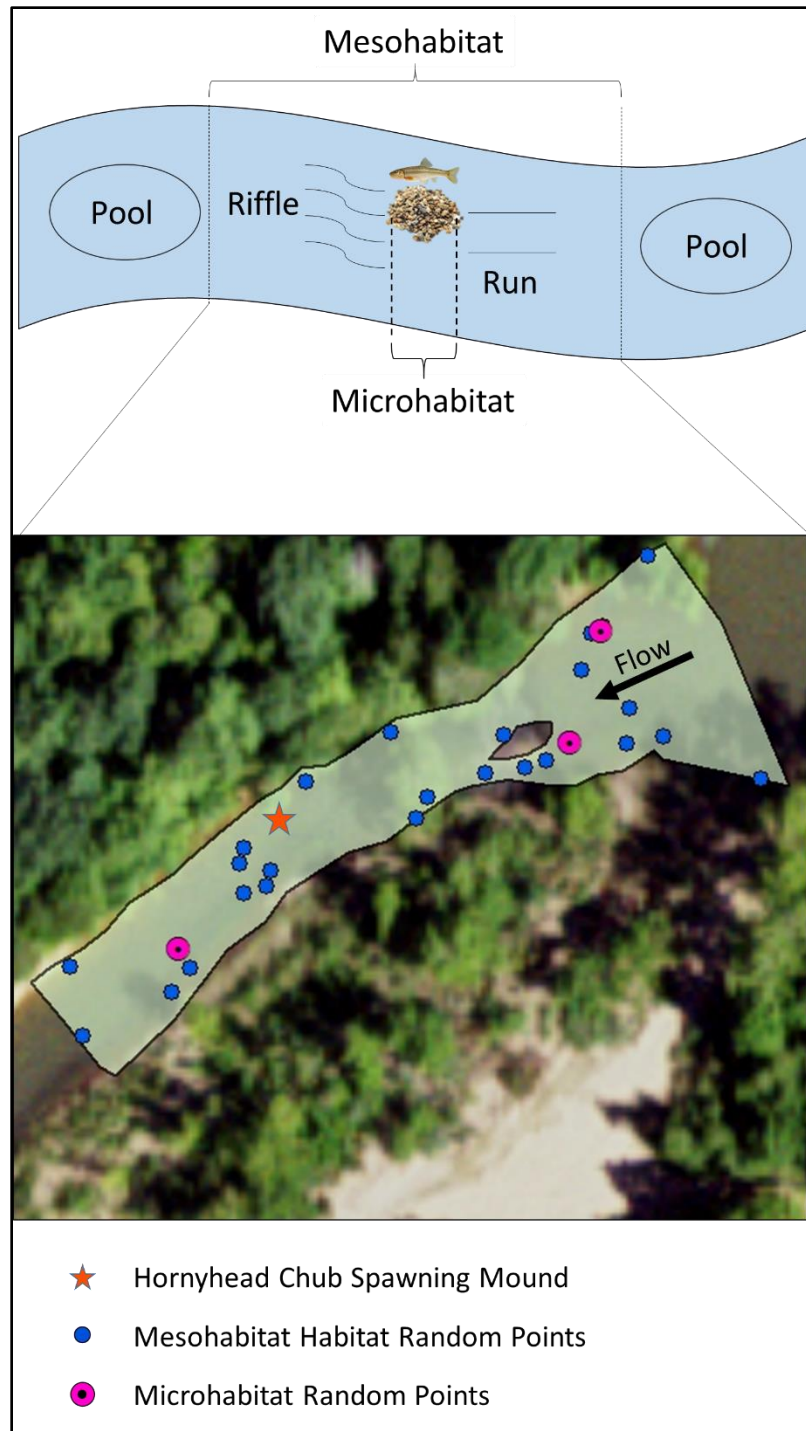
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18 Figure 1-3. Cumulative particle size distribution at four riffles (Figure 1-4) downstream  
 19 of the lower Taum Sauk Reservoir sampled in 2015 by the Missouri Department of  
 20 Conservation (reprinted from Lobb 2016). Riffles were 0.49 km, 0.74 km, 1.26 km, and  
 21 2.43 km downstream of Taum Sauk Dam, respectively.

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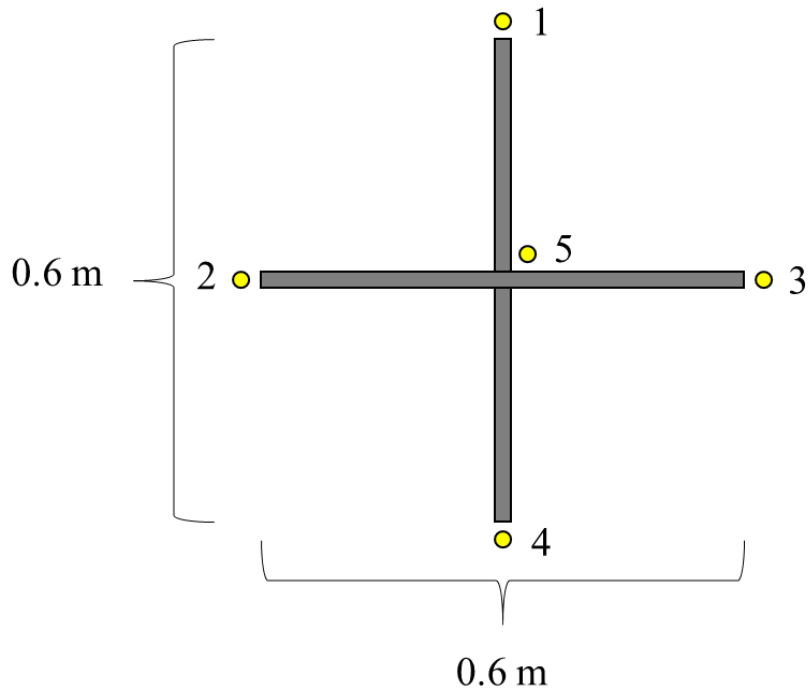


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24 Figure 1-4. Map of the four riffle reaches (1, 4, 6, and 13) where particle sizes were  
25 measured by the Missouri Department of Conservation in 2015 (reprinted from Lobb  
26 2016).



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 28 Figure 1-5. Schematic of the sampling approach to determine habitat characteristics of  
 29 Hornyhead Chub spawning mounds. Mesohabitats were separated by pools (top panel).  
 30 Within defined mesohabitats, depth, stream width, canopy cover, and five substrate  
 31 samples were collected at random points to describe the mesohabitat (bottom panel); area  
 32 and water surface gradient were measured for the whole mesohabitat. When Hornyhead  
 33 Chub spawning mounds were located, variables were measured at the mound and at three  
 34 randomly selected points to compare to the microhabitat selection.





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36 Figure 1-6. Metal cross used for selecting substrate at random habitat measurement  
37 points. The yellow dot was where the first piece of substrate that one came in contact  
38 with was measured and recorded (Litvan et al., 2010).

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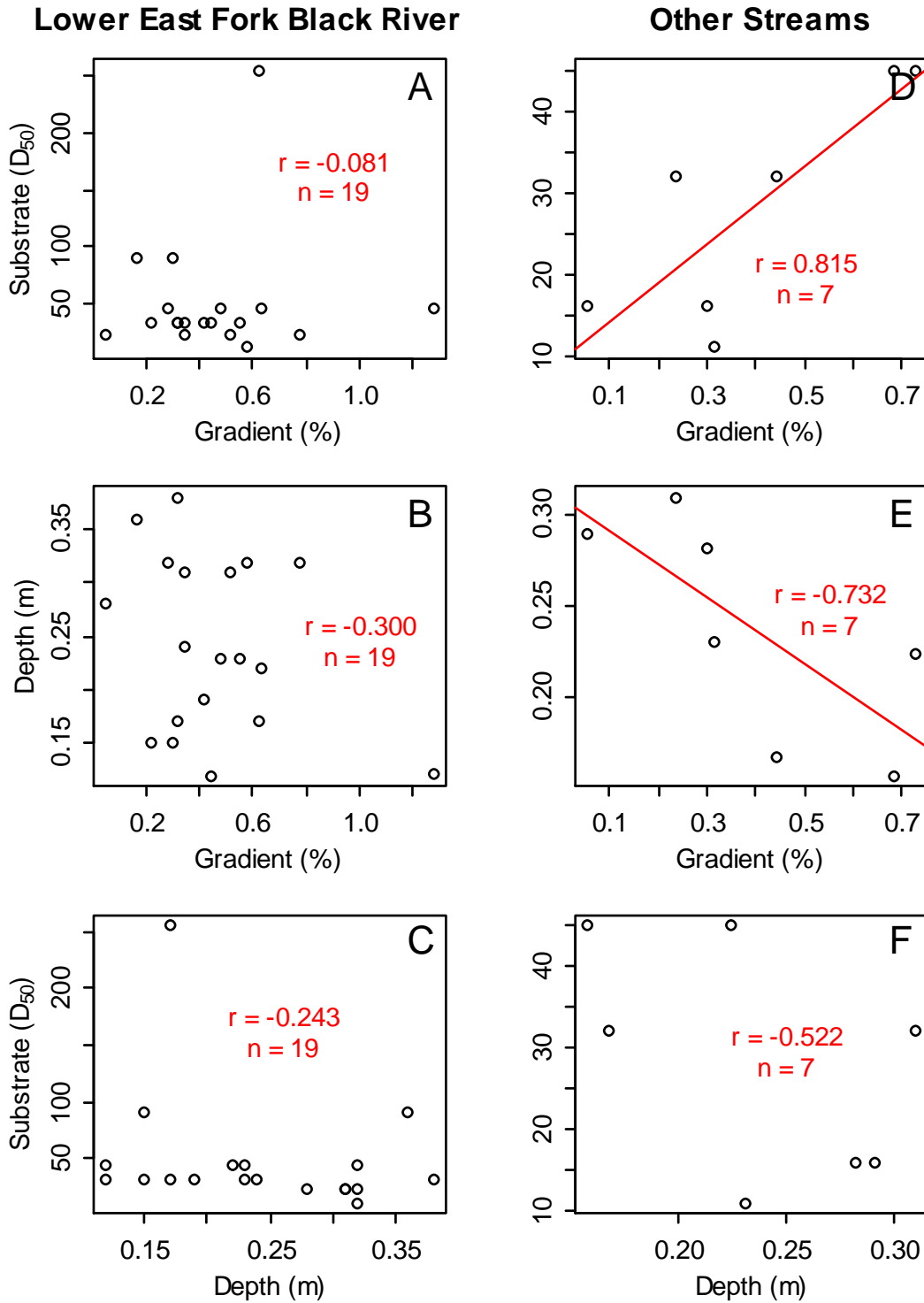
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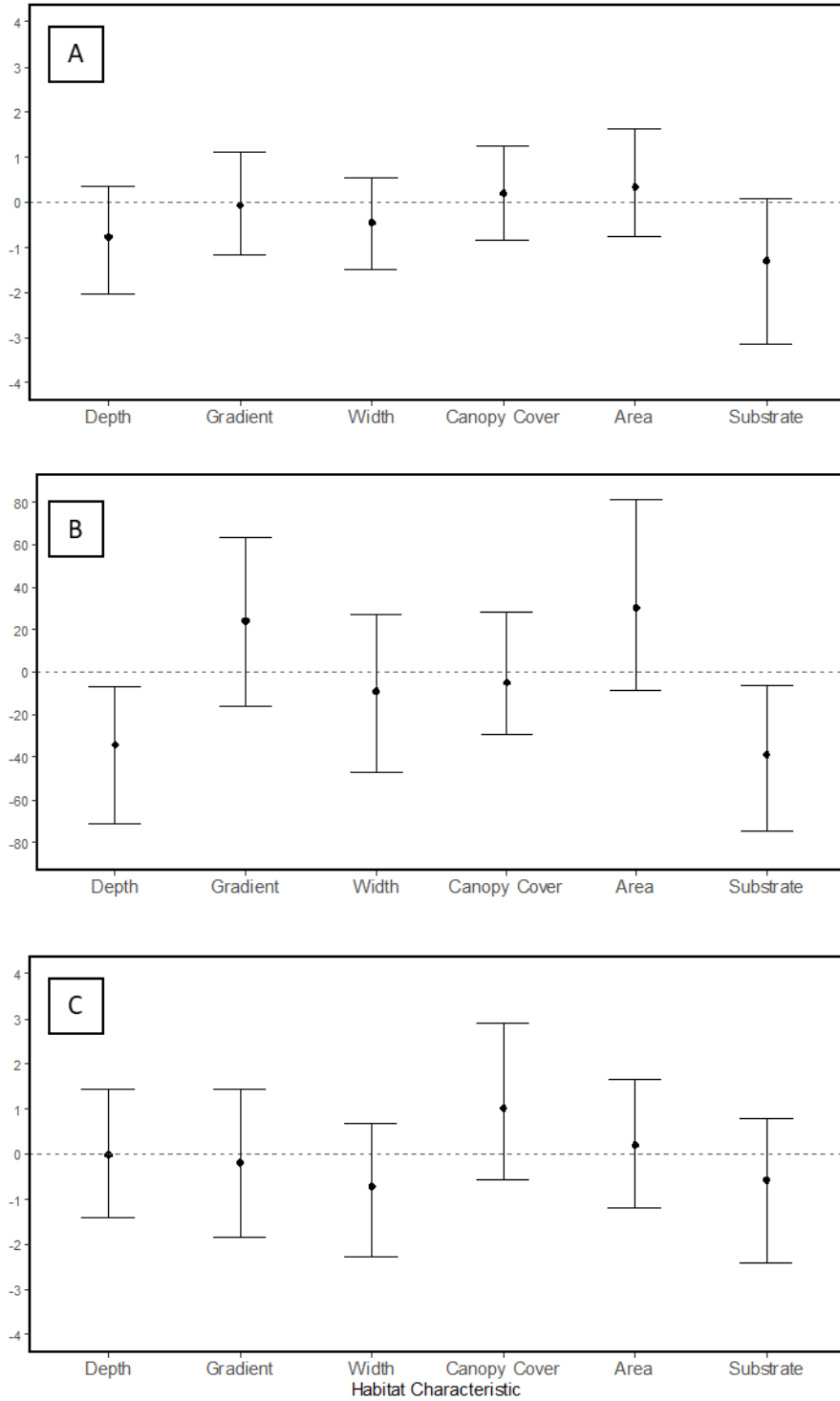
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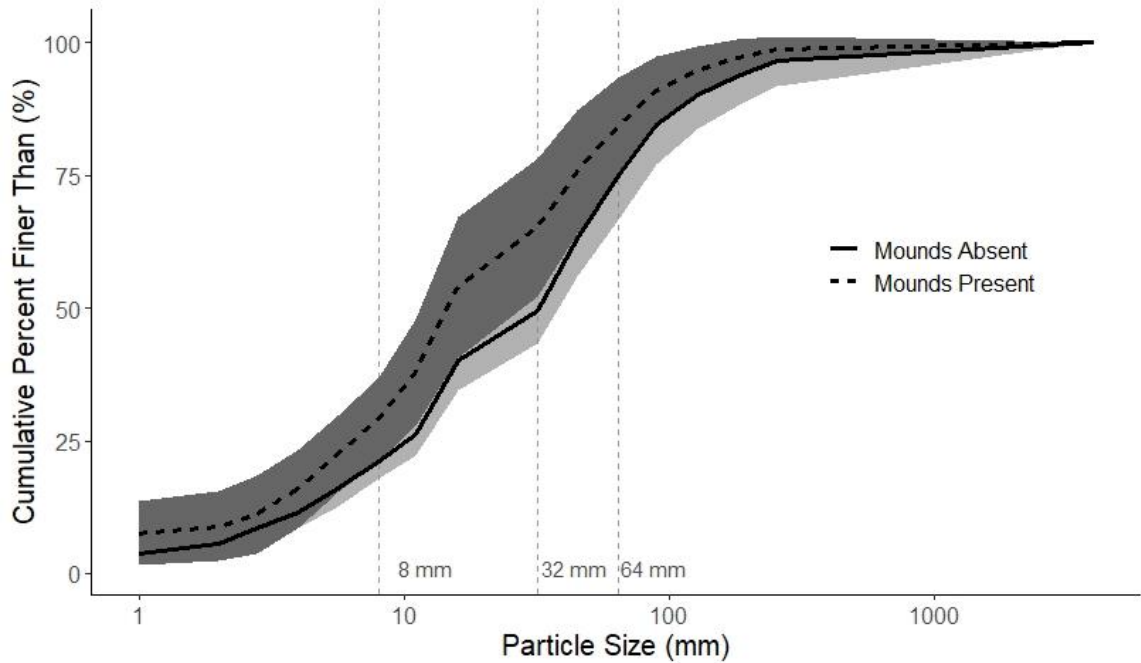
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49 Figure 1-7. The relationship between habitat characteristics at the mesohabitat scale is  
 50 shown in plots A, B, and C for the Lower East Fork Black River, a substrate-altered  
 51 stream, and relationships for the West Fork Black River and Big Creek in plots D, E, F,  
 52 streams that are not substrate-altered. Substrate ( $D_{50}$ ) is the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile values for all  
 53 particles measured within a mesohabitat.



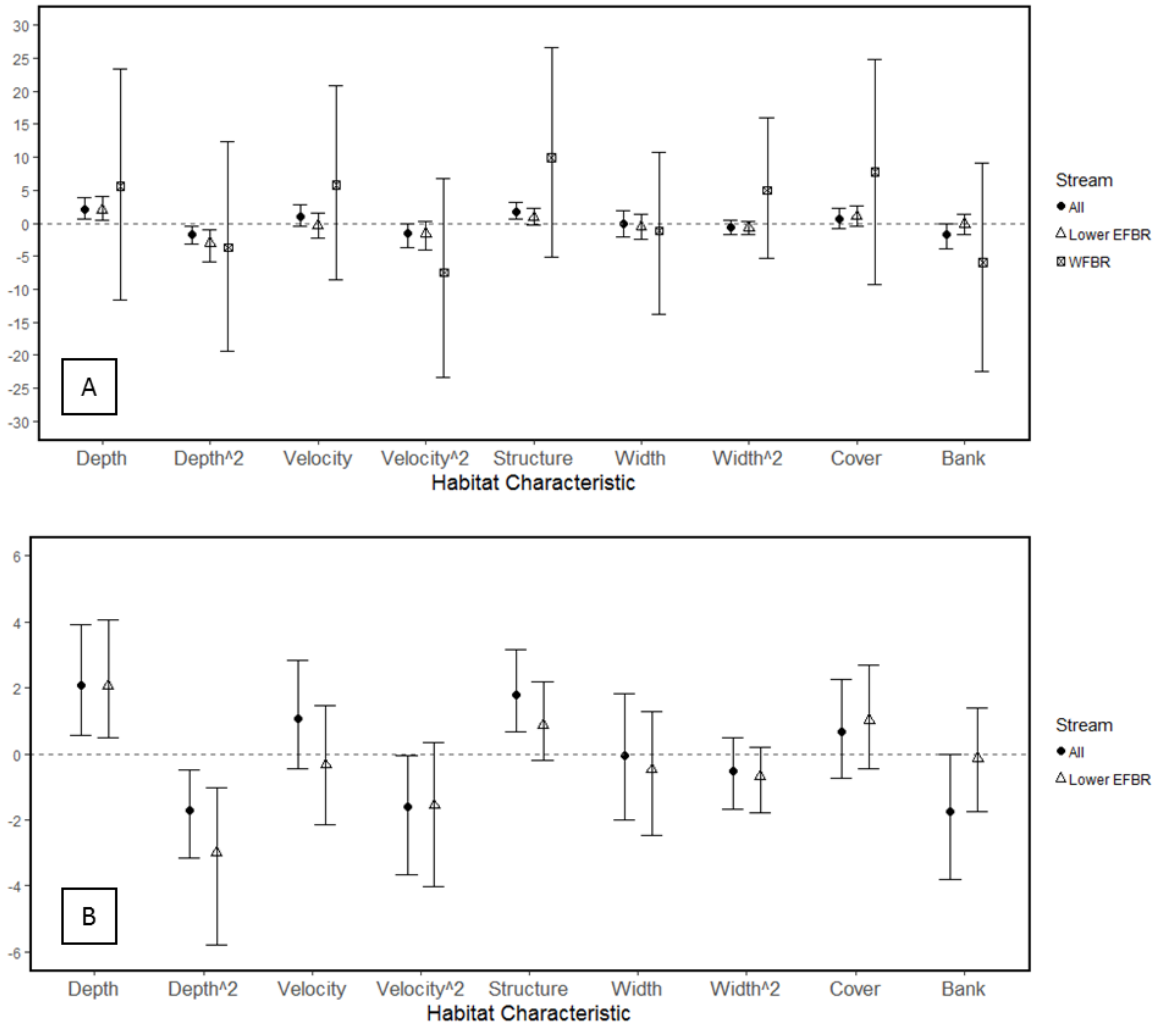
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55 Figure 1-8. The standardized coefficients (y-axis) for the general linearized model (GLM)  
 56 predicting Hornyhead Chub spawning mound presence for habitat variables at the  
 57 mesohabitat scale. Plot A includes outputs from mesohabitat models in all streams. Plot B  
 58 displays the outputs for other streams (West Fork Black River, Upper East Fork Black  
 59 River, and Big Creek), and Plot C for the Lower East Fork Black River.



60

61 Figure 1-9. Cumulative particle size distribution plots for mean substrate values of  
 62 mesohabitats with Hornyhead Chub spawning mounds present (n = 7) and absent (n =  
 63 19). Standard Error marked by shaded areas surround the lines for mean cumulative  
 64 percent values. Mesohabitats were located in the Lower East Fork Black River, Upper  
 65 East Fork Black River, West Fork Black River, and Big Creek, Missouri.



66 Figure 1-10. Standardized coefficients (y-axis) for Hornyhead Chub spawning mound  
 67 microhabitat selection results from a discrete choice model with a Bayesian Framework.  
 68 Plot A includes results from mounds found in all mesohabitats including the Lower East  
 69 Fork Black River (LEFBR), and those grouped in other streams including The Upper East  
 70 Fork Black River, West Fork Black River, and Big Creek. Plot B only includes results  
 71 from mesohabitats in all stream sections and those from the Lower East Fork Black River  
 72 to view at a finer scale.

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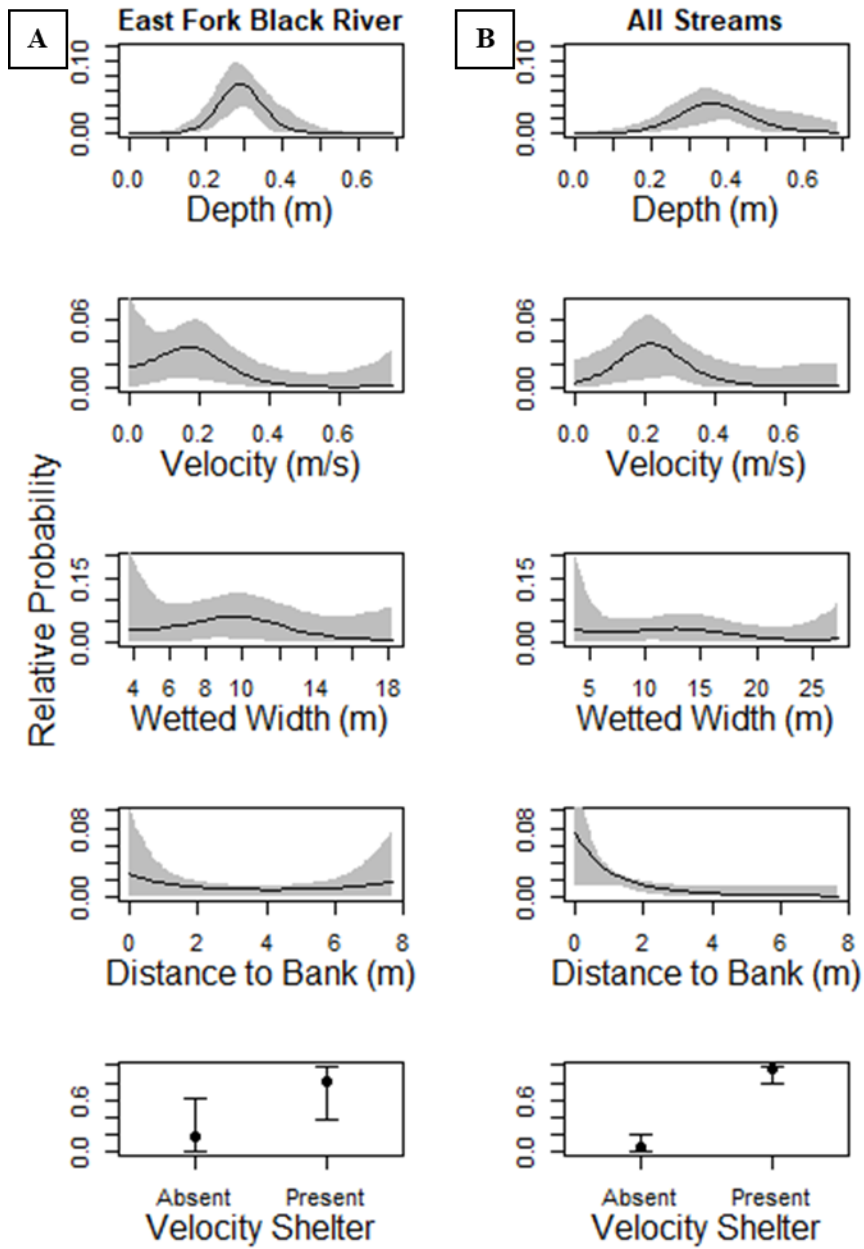
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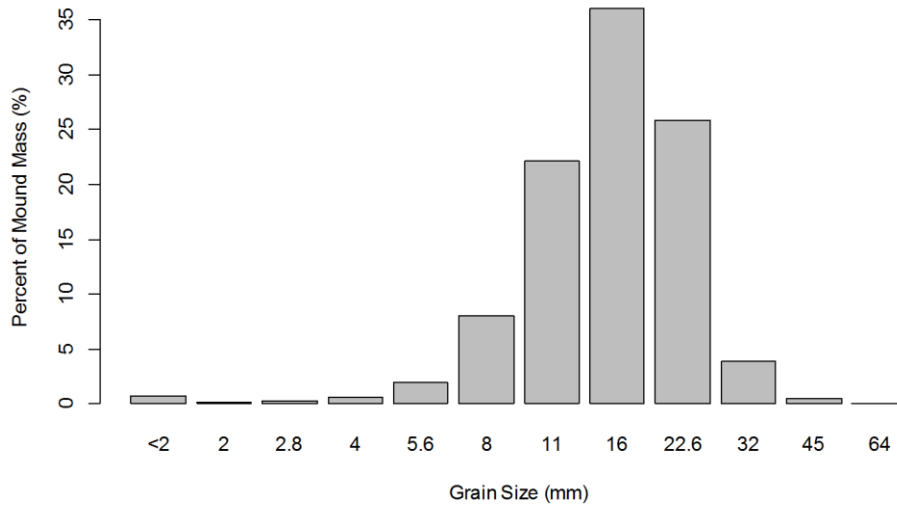
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80 Figure 1-11. Relative probability for Hornyhead Chub spawning microhabitat  
 81 characteristics in the Lower East Fork Black River downstream of Taum Sauk Reservoir  
 82 (A) and all streams combined (Lower East Fork Black River, West Fork Black River and  
 83 Big Creek) (B). The shaded gray area and error bars for velocity shelter represent the 95<sup>th</sup>  
 84 percentile error for relative probability.



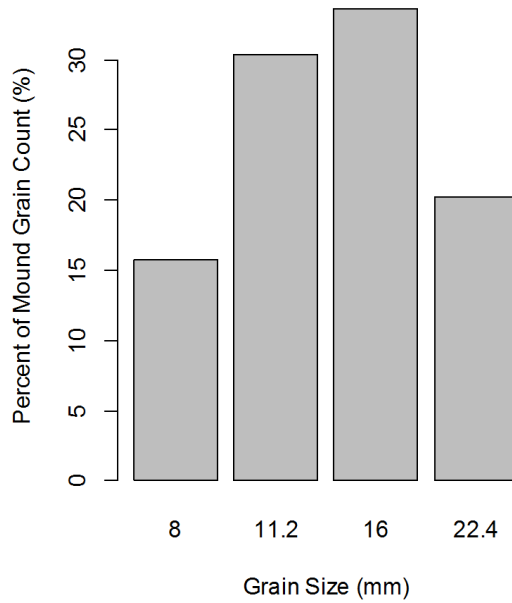
85 Figure 1-12. Substrate size composition averaged from six randomly selected Hornyhead  
 86 Chub spawning mounds collected in 2017 from the Lower East Fork Black River,  
 87 Missouri.

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92 Figure 1-13. Seven spawning mounds collected in 2017 and substrate was separated into  
 93 size groups using sieves, and weighed by group. Within each group, 20 particles were  
 94 randomly selected and weighed to estimate the number of particles within each group.  
 95 Based on gape size, it is assumed that Hornyhead Chubs can collect substrate between 8  
 96 and 32 millimeters in diameter; therefore, we distributed four substrate size groups to  
 97 identify what substrate grain size is potentially of most importance to the construction of  
 98 Hornyhead Chub Spawning mounds.

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110 **CHAPTER TWO**

111  
112 **Fish Communities of Riffle-Run Habitat in the East Fork Black River, Missouri**

113  
114 John D. Brant and Craig P. Paukert

115  
116 **Abstract**

117 Fish communities are frequently driven by habitat characteristics and niches that  
118 are created by physical features in freshwater streams. However, dams often influence  
119 downstream habitat including substrate size distribution, the presence of woody debris,  
120 water temperature, and dissolved oxygen. Due to the high variation in streams that are not  
121 dammed, it is often difficult to isolate individual habitat characteristics that limit fish  
122 diversity and life history downstream of dams. Therefore, determining what management  
123 actions can improve available habitat can be challenging. To determine influential habitat  
124 characteristics in a substrate-altered stream, we sampled fish communities at 14 riffle-run  
125 habitats (separated by pools > 1 m depth with low velocities) and measured habitat  
126 characteristics within 6.4 km downstream of Taum Sauk Reservoir in the Lower East  
127 Fork Black River of Missouri. Fish were sampled using backpack electrofishing, and  
128 prepositioned grid electrofishing in riffle-run habitats from August to October of 2017  
129 and 2018. Measured habitat characteristics included reach area, water depth, wetted  
130 width, substrate size, canopy cover, water surface gradient, and distance downstream  
131 from Taum Sauk Dam. Hill number diversity indices were used to describe the diversity  
132 fish in three different groups: the overall fish community, fishes sampled with  
133 prepositioned electrofishing grids, and Hornyhead Chub *Nocomis biguttatus* (hereafter  
134 “HHC”) and spawning associates. We used generalized linear models in a Bayesian

135 framework to determine which habitat characteristics were most influential to diversity in  
136 our three groups of fish. Increased reach area, smaller substrate sizes, and increased  
137 distance from Taum Sauk Dam were related to an increase in the overall fish community  
138 diversity. Fishes sampled with proportioned electrofishing grids were most influenced  
139 by depth, and HHC spawning associated species diversity was influenced by area and  
140 substrate size distribution. Presence of increased small substrate was related to greater  
141 fish diversity in multiple groups suggesting that substrate size is a limiting fish diversity  
142 in the East Fork Black River downstream of Taum Sauk Reservoir. Therefore, addition of  
143 substrate downstream of Taum Sauk Reservoir may create more heterogeneous habitat  
144 and increase fish diversity.

145

## 146 **Introduction**

147         Freshwater streams are highly dynamic ecosystems that are influenced by internal  
148 and external environmental factors including precipitation, geomorphology, and  
149 surrounding land cover and vegetation along with additional factors (Allan 2004). As  
150 water flows downstream, it continuously transports substrate, nutrients, and organisms  
151 (Vanotte et al., 1980), shaping landscapes through erosion and deposition allowing  
152 streams to meander but stay within dynamic equilibrium (Vanotte et al., 1980). Aquatic  
153 and terrestrial species biologically compete and sometimes even alter the habitat of  
154 streams by moving structure and influencing ecosystem processes (Vanotte et al., 1980).  
155 On a short time scale (e.g. one or two years), these changes are miniscule, but over  
156 extensive lengths of time, streams may have shifts in habitat characteristics leading to a  
157 change in aquatic biota (Rahel 2010).

158 Streams and aquatic organisms have been heavily influenced and degraded  
159 through anthropogenic activity at multiple scales (Allan 2004; Dudgeon et al. 2006).  
160 Humanity has influenced streams through changes in land use, introducing and  
161 eradicating species, and creating barriers that isolate imperiled ecosystems (Wang et al.  
162 2001; Dudgeon et al. 2006; Wohl 2006). Streams continue to develop and change as they  
163 grow into larger bodies of water, but dams hinder this process and influence the change  
164 that naturally occurs (Ward and Stanford 1983). Dams cause shifts in aquatic  
165 communities not only through separating populations but by influencing habitat through  
166 shifts in temperature and flow regimes, restricting the amount of woody debris flowing  
167 downstream, and stopping substrate movement (Ward and Stanford 1983; Kondolf 1997;  
168 Allan 2004).

169 All dams trap substrate to some degree, alter stream bed movement, and interrupt  
170 the continuity of substrate transport (Kondolf 1997). Streams below reservoirs are often  
171 referred to as “hungry water” because the substrate load is low, and excess energy  
172 typically moves substrate from the stream bed below the reservoir until equilibrium is  
173 met where no more of the stream bed can be moved or the banks have eroded (Kondolf  
174 1997). Streams below impoundments have a change in bedload, and the available habitat  
175 becomes more homogeneous (Kondolf 1997). Therefore, fishes that require specific  
176 substrate sizes to meet their life history requirements may be affected by dams and  
177 segmented streams (Ellis and Jones 2013; McManamay et al. 2015). Longitudinally, a  
178 change in substrate size and distribution is often observed (Ward and Stanford 1983), and  
179 as the distance from the dam increases, streams regain diverse habitat and aquatic  
180 communities (Ward and Stanford 1983).

181 Fish community diversity is strongly driven by habitat complexity because many  
182 species fill niches within specific habitat types (Gorman and Karr 1978). Aquatic  
183 organisms depend on variation in habitat parameters including substrate, presence of  
184 secondary channels, temperature regime, size of area, and available cover for protection,  
185 foraging, and spawning (Gorman and Karr 1978; Johnston and Page 1992; Peterson and  
186 Rabeni 2001; Merz and Chan 2005; Kondolf et al. 2008; Zueg et al 2014). In particular,  
187 substrate size is a critical component for lotic fishes which many species depending upon  
188 for spawning and foraging (Berkman and Rabeni 1987). Without specific substrate  
189 requirements met, populations frequently decrease in numbers or become extirpated  
190 (Berkman and Rabeni 1987).

191 Benthic and lithophilic spawning fishes, which are common in the Ozark streams,  
192 are dependent substrate size, distribution, and embeddedness to meet their life history  
193 requirements (Smith and Kraft 2005; Wisenden et al. 2009, Manny et al. 2015).  
194 Longitudinal shifts in biotic communities and physical habitat changes have been  
195 documented in multiple streams, but the distance at which diversity increases is  
196 dependent on multiple factors including but not limited to watershed size, flow release  
197 from impoundments, and gradient (Bunn and Arthington 2002; Ellis and Jones 2014).  
198 Within the East Fork Black River downstream of Taum Sauk Reservoir, we are uncertain  
199 at what distance from the dam the fish diversity and habitat return to a state they may  
200 sustain in the absence of the dam. Our objective was to determine what habitat  
201 characteristics are related to fish diversity within riffle-run habitat of the East Fork Black  
202 River downstream of Taum Sauk Reservoir dam and recommend management actions to

203 reduce the influence of the dam. Our hypothesis is that fish diversity will increase with  
204 distance from Taum Sauk reservoir and substrate size distribution.

205

## 206 **Methods**

### 207 Study Site

208 This study was conducted on the East Fork of the Black River (EFBR), a fifth  
209 order stream that flows 32 km from the St Francis Mountains within the Ozark Highlands  
210 of Missouri (Figure 2-1). Streams of Ozark Highlands are typically pristine, have low  
211 turbidity, carry small loads of silt, have high gradient, and hold high biodiversity. The  
212 watershed of the EFBR covers 246 km<sup>2</sup> and the land use is primarily forest and  
213 woodlands with a small amount of grasslands in river bottoms along with glade  
214 complexes occurring throughout the St. Francis Mountains (Cieslewicz 2004). The  
215 EFBR flows into the Black River, a seventh order Ozark stream and continues through  
216 the Ozark Highlands and Mississippi Lowlands of Missouri and Arkansas before joining  
217 the White River of the Mississippi River drainage.

218 Taum Sauk Reservoir on the EFBR and Clearwater Reservoir on the main stem of  
219 the Black River occurring 25 km downstream of the EFBR confluence are the only  
220 impoundments in the Missouri portion. Taum Sauk Reservoir is located immediately  
221 upstream of our study area on the EFBR and is operated as a pump storage facility  
222 constructed in 1963 and operated by Ameren Missouri Electric Company. An upper  
223 reservoir, 230 m higher in elevation, stores water to generate electricity. Outflow of  
224 Lower Taum Sauk Reservoir is intended to match the inflow from the Upper East Fork  
225 Black River (UEFBR) and Taum Sauk Creek, but outflow does not achieve the rate of

226 variation in flow or temperature of inflowing water (Cieslewicz 2004). A small dam  
227 upstream of the Lower Taum Sauk Reservoir creates a gravel bin trap (Figure 1-2) to  
228 prevent coarse sediment from entering the reservoir and reducing storage capacity. The  
229 coarse sediment trap has an approximate capacity of 23,000 cubic meters and emptied  
230 every eight to ten years (Cieslewicz 2004). Lower Taum Sauk Reservoir creates a break  
231 in bedload transport and has led to a decrease of available small substrate in the EFBR  
232 downstream of the dam (Chapter 1: Figure 1-3; Lobb 2016; Figure 1-4).

233           The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and Missouri Department of  
234 Natural Resources (DNR) have monitored the EFBR since a dam failure upstream of the  
235 Lower Taum Sauk Reservoir causing a catastrophic flow event 2005. This anthropogenic  
236 caused event resulted in large amounts of terrestrial and aquatic habitat damage upstream  
237 of Taum Sauk Reservoir (Combes and Dunnaway 2009). Immediately following the  
238 event, increased amounts of fine sediment were deposited in the LEFBR, but the fine  
239 substrate shifted downstream by 2007 returning the river to a similar state prior to the  
240 flood event in 2005 (Combes and Dunnaway 2009). The Missouri DNR and MDC have  
241 monitored the EFBR for water quality, instream habitat, substrate size and distribution,  
242 aquatic invertebrate communities, and fish communities to maintain licensing for Ameren  
243 through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

244           The EFBR hosts a similar fish community to other south flowing Ozark Highland  
245 streams. Many of these fishes require silt free gravel, low turbidity, and higher velocity  
246 habitat. In relation to habitat requirements, many species of Ozark Streams are believed  
247 to be site feeders (Pflieger 1997). Following the flood event of 2005, MDC conducted

248 sampling for two years in all habitats leading to a collection of 57 species collected  
249 downstream of Taum Sauk Reservoir (Combes and Cunnaway 2009).

250 In chapter one, the HHC spawning habitat requirements were studied to  
251 understand habitat characteristic limitations for this species. This was done to understand  
252 if (or how) the lack of substrate in the LEFBR may affect HHC and affiliated nest  
253 associated species. In this chapter, our objective was to determine what habitat  
254 characteristics influence fish communities within riffle-run habitats of the East Fork  
255 Black River.

256

#### 257 Sampling Methods

258 We sampled fishes in a 6.4 km stretch of the East Fork Black River downstream  
259 of Taum Sauk Reservoir in 14 riffle-run mesohabitats from late August through early  
260 October in 2017 and 2018. Reach boundaries were defined by large pools greater than  
261 one meter deep separating high velocity habitat. The fast flowing, or riffle- run, habitats  
262 were identified by canoeing the 6.4 km stretch three times in March and April 2017. Fish  
263 sampling occurred when water temperatures were 24 to 21 C (in 2017) and 27 to 25 C (in  
264 2018). Most fish were identified and immediately released once sampling of a reach was  
265 complete, but as needed, formalin was used as a preservation agent to transfer and  
266 identify fish in a lab setting.

267 Electrofishing prepositioned grids were used to sample fish on or near the stream  
268 bed using benthic habitat. These grids were constructed using one-inch PVC pipe, aircraft  
269 cable for the cathode and anode, and 7.6 meters of cable to connect the grid to the

270 electrofishing control box (Figure 2-2). Between 5 and 20 grid samples of two square  
271 meters were collected at each reach in proportion to the area size (Table 2-1).  
272 Electrofishing grid sampling was limited to habitat with flowing water less than 0.5 m  
273 deep because fish immobilization was inconsistent at greater depths. Alternating Current  
274 (AC) was used for prepositioned grid electrofishing to prevent collection of specimens  
275 from outside of the grid due to fish taxis associated with Direct Current (DC) (Fisher and  
276 Kessler 1987; Weddle and Kessler 1993). The depth and electric current restrictions  
277 were determined in a preliminary experiment to minimize fish mortality and maximize  
278 immobilization for all sized fish.

279         The protocol followed for sampling using prepositioned electrofishing grids  
280 consisted of placing grids at randomly selected points within the area of a reach and  
281 collecting habitat measurements at the location of each individual grid. Habitat  
282 characteristics measured were depth, velocity, 10 substrate particles were measured using  
283 a metal cross (Chapter 1; Figure 1-6) at two locations in the grid, canopy cover using a  
284 concave forestry densiometer, wetted width, and distance to the nearest bank (Table 2-2).  
285 Following habitat measurements, the grids were left undisturbed for twenty minutes to  
286 allow fish to return. Grids were individually connected to the control box to provide  
287 constant AC at 80 watts. One person controlled the electrofishing control box while  
288 another individual quickly positioned them self at the downstream end of the grid  
289 spreading a 1.8 m high and 1.8 m wide beach seine with 3.2 mm mesh to catch fish  
290 drifting downstream while immobilized. A third individual used a dip net to catch fish  
291 that were drifting away from the seined and collected fish that were trapped on the stream  
292 bed. Once all fish were collected from the two square meter area, the electricity was



293 turned off, and fish were identified to the species and total length measurements were  
294 collected. Prepositioned electrofishing grids were only used at 14 reaches due to low flow  
295 levels, and the three reaches not sampled did not have habitat less 0.5 meters deep and  
296 velocity fast enough to carry immobilized fish into the seine.

297 Backpack electrofishing was conducted using two Midwest Lake Electrofishing  
298 Systems (MLES) XStream units. As recommended by Rabeni et al. (2009), settings used  
299 included 60 Hz pulsed DC with a duty cycle of 15% and a voltage of 220-280 to achieve  
300 current of 2-5 amps. Voltage started at 220 for all sites, but if current did not stay  
301 between 2-5 amps, voltage was adjusted (Rabeni et al. 2009). Two individuals operated  
302 backpacks and nets while a third crew member assisted in netting fish. The crew started  
303 at the downstream end of each mesohabitat and worked their way upstream while  
304 electrofishing. Once a mesohabitat was sampled, fish were identified to the species and  
305 total length measurements were recorded before fish were released or preserved for  
306 reference specimens. Water conductivity was measured and voltage settings were  
307 adjusted based on standard protocol for backpack electrofishing (Rabeni et al. 2009).  
308 Capture per unit effort (CPUE) was measured by the number of fish collected in the time  
309 that the electrofishing backpacks were operated. To test our detection of species with our  
310 selected gear, seining was conducted in 2018 to confirm that species in deeper runs were  
311 not being missed by only using backpack and prepositioned electrofishing. No additional  
312 species were sampled only by using a beach seine in 2018. The seining effort was not  
313 standard across all reaches because of habitat limitations, and therefore, fishes collected  
314 while seining were not included in the data analysis.

315

316 Habitat characteristics were measured and used to describe reach scale habitat at a  
317 different spatial scale from the individual grid locations included depth, canopy cover,  
318 wetted width, and surface gradient. As described in the first chapter, depth (m), canopy  
319 cover (% cover), wetted width (m), and substrate size (mm) were measured at 20 to 120  
320 random points in relation to water surface area of the corresponding reach (Table 2-2,  
321 Table 2-1), and the mean value of metrics measured at the random points was used to  
322 summarize habitat. Stream surface gradient (slope) was measured at the reach scale using  
323 a self-leveling laser and stadia rod for elevation changes and the thalweg length for  
324 distance.

325 A flow meter staff with was used to measure stream depth, a tape measure and  
326 Sonin<sup>®</sup> electronic distance measuring tool were used to measure wetted width. Canopy  
327 cover was estimated using a spherical concave densiometer (Lemmon 1956), a metal  
328 cross of a 60 x 60 cm was used to select five substrate particles (Figure 1-6; Litvan et al.  
329 2010). The first piece of substrate touched when a finger is placed at each indicated point  
330 was measured on the intermediate axis. Substrate distribution was calculated by creating  
331 a cumulative substrate size distribution plot (example in Figure 1-3) and taking the  
332 integral to determine area beneath the distribution curve. A larger value indicates more  
333 small particles. Distance from Taum Sauk Reservoir was measured using GIS software  
334 and stream distance.

335

336

337

338 Data analysis:

339 We used Hill numbers, the effective number of species (Montoya-Ospina et al.  
340 2020), as diversity indices to compare fish communities across reaches in the Lower East  
341 Fork Black River, and values were calculated separately for three groups of fishes: the  
342 overall fish community sampled using backpack electrofishing, HHC spawning  
343 associates (Striped Shiners *Luxilus chrysocephalus*, Bleeding Shiners *L. zonatus*, Ozark  
344 Minnows *Notropis nubilus*, and Carmine Shiners *N. percobromus*) sampled with  
345 backpack electrofishing, and the benthic fish community sampled with prepositioned grid  
346 electrofishing. Hill numbers are the effective number of species or as species equivalents  
347 since their values represent the minimum number of equally distributed species to meet  
348 the same level of diversity (Chao et al., 2014). The response variable,  $D$ , is the minimum  
349 number of species that meets the same level of diversity based on the order  $q$ .  $S$  is the  
350 number of species in the assemblage being evaluated, and  $p$  is the relative abundance for  
351 the number of species included. The order of  $q$  determines the sensitivity to species  
352 relative abundance.

353 
$${}^qD = \left( \sum_{i=1}^S p_i^q \right)^{1/(1-q)}$$

354

355 When  $q = 0$  the response,  $D$ , is equivalent to species richness being sensitive to  
356 rare species. The order  $q = 1$  weighs species by their proportions without favoring  
357 common or rare species. The response can be interpreted as an effective number of  
358 typical species and is mathematically equivalent to the exponential of Shannon entropy

359 (Chao et al., 2014). Therefore, subsequent notation will be based on the emphasis of the  
360 estimate:  $D_{\text{rare weighted}}$  species will represent  ${}^0D$ , diversity weighted for rare speices, and  ${}^1D$   
361 will be represented by  $D_{\text{equal weighted}}$ , diversity weighted equally.

362 Hill numbers for  $D_{\text{rare weighted}}$ , and  $D_{\text{equal weighted}}$ , were used as response variables in  
363 generalized linear models (GLM) with habitat characteristics as the covariates in a  
364 Bayesian framework with uninformative priors. Models run with  $D_{\text{rare weighted}}$  as the  
365 response variable will be referred to as the rare species model, and models with  $D_{\text{equal}}$   
366  $\text{weighted}$  as the response variable as the equal diversity model.  $D_{\text{rare weighted}}$  and  $D_{\text{equal weighted}}$   
367 variables were calculated for the overall community, HHC spawning associates, and the  
368 fish sampled using prepositioned electrofishing grids. For the overall community and  
369 HHC spawning associates, the Hill number values were calculated at the reach scale.  
370 Diversity values calculated with samples collected using prepositioned grids combined  
371 the data from all grids within a reach, and the number of grids sampled was proportional  
372 to the reach size.

373 All statistical models used mean depth, mean wetted width, mean canopy cover,  
374 water surface gradient, water surface area, substrate size distribution, and distance from  
375 the Taum Sauk Reservoir Dam as covariates (Table 2-3). The 50<sup>th</sup> percentil ( $D_{50}$ ) was  
376 used to represent substrate size for the reaches. Rare species models were run for the  
377 overall fish community, HHC spawning associates, and fishes sampled with  
378 propositioned electrofishing grids. If the 95 percent credible interval did not include 0, or  
379 nearly did not, the habitat characteristics was defined as influential.

380

381 **Results**

382 On the LEFBR, 19 riffle-run habitats were identified as study reaches in the main  
383 channel. Of these 19 reaches, 14 were sampled for fish were sampled using backpack  
384 electrofishing and prepositioned electrofishing grids as previously described, and two  
385 side-channel habitats were sampled with backpack electrofishing. We collected a total of  
386 24,015 fish of 45 species using multiple sampling gears in 2017 and 2018 combined. In  
387 2017 and 2018, 41 species were sampled, but not all species were sampled both years  
388 (Appendix 2). Bleeding Shiner, Longear Sunfish *Lepomis megalotis*, Largescale  
389 Stoneroller *Campostoma oligolepis*, and Rainbow Darter *Etheostoma caeruleum*, were  
390 the dominant species sampled in riffle-run reaches of the LEFBR making up 78% of the  
391 fishes sampled in 2017 and 53% in 2018 (Appendix 2; Appendix 3; Appendix 4).

392

393 Habitat Characteristics

394 Habitat characteristics were measured at the 14 riffle-run study reaches and the  
395 two side-channels that remained connected to the main channel throughout the study  
396 (Figure 2-3). The 14 reaches on the main channel were included in our analysis, but we  
397 excluded the two side-channel reaches from further analysis because they included pool  
398 habitat at the time when fish were sampled. Reach area was highly variable across all 14  
399 reaches with a mean of  $3000 \pm 2000 \text{ m}^2$  ( $\pm$  standard deviation) and a range of  $600 \text{ m}^2$  to  
400  $6800 \text{ m}^2$ . The largest median substrate size was 255 mm at reach 12, 2.7 km downstream  
401 of the dam, and the reach median substrate sizes ranged from 11 mm to 440 mm with a  
402 standard deviation of 58 mm. Wetted width was variable across all reaches with a mean  
403 value of  $15 \pm 4.5 \text{ m}$ . Reach 14 had the greatest mean depth of 0.38 m, but across all

404 reaches, depth was similar ( mean =  $0.24 \pm 0.12$  m). Reach 16 had the highest gradient of  
405 1.28 %, and the mean value for all reaches was  $0.48 \pm 0.28$  %. As described in Chapter 1,  
406 gradient and substrate size distribution were more strongly correlated in additional  
407 studied streams of the same region (i.e., West Fork Black River, Upper East Fork Black  
408 River, and Big Creek) that are not considered substrate-altered in comparison to the  
409 LERBF (Figure 1-7). Canopy cover percentage varied from 7 to 59% and a mean value of  
410  $25 \pm 10$  % for the LEFBR.

411

#### 412 Overall Fish Community

413 The mean value of  $D_{\text{rare weighted}}$  across all 14 reaches for the overall fish  
414 community was 22.3 (range: 11, 32) (Table 2-4) and increased with reach area and  
415 smaller substrate size for both 2017 and 2018 (Figure 2-4). For  $D_{\text{equal weighted}}$  in 2018,  
416 diversity increased with increased substrate distribution, reach area, and a decrease in the  
417 distance from the Lower Taum Sauk Reservoir Dam (Figure 2-4). However, these  
418 patterns for  $D_{\text{equal weighted}}$  were not evident in 2017.

419

#### 420 Fishes sampled with propositioned electrofishing grids

421 In August and September of 2017 and 2018, 29 fish species were sampled using  
422 propositioned electrofishing grids at 14 reaches. The mean value of  $D_{\text{rare weighted}}$  across all  
423 reaches for fishes sampled with propositioned electrofishing grids was of 3.7 (range 2.3  
424 to 6.3) (Table 2-5).

425 In 2017, Hill Numbers  $D_{\text{rare weighted}}$  and  $D_{\text{equal weighted}}$  were not related to mean  
426 depth, mean wetted width, canopy cover, reach gradient, reach area, substrate  
427 distribution, and distance from Taum Sauk Dam (Figure 2-5). However,  $D_{\text{rare weighted}}$  and  
428  $D_{\text{equal weighted}}$  diversity values in 2018 increased with a decrease in mean depth at the reach  
429 scale (Figure 2-5). Darters, particularly those of the genus *Etheostoma*, made up 32%  
430 and 44% of fishes sampled using prepositioned electrofishing grids in 2017 and 2018,  
431 respectively. Rainbow Darters were sampled in all reaches making up 25% and 39% of  
432 fish sampled using prepositioned electrofishing grids in 2017 and 2018, respectively.

433

#### 434 Hornyhead Chub Spawning Associates

435 In 2017 and 2018, HHC and four associated nest species (Striped Shiner,  
436 Bleeding Shiner, Ozark Minnow, and Carmine Shiner) were sampled in the Lower East  
437 Fork Black River. In 2017, all five nest associated species were sampled together at  
438 reach 11, 2.43 km downstream of Taum Sauk Reservoir, where 10 HHC spawning  
439 mounds were located, but in 2018, all five associated species, including HHCs, were not  
440 sampled together at any reach. Bleeding Shiners were sampled at 13 of 14 reaches being  
441 absent at the reach immediately downstream of the dam (50 m), and Striped Shiners were  
442 found at 12 of 14 sampled reaches. Ozark Minnows were sampled at 12 of 14 reaches,  
443 and their highest abundance occurred within the reach 11, where HHC spawning mounds  
444 were located (see Chapter 1). Carmine Shiners were the least sampled of the four  
445 associated spawning species; in 2017 they were sampled at four out of 14 reaches  
446 followed by only one individual sampled in 2018.

447 The number of HHC nest associated species,  $D_{\text{rare weighted}}$ , sampled in 2017  
448 increased with distance from the dam, whereas in 2018,  $D_{\text{rare weighted}}$  values increased with  
449 the availability of small substrate, and increased area of sampled reaches (Table 2-6;  
450 Figure 2-6). For  $D_{\text{equal weighted}}$  values, increased distance from Taum Sauk Reservoir led to  
451 increased affiliated spawning fishes diversity in 2017, and in 2018, increased amounts of  
452 small substrate and reach area led to higher HHC spawning affiliated fishes diversity  
453 (Figure 2-6).

454

## 455 **Discussion**

### 456 Overall Fish Community

457 Our results found that rare species weighted diversity ( ${}^0D$  or  $D_{\text{rare weighted}}$ ) in riffle-  
458 run reaches of the LEFBR was related the reach area, substrate size distribution, and the  
459 distance to the Lower Taum Sauk Reservoir Dam. Larger reach areas increase the  
460 probability of habitat heterogeneity by providing more niches for species to occupy  
461 (Schlosser 1999; Nogués-Bravo and Araújo 2006) and the same pattern may be occurring  
462 in the LEFBR. The other habitat characteristic influential in both 2017 and 2018 was  
463 substrate size. Increased fine substrate in fast flowing habitat led to a decrease in fish  
464 diversity likely caused by filling interstitial spaces and creating homogenous habitat  
465 (Casatti et al., 2006). However, our results are contrary of what was found by Casatti et  
466 al. (2006), likely because the LEFBR is described as a substrate-altered stream, and an  
467 increase of relatively small substrate includes gravel of various sizes potentially  
468 providing increased heterogeneous spawning habitat. The pattern of substrate-altered  
469 streams frequently creates homogenous habitat of larger substrate (Kondolf 1997)



470 possibly leading to a decrease in species richness in our study. Decreased distances to the  
471 dam on the East Fork Black River increased equally weighted species richness contrary  
472 to other studies that have shown diversity increases with increased distances from dams  
473 (Stanford and Ward 2001; Ellis and Jones 2014). However, these studies typically  
474 represent large river reaches below dams. Study reach was a maximum of 5.6 km from  
475 the dam and thus represented a relatively small spatial scale, which may have led to the  
476 different conclusions than that of Ward and Stanford (2001) and Ellis and Jones (2014).

477         Both species diversity indices (rare and equally weighted) in riffle-run habits were  
478 not related to depth, gradient, wetted width, and canopy cover in both sampling years.  
479 Mean depth was not related to the overall species diversity in the LEFBR, but multiple  
480 studies have found contrasting results that depth was related to fish communities and  
481 habitat selection (Pavlov 1989; Lobb and Orth 1991; Lamouroux et al. 1999; Senay et al.  
482 2017. The exclusion of pools led to a narrow range of reach mean depth values in riffle  
483 run habitats ( $\bar{x} = 0.24$  m;  $SD = 0.08$ ; range 0.12 – 0.38,  $n = 14$ ) which likely lead us to be  
484 believe that mean depth is not a limiting primary habitat characteristic on the LEFBR  
485 when focused on riffle run habitat. Although gradient, which we used as a surrogate for  
486 water velocity (Yochum et al. 2012), can be influential on fish habitat selection (Facey  
487 and Grossman 1992; Peoples et al. 2014), our study found that surface gradient for the  
488 riffle run habitats was not related to fish diversity in the LEFBR.

489

490

491

492 Fishes sampled with propositioned electrofishing grids

493           Species diversity of fishes sampled with prepositioned grids weighted for  
494 increased with shallower mean depths at the reach scale in samples from 2018 for both  
495 used indices, increase in  $D_{\text{rare weighted}}$  and  $D_{\text{equal weighted}}$ , but no relationships were found  
496 between species diversity and measured habitat characteristics in 2017. Darters made up  
497 a large portion of the fish sampled using prepositioned electrofishing grids and was  
498 potentially related to the relatively low diversity of fishes sampled with this method.  
499 *Etheostoma sp.* are abundant in riffle and run stream habitat with heterogeneous substrate  
500 that provides interstitial spaces for protection from high water velocity, protection from  
501 predators, and preferred prey (Kessler et al., 1995). Rainbow Darters, a generalist species  
502 (Pflieger 1997), were sampled in all reaches making up 25% and 39% of fish sampled  
503 using prepositioned electrofishing grids in 2017 and 2018, respectively. At the reach  
504 scale, depth and gradient were correlated ( $r = -0.732$ ) indicating that shallower riffle-run  
505 habitat frequently often has a higher water velocity. However, our measurement of  
506 gradient was based on only two points: the defined upstream and downstream locations  
507 of each reach and thus does not account for variation of gradient within the riffle-run  
508 habitat. Without taking elevation changes at more points throughout the length of  
509 reaches, velocity variation may not be accurately represented. For future studies,  
510 variation of gradient at the reach scale may be captured by taking multiple elevation  
511 measurements within a reach.

512

513

514 Hornyhead Chub and Associated Spawning Fishes

515           The most abundant of Hornyhead Chub associated spawning fishes was the  
516 Bleeding Shiner and was present at all reaches except for the first reach 50 m  
517 downstream of the dam, where neither Hornyhead Chubs nor any associated spawning  
518 species were sampled. Bleeding Shiners are abundant in midsize streams (Pflieger 1997)  
519 suggesting that they may be a generalist species. Striped Shiners prefer habitat with  
520 slower flowing water (Pflieger 1997), suggesting that they may be less abundant in the  
521 studied riffle-run reaches. Therefore, Bleeding Shiners and Striped Shiners may not be  
522 the best indicator of quality spawning habitat for lithophilic spawning fishes, but species  
523 such as Ozark Minnows and Carmine Shiners may be more particular in spawning habitat  
524 selection because they frequently do not occur at as high of densities as Bleeding Shiners,  
525 and they are well distributed in mid-sized streams in the Ozarks (Pflieger 1997) such as  
526 the LEFBR. Understanding the importance of lithophilic spawning fishes preferred  
527 habitat is of interested because of their potential decrease of abundance in substrate-  
528 altered streams (Chapter 1).

529           Hornyhead Chub nest associated species  $D_{\text{rare weighted}}$  and  $D_{\text{equal weighted}}$  values  
530 increased in 2017 with distance from Taum Sauk dam, whereas in 2018, an increase of  
531 both diversity values was related to larger reach area and increased substrate size  
532 distribution. The different influential habitat characteristics for 2017 and 2018 is difficult  
533 to explain because the composition of fish communities highly varies on a regular basis  
534 in midsized streams (Grossman and Sabo 2010), and even different sampling crew  
535 members (which occurred in our study) may influence sampling (Hardin and Connor  
536 1992). As previously discussed about the overall fish community, reach area may create

537 habitat diversity and leading to an increase in fish diversity (Schlosser 1999; Nogués-  
538 Bravo and Araújo 2006) which was observed among HHC spawning associates in 2018.

539 Substrate may be a limiting habitat characteristic for these lithophilic spawning  
540 fishes that are dependent on substrate size, flowing water, and protection from predation  
541 for successful recruitment and presence (Gorman 1988; Lobb and Orth 1991; Mueller et  
542 al. 2014). As discussed in Chapter 1, gradient and substrate size were correlated in non-  
543 substrate-altered streams suggesting gradient may have a stronger relationship to HHC  
544 and associated fishes diversity than our analysis suggests. With this conclusion, substrate  
545 may be a limiting habitat characteristic in the LEFBR, but in non-substrate limited  
546 streams, habitat for HHCs and associated spawning fishes may be limited by the depth  
547 and gradient.

548

## 549 **Conclusions and Management Recommendations**

550 Our results showed that fish community diversity in riffle-run habitats of the  
551 Lower East Fork Black River were related to increase substrate size distribution and  
552 larger reach area. Because substrate was correlated with gradient in non- substrate-altered  
553 streams, we could not discern if species diversity was linked more to gradient or  
554 substrate. Nonetheless, our results suggest at least one of these variables is important in  
555 fish species diversity. Further research with more detailed gradient measures may be  
556 useful to tease out these patterns. Adding substrate of the same sizes related to HHC  
557 spawning mounds (8 mm to 23 mm; Figure 1-12 and Figure 1-13) to the stream may help  
558 minimize the limiting factor of substrate distribution.

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666 **Tables & Figures**

667 Table 2-1. Habitat characteristics summary for reaches sampled downstream from Taum Sauk Dam in the East Fork Black River,  
 668 Missouri during 2017 and 2018. Reaches were defined by riffle-run habitat separated by large pools greater than one meter deep,  
 669 therefore areas ranged in size. Number of habitat points and electrofishing grids sampled were dependent on reach area. NA represents  
 670 that prepositioned electrofishing grids were not used as a sampling method because appropriate habitat was not available for effective  
 671 sampling. Median substrate size, mean ( $\pm$  1 SD) depth, wetted width, and canopy cover are reported.

Reach	Distance From Dam (km)	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Habitat Points	Electrofishing Grids	Median Substrate (mm)	Mean Depth (m)	Mean Wetted Width (m)	Mean Canopy Cover (%)	Gradient (%)
1	0.05	620	20	5	90	0.36 $\pm$ 0.26	16 $\pm$ 2	13 $\pm$ 15	0.17
2	0.22	4550	83	14	22.6	0.32 $\pm$ 0.26	17 $\pm$ 9	15 $\pm$ 18	0.78
3	0.55	1160	20	6	45	0.32 $\pm$ 0.18	11 $\pm$ 4	35 $\pm$ 18	0.29
5	0.96	1870	333	7	45	0.22 $\pm$ 0.20	15 $\pm$ 8	34 $\pm$ 20	0.63
6	1.26	1930	35	7	32	0.19 $\pm$ 0.21	13 $\pm$ 6	34 $\pm$ 23	0.42
7	1.43	1100	19	5	38.5	0.15 $\pm$ 0.15	16 $\pm$ 2	18 $\pm$ 10	0.22
8	1.61	6840	120	20	22.6	0.24 $\pm$ 0.24	11 $\pm$ 4	17 $\pm$ 21	0.52
10	2.09	3170	57	10	32	0.23 $\pm$ 0.15	12 $\pm$ 6	32 $\pm$ 27	0.55
10.5	2.05	2140	38	NA	11	0.32 $\pm$ 1.28	11 $\pm$ 5	59 $\pm$ 26	0.58
11	2.43	3670	66	12	32	0.17 $\pm$ 0.10	9 $\pm$ 2	26 $\pm$ 28	0.32
11.5	2.09	4770	87	NA	22.6	0.31 $\pm$ 0.24	9 $\pm$ 4	39 $\pm$ 22	0.35
12	2.77	6550	120	19	440	0.17 $\pm$ 0.14	13 $\pm$ 3	26 $\pm$ 21	0.62
13	3.31	2750	49	9	90	0.15 $\pm$ 0.12	21 $\pm$ 3	32 $\pm$ 20	0.30
14	3.98	2440	44	9	32	0.38 $\pm$ 0.23	15 $\pm$ 5	7 $\pm$ 13	0.32
16	4.53	940	16	5	45	0.12 $\pm$ 0.13	27 $\pm$ 2	46 $\pm$ 17	1.28
18	4.96	2450	44	NA	45	0.23 $\pm$ 0.18	21 $\pm$ 2	37 $\pm$ 23	0.48
20	5.63	4680	85	14	32	0.24 $\pm$ 0.16	15 $\pm$ 6	21 $\pm$ 24	0.35

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672



673 Table 2-2. Habitat characteristics, abbreviations, and descriptions for variables included  
 674 in generalized linear models describing habitat preferences for fish diversity in riffle run  
 675 habitat reaches of the East Fork Black River, Missouri.

Parameter	Description
DEP	Mean water depth (m) measured at random points within each reach
WW	Mean of wetted widths (m) measured at random points within a given
SUB	Median value ( $D_{50}$ ) of sampled substrate particles
DIST	The distance from the upstream boundary of the reach to the Lower Taum Sauk Reservoir Dam (m)
AREA	The area of the riffle run habitat reach ( $m^2$ )
GRAD	Gradient measured for the given reach using the water surface elevation change and thalweg distance (m/m, %)
CC	The mean percent of canopy cover measured with a forestry densiometer (%)

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692 Table 2-3. Generalized Linear Models used to predict how species richness focused on  
 693 rare species ( ${}^0D$  or  $D_{\text{rare weighted}}$ ) or weighted equally among species ( ${}^1D$  or  $D_{\text{equal weighted}}$ )  
 694 for each fish community types were related to influential habitat characteristics Lower  
 695 East Fork Black River, Missouri. Abbreviations and descriptions for variables are  
 696 provided in Table 2-2.

Fish Community	Hill Numbers	Generalized Linear Model
Overall Fish Community	$D_{\text{rare weighted}}, D_{\text{equal weighted}}$	$\beta_1(\text{DEP}) + \beta_2(\text{GRAD}) + \beta_3(\text{WW}) + \beta_4(\text{CC}) + \beta_5(\text{AREA}) + \beta_6(\text{SUB}) + \beta_7(\text{DIST})$
Fish Sampled using Prepositioned Grids	$D_{\text{rare weighted}}, D_{\text{equal weighted}}$	$\beta_1(\text{DEP}) + \beta_2(\text{GRAD}) + \beta_3(\text{WW}) + \beta_4(\text{CC}) + \beta_5(\text{AREA}) + \beta_6(\text{SUB}) + \beta_7(\text{DIST})$
Hornyhead Chub Spawning Associates	$D_{\text{rare weighted}}, D_{\text{equal weighted}}$	$\beta_1(\text{DEP}) + \beta_2(\text{GRAD}) + \beta_3(\text{WW}) + \beta_4(\text{CC}) + \beta_5(\text{AREA}) + \beta_6(\text{SUB}) + \beta_7(\text{DIST})$

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715 Table 2-4. The overall fish community diversity values sampled using backpack  
 716 electrofishing in the fall of 2017 and 2018 on the East Fork Black River, Missouri. Hill  
 717 numbers diversity  ${}^0D$  ( $D_{\text{rare weighted}}$ ) and  ${}^1D$  ( $D_{\text{equal weighted}}$ ) represent the effective number of  
 718 species required to achieve the same diversity value. Calculated values with decimals  
 719 were rounded to the nearest whole number for simplicity of interpretation.

Reach	$D_{\text{rare weighted}}$		$D_{\text{equal weighted}}$	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
1	11	12	6	6
2	28	28	10	8
3	18	19	8	6
5	18	23	8	7
6	23	22	7	6
7	20	15	9	5
8	25	28	5	8
10	25	21	7	7
10.5	29	26	9	8
11	24	24	7	7
11.5	32	32	11	9
12	23	25	7	8
13	21	17	7	6
14	21	18	9	6
16	19	16	6	6
20	26	26	6	7

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734 Table 2-5. The fish diversity values sampled using prepositioned grid electrofishing in  
 735 the fall of 2017 and 2018 on the East Fork Black River, Missouri. Hill numbers diversity  
 736  ${}^0D$  ( $D_{\text{rare weighted}}$ ), and  ${}^1D$  ( $D_{\text{equal weighted}}$ ) represent the effective number of species required  
 737 to achieve the same diversity value. The number of two square meter grids was  
 738 dependent on the reach area (Table 2). Calculated values with decimals were rounded to  
 739 the nearest whole number for simplicity of interpretation.

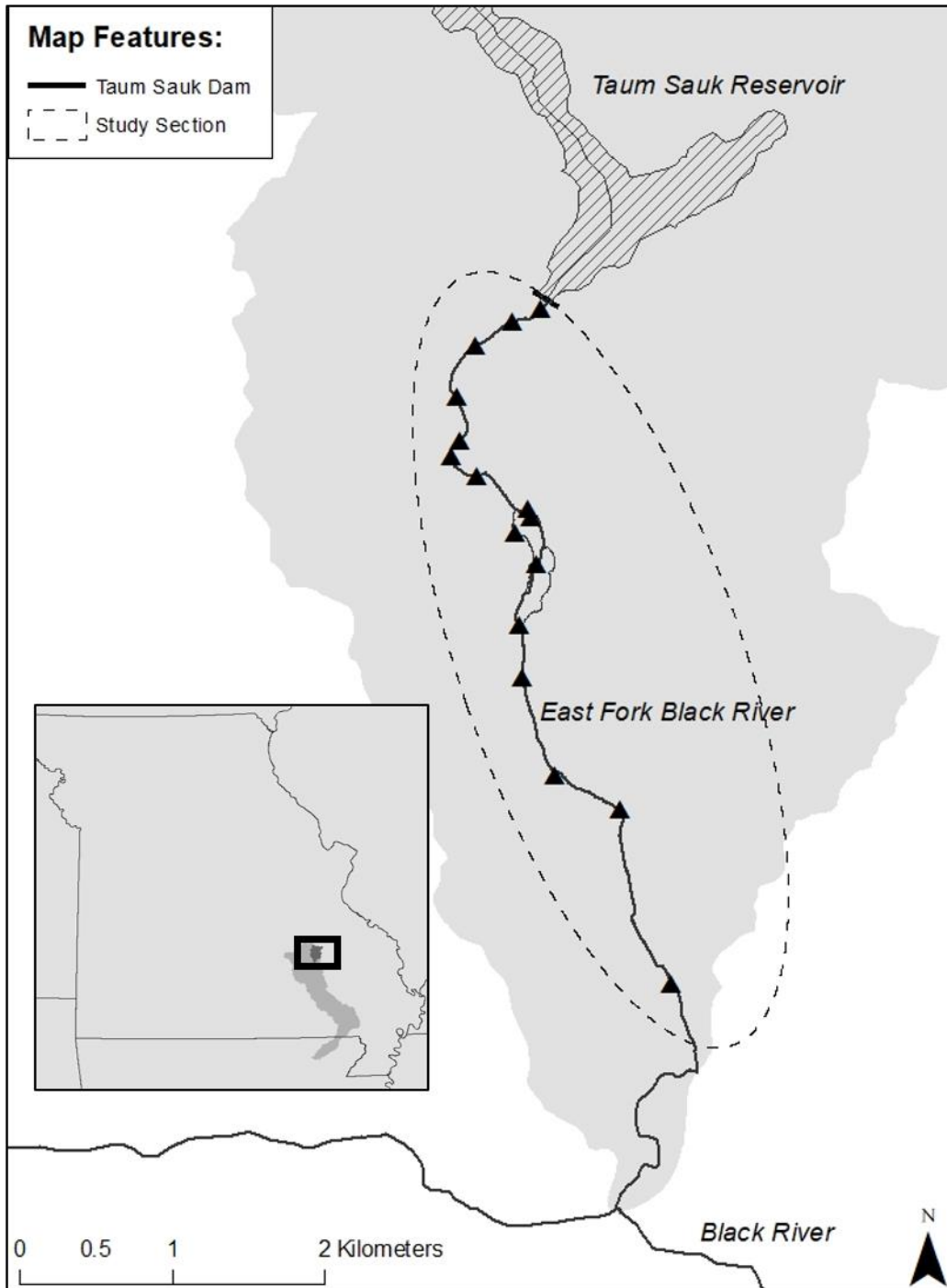
Reach	$D_{\text{rare weighted}}$		$D_{\text{equal weighted}}$	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
1	3	3	3	2
2	4	3	3	2
3	4	2	3	2
5	6	3	4	3
6	4	2	3	2
7	4	4	3	3
8	5	3	4	3
10	6	2	4	2
11	5	4	4	3
12	4	3	3	2
13	5	4	4	3
14	5	3	4	2
16	3	3	2	3
20	3	3	3	2

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754 Table 2-6. Hornyhead Chubs and spawning associated species diversity values sampled  
 755 using backpack electrofishing in the fall of 2017 and 2018 on the East Fork Black River,  
 756 Missouri. Hill numbers diversity  ${}^0D$  ( $D_{\text{rare weighted}}$ ), and  ${}^1D$  ( $D_{\text{equal weighted}}$ ), represent the  
 757 effective number of species required to achieve the same diversity value. Calculated  
 758 values with decimals were rounded to the nearest tenth place because the range of  
 759 effective number of species only ranges from 1 to 4. Spawning associates include  
 760 Bleeding Shiners, Striped Shiners, Ozark Minnows, and Carmine Shiners.

Reach	$D_{\text{rare weighted}}$		$D_{\text{equal weighted}}$	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
1	0	0	NA	NA
2	2	3	1.4	2.4
3	3	2	1.7	1.0
5	2	3	1.2	1.9
6	2	2	1.2	1.3
7	4	3	2.4	2.0
8	3	3	1.4	1.7
10	3	3	1.4	1.5
10.5	4	4	3.0	3.7
11	5	4	2.1	1.6
11.5	4	4	2.5	3.4
12	3	2	1.4	1.2
13	3	3	1.3	1.0
14	4	2	2.1	1.4
16	4	2	2.1	1.0
20	4	4	2.5	1.7

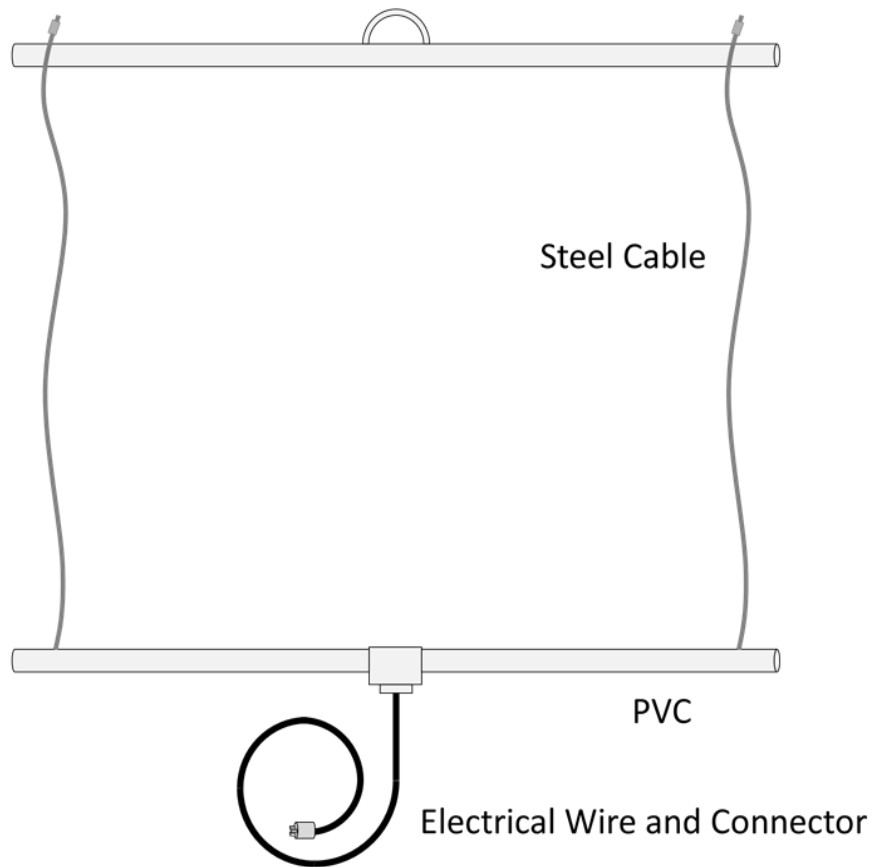
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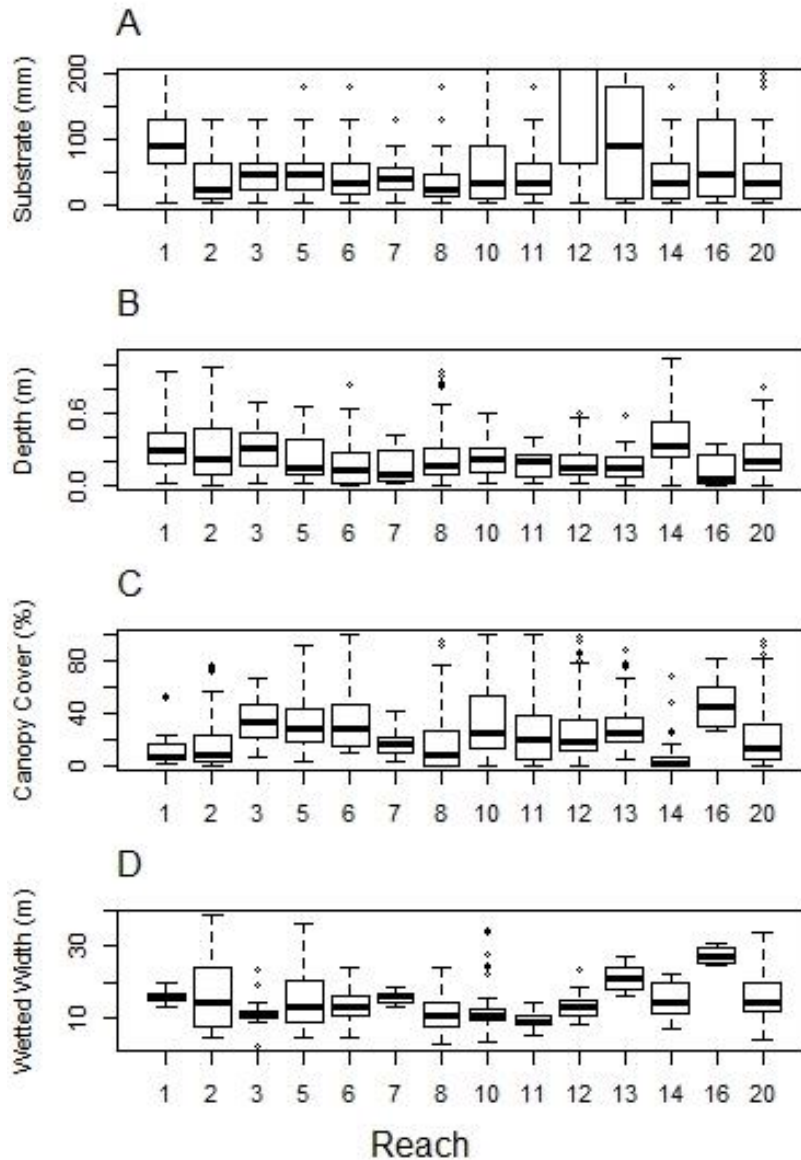
774 Figure 2-1. The East Fork Black River and watershed (shaded gray), Missouri, flow south  
 775 and drain into the Black River and further, the Arkansas River. Our study section covered  
 776 6.4 km downstream of the Taum Sauk Lower Reservoir Dam.

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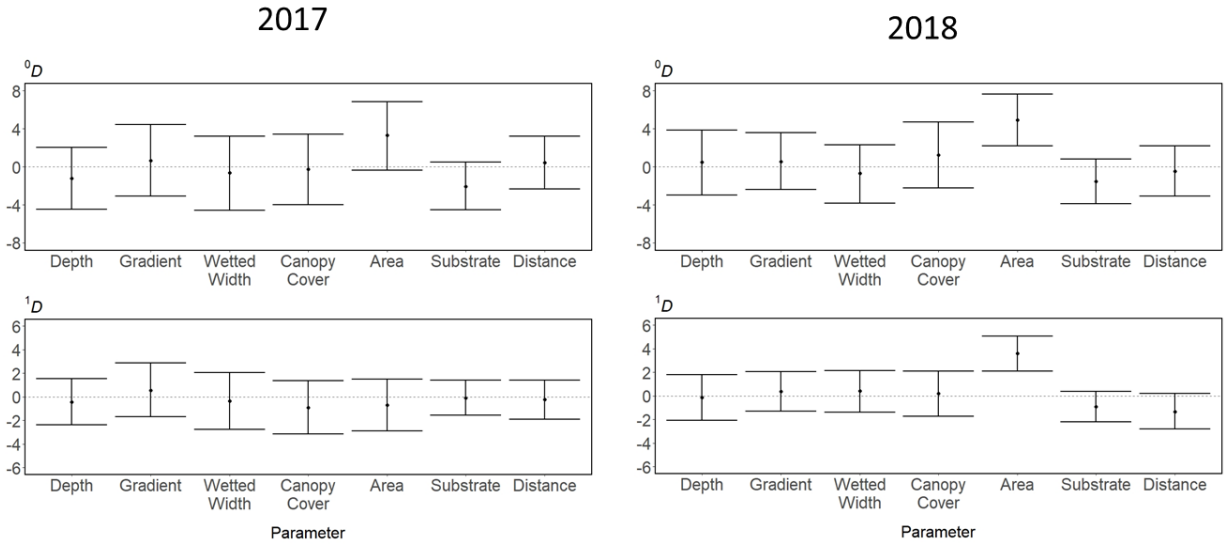
778 Figure 2-2. Prepositioned electrofishing grid design used to sample fishes in stream  
 779 flowing habitat less than 0.5 m in depth on the East Fork Black River, Missouri. The  
 780 dimensions of the grid were 2 x 1 meters and constructed with steel aircraft cable, 1-inch  
 781 PVC pipe, two wire electric cable, and a connector for attachment to the electrofishing  
 782 control box.

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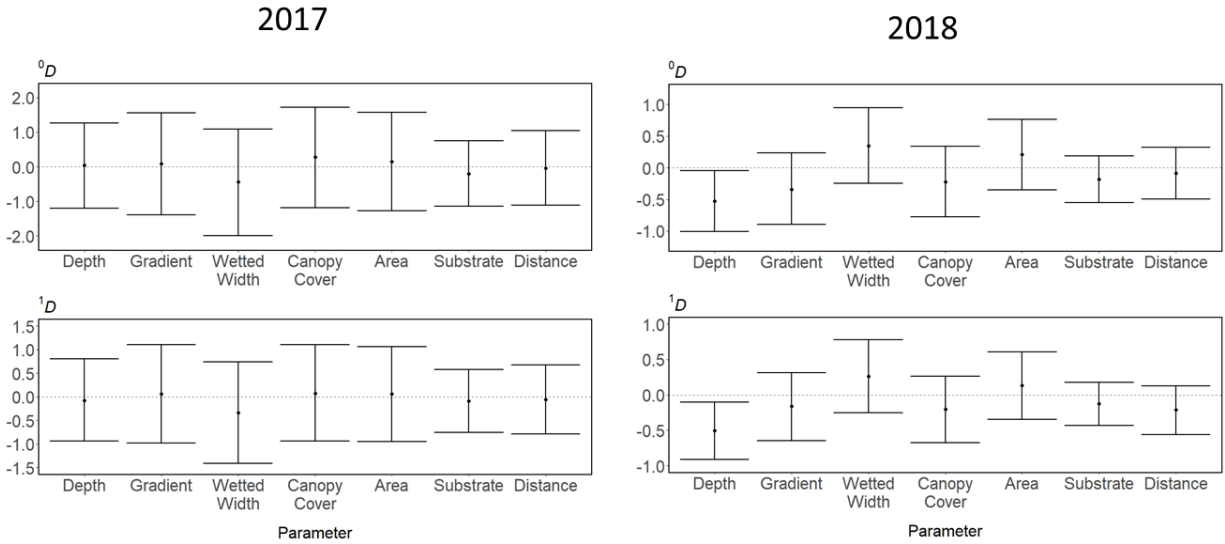
792 Figure 2-3. Box plots of substrate size, depth, canopy cover, and wetted width collected  
 793 at 14 reaches in the East Fork of the Black River, 2017-2018. The lower and upper  
 794 boundaries of the box represent the 25<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles (Q<sub>25</sub> and Q<sub>75</sub>), and the thick  
 795 bar within the box displays the median (Q<sub>50</sub>). The upper and lower whiskers display the  
 796 maximum and minimum values calculated in the following equations using the  
 797 Interquartile Range (IQR): Minimum value = Q<sub>25</sub> - 1.5\*IQR, and Maximum value = Q<sub>75</sub>  
 798 + 1.5\*IQR. Dots outside of the range are individual samples outside the IQR. The y-axis  
 799 scale excludes higher values for visual scales, but values are shown in Table 2-. Substrate  
 800 particles (mm), depth (m), canopy cover (%), and wetted width (m) were measured at 20  
 801 to 120 random points relative to area size of 14 riffle run habitat areas identified within  
 802 the 6.4 km stretch of the East Fork Black River, Missouri.





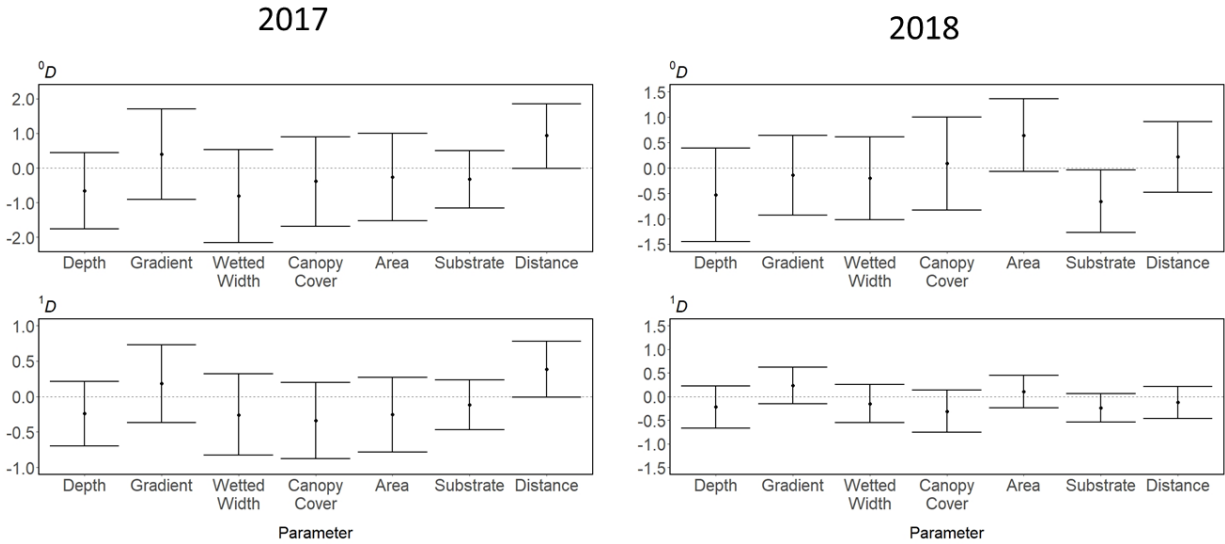
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 804 Figure 2-4. Mean and 95% credible intervals of the standardized coefficient for each  
 805 habitat metric used to predict Hill numbers diversity indices  ${}^0D$  ( $D_{rare\ weighted}$ ) and  ${}^1D$   
 806 ( $D_{equal\ weighted}$ ). Generalized linear models (GLMs) using a Bayesian Framework were run  
 807 to evaluate the effect of habitat characteristics on the overall fish community diversity in  
 808 14 reaches within the East Fork Black River, Missouri. Each reach was sampled annually  
 809 using backpack electrofishing between August-October of 2017 and 2018. Standardized  
 810 habitat characteristics values (mean depth (m), surface gradient (%), mean wetted width  
 811 (m), mean canopy cover (%), substrate distribution, and distance from Taum Sauk Dam  
 812 (m)) were predictor variables (i.e., parameters) in the GLMs for selected Hill numbers  
 813 ( $D_{rare\ weighted}$  and  $D_{equal\ weighted}$ ; i.e. indices of diversity). A dashed line denotes a value of 0  
 814 for a parameter.

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 827 Figure 2-5. Mean and 95% credible intervals of the standardized coefficient for each  
 828 habitat metric used to predict Hill numbers diversity indices  ${}^0D$  ( $D_{rare\ weighted}$ ) and  ${}^1D$   
 829 ( $D_{equal\ weighted}$ ). Generalized linear models (GLMs) using a Bayesian Framework were run  
 830 to evaluate the effect of habitat characteristics on the fishes sampled with prepositioned  
 831 electrofishing grid diversity in 14 reaches within the East Fork Black River, Missouri.  
 832 Each reach was sampled annually using backpack electrofishing between August-October  
 833 of 2017 and 2018. Standardized habitat characteristics values (mean depth (m), surface  
 834 gradient (%), mean wetted width (m), mean canopy cover (%), substrate distribution, and  
 835 distance from Taum Sauk Dam (m)) were predictor variables (i.e., parameters) in the  
 836 GLMs for selected Hill numbers ( $D_{rare\ weighted}$  and  $D_{equal\ weighted}$ ; i.e. indices of diversity). A  
 837 dashed line denotes a value of 0 for a parameter.

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 851 Figure 2-6. Mean and 95% credible intervals of the standardized coefficient for each  
 852 habitat metric used to predict Hill numbers diversity indices  ${}^0D$  ( $D_{rare\ weighted}$ ) and  ${}^1D$   
 853 ( $D_{equal\ weighted}$ ), weighted for rare species and evenly weighted. Generalized linear models  
 854 (GLMs) using a Bayesian Framework were run to evaluate the effect of habitat  
 855 characteristics on the diversity of Hornyhead Chub and spawning associate fishes  
 856 including Bleeding Shiner, Striped Shiner, Ozark Minnow, and Carmine shiner in 14  
 857 reaches within the East Fork Black River, Missouri. Each reach was sampled annually  
 858 using backpack electrofishing between August-October of 2017 and 2018. Standardized  
 859 habitat characteristics values (mean depth (m), surface gradient (%), mean wetted width  
 860 (m), mean canopy cover (%), substrate distribution, and distance from Taum Sauk Dam  
 861 (m)) were predictor variables (i.e., parameters) in the GLMs for selected Hill numbers  
 862 ( $D_{rare\ weighted}$  and  $D_{equal\ weighted}$ ; i.e. indices of diversity). A dashed line denotes a value of 0  
 863 for a parameter.

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## CHAPTER THREE

### General Conclusions and Management Recommendations

Lithophilic spawning fishes are highly dependent on substrate size and distribution along with other habitat characteristics for successful recruitment. These habitat characteristics are most likely to minimize the risk of three key threats to fish egg and larval survival: desiccation, deoxygenation, and predation (Peoples et al. 2014). Due to dependence on substrate, lithophilic spawning fishes and fish communities of riffle-run habitats were chosen to study for habitat limitations on the LEFBR downstream of Taum Sauk Reservoir.

#### Management Implications of Key Findings

The main focus for our chapter one was the Hornyhead Chub *Nocomis biguttatus* because this fish has been described as a keystone species (Vives 1990; Whitney et al. 2020) due to the spawning habitat they provide for multiple other small bodied fishes by gathering small silt-free gravel and providing protection from predators (Lobb and Orth 1988; Vives 1990; Peoples and Frimpong 2013; Hickerson and Walters 2019), and declines in their spawning mounds have been documented on the LEFBR.

At the microhabitat scale, Hornyhead Chubs had a preferred depth (0.20 m to 0.35 m) and velocity ranges (0.10 m/s to 0.30 m/s) for their spawning mounds, and they often find this habitat behind structure that provides protection from high water velocities. The main difference between the LEFBR and adjacent streams for HHC spawning mound microhabitat was that in adjacent streams spawning mounds were likely to be found closer to the stream banks. We believe this is because HHCs may typically be able to find

898 their preferred depth and velocities closer to banks, but in substrate-altered streams such  
899 as the LEFBR, streams frequently have steeper banks due to erosion. However, HHC  
900 spawning mounds were still located in riffles that were not furthest from the dam, or had  
901 the greatest amounts of small substrate.

902 At the mesohabitat, or riffle-run reach, scale in the LEFBR, none of our measured  
903 habitat characteristics were related to the presence of HHC spawning mounds, but in the  
904 other studied streams, spawning mounds were found in mesohabitats with shallower  
905 mesohabitats and increased substrate distribution. Gradient was not influential in  
906 predicting the presence of HHC spawning mounds, but our measurement methods may  
907 have been limiting because we were not able to take variation within a mesohabitat into  
908 account. In non-substrate-altered streams that we added in 2018, there was a strong  
909 correlation ( $r = -0.73$ ,  $n = 7$ ) between gradient and substrate size. Therefore, if the  
910 required substrate sizes of 8 mm to 23 mm are available, gradient may be the most  
911 limiting habitat characteristics for HHCs to construct their spawning mounds. If HHCs  
912 are not able to construct their spawning mounds for successful recruitment, it is possible  
913 that other affiliated species including Bleeding Shiner *Luxilus zonatus*, Striped Shiner *L.*  
914 *chrysocephalus*, Carmine Shiner *Notropis percobromus*, and Ozark Minnow *N. nubilus*,  
915 will be also be influenced by the decrease in spawning habitat.

916 Reach 10, 2.1 km from Taum Sauk Dam is the first location where we located  
917 spawning mounds and sampled HHCs in an adjacent side channel (reach 10.5). Both  
918 adult and juveniles were sampled during community fish sampling at nearly all reaches  
919 downstream of where spawning mound construction had been observed but not upstream.  
920 This may indicate that even if gravel augmentations frequently occur, HHCs and

921 associated spawning fishes may not repopulate reaches upstream because the Lower  
922 Taum Sauk Reservoir and Dam have separated populations upstream and downstream of  
923 the reservoir. Bleeding Shiner and Striped Shiner distribution was not dependent on the  
924 presence of HHC spawning mounds in the LEFBR, but only one Carmine Shiner was  
925 sampled upstream of reaches where spawning mounds were found. In addition, a single  
926 Carmine Shiner was sampled in 2018 when we only found HHC spawning mound in the  
927 LEFBR.

928         Small sized substrate was related to increased fish diversity. However, benthic  
929 species such as Rainbow Darters prefer habitat with increased heterogenic substrate  
930 distribution with interstitial spaces (Pflieger 1997). These gaps between large substrate  
931 allow fishes to find protection from higher velocities, but small substrate is still required  
932 for spawning and foraging habitat (Pflieger 1997). Therefore, even large substrate may  
933 also be important to maintain habitat diversity for all aquatic biota. When comparing  
934 cumulative substrate particle plots, 8 mm to 23 mm size particles occur in lesser amounts  
935 in reaches where HHC spawning mounds were not found indicating that substrate close  
936 to that size range may be of importance.

937         We found that small substrate sizes were related to increased fish diversity in the  
938 Lower East Fork Black River, but with the current analysis, it is difficult to isolate the  
939 most important substrate sizes. When looking at cumulative substrate particle plots, 8 mm  
940 to 32 mm size particles occur in lesser amounts at upstream locations. The addition of  
941 substrate in this range may help increase the substrate diversity.

942         Depth, wetted width, substrate size distribution and gradient were important in  
943 predicting the presence of HHC spawning mounds. These characteristics were then

944 compared at mesohabitats where HHC spawning mounds were both present and absent to  
945 identify reaches with suitable habitat (Table 3-1). The presence of HHCs detected in fish  
946 community sampling was also included, and we assumed if HHCs were sampled in a  
947 reach without spawning mounds, preferred spawning habitat was not available. Reach 3,  
948 which is 0.6 km downstream of Taum Sauk Dam meets the preferred spawning habitat  
949 requirements, except that small substrate and shallow habitat is not available (Table 3-1).  
950 Both of these habitat characteristics might be influenced by substrate deprivation. Reach  
951 8, which is 1.6 km downstream of the dam is suitable based on measured habitat  
952 characteristics (Table 3-1). At this reach, spawning mounds were not present, and HHCs  
953 were not detected. Hornyhead Chubs intentionally introduced into suitable habitat persist,  
954 however are not known to recolonize suitable habitat on their own following disturbance  
955 (Propst and Carlson 1986; Hickerson and Walters 2019). Furthermore, dams create  
956 physical barriers for HHCs and other small bodied streams fishes that prevent  
957 recolonization (Mammoliti 2002). Therefore, even though HHCs are present upstream of  
958 Taum Sauk Dam, the reservoir may have created isolated populations and prevents the  
959 recolonization of reaches with suitable habitat in the LEFBR. Movement from  
960 downstream populations may also be limited due to HHC's general lack of movement  
961 upstream (Hickerson and Walters 2019).HHCs need the presence of substrate that is 8  
962 mm to 23 mm to construct spawning mounds, but we believe that the addition of all  
963 substrate sizes including 8 mm to 23 mm is important to add in future gravel  
964 augmentations to allow the transfer of energy from fast flowing water to substrate  
965 movement. Larger sizes of substrate should be added to provided interstitial spacing, or  
966 possibly, substrate could be added in smaller volumes at regular intervals to prevent

967 creating a homogenous stream bed. Hopefully this may reduce the habitat alterations  
968 likely caused by water with high potential energy that has increased erosion and depletion  
969 of small substrate.

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#### 971 Future Research Questions

972 Our research on the Lower East Fork Black River occurred in the same stretch of  
973 river that the Missouri Department of Conservation has previously monitored and is  
974 pursuing regular gravel augmentations. Annual monitoring of HHC spawning mounds at  
975 the mesohabitat scale and continuing fish sampling in addition to future gravel  
976 augmentations may help determine if substrate size and distribution is the most limiting  
977 habitat characteristics for lithophilic spawning fishes within the East Fork Black River,  
978 and additional questions may include the following:

- 979 • How far do Hornyhead Chubs and other lithophilic spawning fishes of the East  
980 Fork Black River search for preferred spawning habitat?
- 981 • Is stream surface gradient an influential habitat characteristic if different metrics  
982 such as variation are used to predict the presence of Hornyhead Chub spawning  
983 mounds and fish diversity?
- 984 • Do fish diversity and habitat relationships vary seasonally?

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988 Additional questions to guide habitat management related to substrate and lithophilic  
989 spawning fishes on the Lower East Fork Black River:

- 990       • Do other fishes rely on the presence of Hornyhead Chub spawning mounds in the  
991       East Fork Black River for successful recruitment?
- 992       • Will adding substrate downstream of Taum Sauk Reservoir overcome other  
993       habitat characteristics influenced by the presence of Taum Sauk Dam, and if so at  
994       what volume and frequency will substrate need to be added?
- 995       • Is habitat in the East Fork Black River different because of substrate deprivation  
996       or because of geological features?

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1038 Biology of Fishes.

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1049 **Tables**

1050 Table 3-1. Suitability of habitat characteristics Hornyhead Chub spawning mounds in  
 1051 studied reaches/mesohabitats of the Lower East Fork Black River, Missouri was  
 1052 determined based on comparison of characteristics where spawning mounds were  
 1053 present and absent. Reach 3 is believed to be adequate for HHC spawning habitat  
 1054 other than deep habitat and lack of small substrate. Reach 8 is believed to be  
 1055 adequate for HHC spawning habitat, but mounds were not present, nor were  
 1056 HHCs sampled within this reach. “-” represents that reaches were not sampled.

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Reach	Depth	Wetted Width	Substrate	Gradient	HHC Mounds?	HHC Sampled?
1	No	No	No	No	No	No
2	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
3	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
5	No	No	No	No	No	No
6	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
7	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
8	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
9	No	No	Yes	No	No	-
10	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
10.5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.5	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
12	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
13	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
14	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
16	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
18	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	-
20	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

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## APPENDICES

1067 Appendix 1. Fish species codes for fishes sampled in the riffle-run reaches of the Lower  
 1068 East Fork Black River, Missouri (August – October 2017).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Code Name	1069
Ammocoete		AMMO	
Banded darter	<i>Etheostoma zonale</i>	BDDR	1070
Banded sculpin	<i>Cottus carolinae</i>	BDSP	
Bigeye shiner	<i>Notropis boops</i>	BESN	1071
Black redhorse	<i>Moxostoma duquesnei</i>	BKRH	
Blackspotted topminnow	<i>Fundulus olivaceus</i>	BPTM	1072
Bleeding Shiner	<i>Luxilus zonatus</i>	BDSN	
Bluegill	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	BLGL	1073
Bluntnose minnow	<i>Pimephales notatus</i>	BNMW	
Brindled madtom	<i>Noturus miurus</i>	BDMT	1074
Brook silverside	<i>Labidesthes sicculus</i>	BKSS	
Carmine Shiner	<i>Notropis percobromus</i>	CRMS	1075
Central stoneroller	<i>Campostoma anomalum</i>	CLSR	
Channel catfish	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>	CNCF	1076
Chestnut lamprey	<i>Ichthyomyzon castaneus</i>	CNLP	
Common carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	CARP	1077
Creek chub	<i>Semotilus atromaculatus</i>	CKCB	
Creek chubsucker	<i>Erimyzon oblongus</i>	CKCS	1078
Fantail darter	<i>Etheostoma flabellare</i>	FTDR	
Golden redhorse	<i>Moxostoma erythrurum</i>	GDRH	1079
Grass pickerel	<i>Esox americanus vermiculatus</i>	GSPK	
Green sunfish	<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>	GNSF	1080
Greenside darter	<i>Etheostoma blennioides</i>	GSDR	
Hornyhead chub	<i>Nocomis biguttatus</i>	HHCB	1081
Largemouth bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	LMBS	
Largescale stoneroller	<i>Campostoma oligolepis</i>	LSSR	1082
Logperch	<i>Percina caprodes</i>	LGPH	
Longear sunfish	<i>Lepomis megalotis</i>	LESF	1083
Longnose gar	<i>Lepisosteus osseus</i>	LNGR	
Northern hog sucker	<i>Hypentelium nigricans</i>	NHSK	1084
Northern studfish	<i>Fundulus catenatus</i>	NTSF	
Ozark Chub	<i>Erimystax harrisi</i>	OZCH	1085
Ozark Madtom	<i>Noturus albater</i>	OZMT	
Ozark minnow	<i>Notropis nubilus</i>	OZMW	1086
Rainbow darter	<i>Etheostoma caeruleum</i>	RBDR	
Redear sunfish	<i>Lepomis microlophus</i>	RESF	1087
Redspotted Sunfish	<i>Lepomis miniatus</i>	RSSF	
Shadow Bass	<i>Ambloplites ariommus</i>	SHBS	1088
Smallmouth Bass	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>	SMBS	
Spotted Bass	<i>Micropterus punctulatus</i>	STBS	1089
Striped shiner	<i>Luxilus chrysocephalus</i>	SPSN	
Telescope Shiner	<i>Notropis telescopus</i>	TLSN	1090
Wedgespot Shiner	<i>Notropis greeniei</i>	WSSN	
White crappie	<i>Pomoxis annularis</i>	WTCP	1091
Whitetail Shiner	<i>Cyprinella galactura</i>	WTSH	
Yellow bullhead	<i>Ameiurus natalis</i>	YLBH	1092

1093

1094

Appendix 2. Presence and absence of sampled fishes at defined mesohabitat locations in the East Fork Black River, Missouri, between Taum Sauk Reservoir Dam and Hwy 72. Detected species are represented by “x”, and species not detected “-“. Fish sampling took place in 2017 and 2018 using backpack electrofishing and grid electrofishing. Seining was added in 2018 to confirm that pelagic species were not undetected.

Spp Code	Mesohabitat ID															
	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	10	10.5	11	11.5	12	13	14	16	20
AMMO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
BDDR	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
BDMT	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	-
BDSN	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
BDSP	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
BESN	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
BKRH	-	x	x	-	x	-	x	-	x	x	x	x	-	x	x	-
BKSS	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	x
BLGL	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	x
BNMW	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x
BPTM	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
CARP	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CKCB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CKCS	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	x
CLSR	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	x
CNCF	-	x	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CNLP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-
CRMS	-	-	x	-	-	x	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	x	-	-
FTDR	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
GDRH	-	x	-	-	x	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GNSF	x	x	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
GSDR	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
GSPK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	x	-	-	-	-	-
HHCBC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	x
LESF	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LGPB	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	x	x
LMBS	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	-	x
LNGR	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LSSR	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
NHSK	-	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
NTSF	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
OZCH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	x
OZMT	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
OZMW	-	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
RBDR	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
RESF	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-
RSSF	x	x	-	-	-	-	x	-	x	-	x	-	-	x	x	x
SHBS	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
SMBS	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
SPSN	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	x	x	x
STBS	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TLSN	-	-	x	-	x	x	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
WSSN	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	x
WTCP	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WTSH	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
YLBH	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x

Appendix 3. Fish community composition (spp. codes in Appendix 1) sampled in the East Fork Black River, Missouri (August – October 2017). Values displayed are the count of individuals for each species sampled using backpack electrofishing.

Spp Code	Reach ID															
	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	10	10.5	11	11.5	12	13	14	16	20
AMMO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BDDR	2	6	6	6	5	0	14	15	1	8	3	63	6	1	2	2
BDMT	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
BDSN	0	72	4	22	61	13	74	119	35	109	159	210	49	11	27	85
BDSP	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	7
BESN	0	6	3	1	3	7	0	2	6	6	12	1	4	0	2	1
BKRH	0	6	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	8	2	0	1	3	0
BKSS	0	24	2	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
BLGL	5	37	10	6	6	5	7	2	1	1	18	1	1	0	4	2
BNMW	1	39	0	0	3	14	7	2	14	3	59	6	6	0	0	0
BPTM	2	15	19	10	15	5	11	8	11	4	48	12	1	3	0	6
CARP	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CKCB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CKCS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
CLSR	0	0	0	0	4	0	3	2	20	0	0	0	6	1	0	0
CNCF	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CNLP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
CRMS	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
FTDR	0	2	5	1	6	2	18	9	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	1
GDRH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GNSF	22	30	8	22	14	2	5	13	21	10	20	17	7	0	0	8
GSDR	9	12	4	3	12	4	17	17	3	31	9	92	16	3	3	6
GSPK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
HHCB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4	3	1	2	0	3	6
LESF	41	168	66	69	107	89	105	166	213	101	350	213	57	27	20	150
LGPH	0	7	0	0	3	6	9	3	8	19	15	14	0	3	3	7
LMBS	1	5	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	4	8	1	0	0	0	7
LNGR	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LSSR	1	285	34	145	298	75	746	200	163	415	382	763	302	43	111	474
NHSK	0	4	0	0	2	0	3	2	2	13	24	41	12	4	2	3
NTSF	0	8	1	1	5	4	16	4	6	0	29	19	1	5	0	1
OZCH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OZMT	0	6	2	22	14	10	93	38	9	36	19	41	22	4	3	16
OZMW	0	0	0	1	0	3	7	10	4	36	69	22	1	1	2	30
RBDR	50	145	42	37	69	42	278	74	57	107	76	144	62	49	64	109
RESF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
RSSF	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
SHBS	10	15	3	4	11	10	7	15	10	3	20	16	5	6	5	11
SMBS	0	7	1	5	7	2	6	3	2	4	19	24	3	7	3	8
SPSN	0	8	0	0	2	0	1	1	35	1	28	0	0	1	2	6
STBS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TLSN	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	7	29	7	0	0	4	2
WSSN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WTCP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WTSH	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
YLBH	0	5	0	6	2	1	5	5	19	0	5	2	0	0	1	4

Appendix 4. Fish community composition (spp. codes in Appendix 1) sampled in the East Fork Black River, Missouri (August – October 2018). Values displayed are the count of individuals for each species sampled using backpack electrofishing.

Spp Code	Reach ID															
	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	10	10.5	11	11.5	12	13	14	16	20
AMMO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
BDDR	0	6	0	1	2	3	7	13	0	9	0	36	7	0	2	2
BDMT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
BDSN	0	6	1	12	16	1	37	54	15	36	131	61	21	9	13	65
BDSP	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	0	1	1	2	2	2	0	0	4
BESN	0	9	8	1	0	2	9	6	1	1	13	1	7	8	2	1
BKRH	0	2	1	0	0	0	5	0	1	2	13	2	0	1	0	0
BKSS	0	9	1	0	0	0	1	0	6	0	7	1	0	0	0	0
BLGL	68	67	4	2	4	1	9	1	2	0	13	1	0	0	1	0
BNMW	10	12	2	1	3	0	2	0	2	1	8	0	5	0	0	7
BPTM	5	23	2	24	1	0	11	5	16	3	16	5	6	7	3	3
CARP	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
CKCB	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
CKCS	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
CLSR	0	0	0	1	1	0	6	0	1	0	13	2	1	0	0	3
CNCF	0	12	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CNLP	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
CRMS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
FTDR	1	3	0	5	5	1	12	9	0	6	5	0	1	1	1	1
GDRH	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GNSF	28	28	9	15	0	1	11	6	13	1	26	15	1	2	4	3
GSDR	5	5	2	3	6	1	7	13	1	9	15	54	10	3	8	5
GSPK	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HHCB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	4	0	0	0	0	1
LESF	58	163	44	48	58	11	159	85	208	108	357	136	33	39	36	60
LGPH	0	1	1	2	3	0	2	4	1	6	7	8	0	1	2	11
LMBS	6	6	0	1	2	2	4	3	6	2	1	1	0	1	0	1
LNGR	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
LSSR	28	183	21	59	103	21	261	192	64	260	284	365	61	18	26	177
NHSK	0	8	0	2	1	0	1	8	1	4	10	12	0	3	0	2
NTSF	0	29	0	6	1	0	25	7	3	5	14	10	1	0	0	2
OZCH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
OZMT	0	2	0	3	3	3	8	11	2	11	9	13	3	1	2	5
OZMW	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	3	15	2	17	1	0	0	0	3
RBDR	31	67	26	49	78	24	125	130	15	138	59	149	60	61	70	104
RESF	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
RSSF	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	3	0	0	1	1	3
SHBS	3	10	3	11	8	2	2	14	2	11	14	14	7	10	2	9
SMBS	1	11	2	2	0	1	0	12	3	14	15	24	2	1	3	9
SPSN	0	9	0	6	0	0	4	1	20	2	21	0	0	0	0	1
STBS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TLSN	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	11	2	0	0	0	0
WSSN	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WTCP	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WTSH	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
YLBH	0	0	2	1	0	0	5	1	8	1	4	1	0	0	0	4

Appendix 5. Fish community composition (spp. codes in Appendix 1) sampled in the East Fork Black River, Missouri (August – October 2017). Values displayed are backpack electrofishing catch per unit effort (# fish/hour electricity on).

Spp Code	Reach ID															
	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	10	10.5	11	11.5	12	13	14	16	20
AMMO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BDDR	7	4	11	10	5	0	8	9	1	7	2	29	9	2	5	2
BDMT	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
BDSN	0	53	7	35	66	20	41	71	35	95	98	98	77	22	65	84
BDSP	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	7
BESN	0	4	5	2	3	11	0	1	6	5	7	0	6	0	5	1
BKRH	0	4	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	5	1	0	2	7	0
BKSS	0	18	4	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
BLGL	16	27	18	10	7	8	4	1	1	1	11	0	2	0	10	2
BNMW	3	29	0	0	3	21	4	1	14	3	37	3	9	0	0	0
BPTM	7	11	33	16	16	8	6	5	11	3	30	6	2	6	0	6
CARP	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CKCB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CKCS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
CLSR	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	1	20	0	0	0	9	2	0	0
CNCF	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CNLP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
CRMS	0	0	2	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
FTDR	0	1	9	2	7	3	10	5	1	1	0	0	2	4	0	1
GDRH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GNSF	72	22	14	35	15	3	3	8	21	9	12	8	11	0	0	8
GSDR	29	9	7	5	13	6	9	10	3	27	6	43	25	6	7	6
GSPK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
HHCB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	3	2	0	3	0	7	6
LESF	134	124	116	110	116	134	58	99	211	88	217	99	90	54	48	149
LGPH	0	5	0	0	3	9	5	2	8	16	9	7	0	6	7	7
LMBS	3	4	0	3	0	0	1	1	2	3	5	0	0	0	0	7
LNGR	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LSSR	3	211	60	231	324	113	414	120	162	360	237	356	475	86	268	471
NHSK	0	3	0	0	2	0	2	1	2	11	15	19	19	8	5	3
NTSF	0	6	2	2	5	6	9	2	6	0	18	9	2	10	0	1
OZCH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OZMT	0	4	4	35	15	15	52	23	9	31	12	19	35	8	7	16
OZMW	0	0	0	2	0	5	4	6	4	31	43	10	2	2	5	30
RBDR	163	107	74	59	75	63	154	44	57	93	47	67	98	98	155	108
RESF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
RSSF	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
SHBS	33	11	5	6	12	15	4	9	10	3	12	7	8	12	12	11
SMBS	0	5	2	8	8	3	3	2	2	3	12	11	5	14	7	8
SPSN	0	6	0	0	2	0	1	1	35	1	17	0	0	2	5	6
STBS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TLSN	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	6	18	3	0	0	10	2
WSSN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WTCP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WTSH	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
YLBH	0	4	0	10	2	2	3	3	19	0	3	1	0	0	2	4



Appendix 6. Fish community composition (spp. codes in Appendix 1) sampled in the East Fork Black River, Missouri, USA (August – October 2018). Values displayed are backpack electrofishing catch per unit effort (# fish/hour electricity on).

Spp Code	Reach ID															
	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	10	10.5	11	11.5	12	13	14	16	20
AMMO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
BDDR	0	6	0	2	4	15	6	15	0	9	0	28	14	0	6	2
BDMT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
BDSN	0	6	3	27	28	5	32	64	25	38	93	48	43	19	38	80
BDSP	0	0	0	2	4	0	3	0	2	1	1	2	4	0	0	5
BESN	0	9	24	2	0	10	8	7	2	1	9	1	14	17	6	1
BKRH	0	2	3	0	0	0	4	0	2	2	9	2	0	2	0	0
BKSS	0	9	3	0	0	0	1	0	10	0	5	1	0	0	0	0
BLGL	209	67	12	4	7	5	8	1	3	0	9	1	0	0	3	0
BNMW	31	12	6	2	5	0	2	0	3	1	6	0	10	0	0	9
BPTM	15	23	6	53	2	0	10	6	26	3	11	4	12	15	9	4
CARP	3	1	3	2	2	5	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	1
CKCB	3	1	3	2	2	5	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	1
CKCS	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
CLSR	0	0	0	2	2	0	5	0	2	0	9	2	2	0	0	4
CNCF	0	12	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CNLP	3	1	3	2	2	5	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	1
CRMS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
FTDR	3	3	0	11	9	5	11	11	0	6	4	0	2	2	3	1
GDRH	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GNSF	86	28	27	33	0	5	10	7	21	1	18	12	2	4	12	4
GSDR	15	5	6	7	11	5	6	15	2	9	11	42	21	6	23	6
GSPK	3	1	3	2	2	5	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	1
HHCB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	3	0	0	0	0	1
LESF	178	163	134	107	103	55	139	100	342	114	253	106	68	82	105	74
LGPH	0	1	3	4	5	0	2	5	2	6	5	6	0	2	6	14
LMBS	18	6	0	2	4	10	4	4	10	2	1	1	0	2	0	1
LNGR	3	1	3	2	2	5	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	1
LSSR	86	183	64	131	183	105	228	227	105	274	201	285	126	38	76	219
NHSK	0	8	0	4	2	0	1	9	2	4	7	9	0	6	0	2
NTSF	0	29	0	13	2	0	22	8	5	5	10	8	2	0	0	2
OZCH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
OZMT	0	2	0	7	5	15	7	13	3	12	6	10	6	2	6	6
OZMW	0	1	0	0	2	5	2	4	25	2	12	1	0	0	0	4
RBDR	95	67	79	109	138	120	109	154	25	145	42	116	124	129	205	129
RESF	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
RSSF	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	0	2	0	0	2	3	4
SHBS	9	10	9	24	14	10	2	17	3	12	10	11	14	21	6	11
SMBS	3	11	6	4	0	5	0	14	5	15	11	19	4	2	9	11
SPSN	0	9	0	13	0	0	4	1	33	2	15	0	0	0	0	1
STBS	3	1	3	2	2	5	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	1
TLSN	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	8	2	0	0	0	0
WSSN	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WTCP	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WTSH	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
YLBH	0	0	6	2	0	0	4	1	13	1	3	1	0	0	0	5