

FishPass Monthly Update



Dear partners and stakeholders:

On behalf of the FishPass team, I am pleased to provide the July FishPass update. Please distribute the update as you see fit.

Engineering Design Update:

- 20 July 2020 – Traverse City Commissioners voted to schedule a public hearing on a \$300,000 grant request from the City of Traverse City to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for improvements to Union Street Dam Park Boardman River access in support of FishPass. Items outlined in the grant request include the kayak landings and slide, ADA kayak ramps, stepped stone river access, and boardwalks. A public hearing on the grant applications is scheduled for August 3, 2020.
- 27 July 2020 – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 Administrator, Kurt Thiede, toured the Union Street Dam and announced a \$7.3M grant to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission for several projects, including FishPass.
- 31 July 2020 – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) bid solicitation for FishPass construction closed. The USACE Source Selection Committee will convene during early August to review bids and select a contractor.

Assessment:

- 6 - 10 July 2020 – The GLFC and collaborators at the U.S. Geological Survey conducted routine maintenance on the acoustic fish tracking array in Grand Traverse Bay and began deployment of additional array sensors. The combined acoustic fish tracking array will be used to further the study of fish movement patterns around the Boardman River.
- 29 July 2020 – Staff from GLFC, Grand Traverse Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians (GTB), Northern Michigan University, and Conservation Resource alliance sampled stream morphology, discharge, and dissolved nutrients from 34 sites in the Boardman River Watershed. These samples will be used to get a preliminary idea of the gradient of nutrients in the Boardman River and its many tributaries. Data will be used to inform planning of future research on understanding energy and nutrient pathways in the system.
- 30 July 2020 – One electrofishing survey was conducted by the GTB and GLFC to understand seasonal fish abundance and tag fish for ongoing telemetry work in the Lower Boardman River.
- A summary table of species observed and telemetry tags implanted in June:

Species	n	PIT	Radio	Average Length (in)	Average Length of Tagged Fish (in)
Brown trout	1	1	0	20.9	20.9

Common carp	1	1	0	22.9	22.9
Common white sucker	5	2	2	13.2	16.1
Green sunfish	3	0	0	3.6	NA
Northern pike	1	1	0	20.7	20.7
Rainbow trout	8	1	1	20.4	24.6
Rock bass	19	3	0	5.9	8.1
Smallmouth bass	2	1	0	8.1	12.6
Walleye	1	1	0	15.4	15.4
Total	41	11	3		

- The tagging efforts in June bring the project to a total of 479 Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags and 105 Radio Telemetry tags.

Predicting contaminant transfer following re-establishment of controlled connectivity in the Boardman River

- The project led by Dr. Brandon Gerig and graduate student Ross Gay at Northern Michigan University seeks to: (1) characterize contaminant levels of potential migrants in the Boardman River; (2) assess background contaminant levels in water and river resident fishes; and (3) use models to characterize how river resident fish contaminant levels could change under different fish passage scenarios.
- The team has collected and processed all migratory and river-resident fish, except for walleye.
- All migratory fish have been analyzed for mercury and stable isotopes and are awaiting the analysis of organic contaminants.
- River-resident fish have been collected and are awaiting results for Hg, stable isotopes, and organic contaminants.
- The team deployed contaminant water samplers in both 2019 and 2020. 2019 results are pending while the 2020 sampling devices are currently deployed in the Boardman River at seven locations.
- The model that the team will use to predict how a resident trout's contaminant burden changes with the influx of migratory fish has been developed and awaits organic contaminant data to be parameterized and run.
- The timeline for obtaining organic contaminant data has been delayed due to COVID-19, but results are anticipated by the end of 2020.

In the News:

- City Commissioners Approve Vacation Rental Changes (The Ticker, 21 July 2020): <https://www.traverseticker.com/news/city-commissioners-approve-vacation-rental-changes/>
- Federal Funding Comes to Traverse City FishPass, Other Great Lakes Projects (9&10 News, 27 July 2020): <https://www.9and10news.com/2020/07/27/federal-funding-comes-to-traverse-city-fishpass-and-other-great-lakes-projects/>
- More federal dollars for FishPass announced; in-stream research set for 2023 (Record Eagle, 28 July 2020): https://www.record-eagle.com/news/local_news/more-federal-dollars-for-fishpass-announced-in-stream-research-set-for-2023/article_0a9b3b46-d021-11ea-88ca-d389d6d975f0.html

Upcoming:

- 03 August: The City of Traverse City will host a public hearing on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund grant application.
- 11-12 August: The FishPass Team is working with Trout Unlimited to host a virtual youth summit to discuss the Boardman River Restoration and FishPass project.