

FishPass Monthly Update



Dear partners and stakeholders:

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

Engineering Design / Construction:

- September 2020 – The USACE Source Selection Evaluation Board completed the evaluation of all five construction bid proposals and the Source Selection Authority made the final source selection decision based on the results of the proposal evaluations.
- 13 October 2020 – The USACE awarded the FishPass contract to Spence Brothers Construction of Traverse City, Michigan for \$19.3 million. Construction is scheduled to begin this year and finish late in 2022. Comments from the project partners on the award announcement as available in the [USACE press release](#).

Research:

- September 2020 – FishPass researchers published a paper in the journal Bioscience asserting that by examining the process used to sort recyclable materials, we can glean new insights into the future of fish passage technology. The manuscript, titled *Single-Stream Recycling Inspires Selective Fish Passage Solutions for the Connectivity Conundrum in Aquatic Ecosystems*, is the vision for FishPass and is free to download here: <https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biaa090>
- September - October 2020 – The FishPass Advisory Board met virtually to review the FishPass Operation and Maintenance Plan, revised Assessment Plan, Outreach and Education Plan, attribute-based sorting, and discuss future operations and maintenance agreements with project partners.

Assessment:

- 9 September 2020 – 13 October 2020 the Michigan Department of Natural Resources operated the Boardman River Fish Weir. As of 25 September, 701 Chinook and 273 coho salmon were harvested. Twenty-one rainbow and two brown trout were passed up stream of the weir.
- 17 September 2020 – staff from the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians conducted the fall quarterly electrofishing survey. Due to access issues, only the lower most section downstream of Park St. was surveyed.

Events:

- 24 October 2020 – A virtual groundbreaking for FishPass was livestreamed on the FishPass Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/FishPass/live/> to allow project

partners and the general public to safely attend during the COVID-19 pandemic. The FishPass team and distinguished guests celebrated this event fittingly on World Fish Migration Day, Saturday Oct. 24.

- 19 October 2020 – Dr. Marc Gaden (Great Lakes Fishery Commission) joined the Great Lakes Now Program Director, Sandra Svoboda, for a Facebook watch party to discuss FishPass and issues surrounding dam removals in the Great Lakes basin.

In the News:

- Watershed moment for FishPass (Record Eagle, 26 October 2020): https://www.record-eagle.com/news/local_news/watershed-moment-for-fishpass/article_6fa0587a-155c-11eb-ab44-a3ed8394cf0d.html
- Traverse City Leaders Host Virtual Groundbreaking to Mark Beginning of FishPass Construction (9&10 News, 25 October 2020): <https://www.9and10news.com/2020/10/25/traverse-city-leaders-host-virtual-groundbreaking-to-mark-beginning-of-fishpass-construction/>
- Project to Fight Invasive Species in the Great Lakes Kicks Off Saturday with “Virtual Groundbreaking” (MLive, 20 October 2020): <https://www.mlive.com/public-interest/2020/10/project-to-fight-invasive-species-in-the-great-lakes-kicks-off-saturday-with-virtual-groundbreaking.html>
- FishPass Construction Set To Break Ground October 24 (The Ticker, 16 October 2020): <https://www.traverseticker.com/news/fishpass-construction-set-to-break-ground-october-24/>
- NMC Freshwater Studies Students Help Track Fish Movement for FishPass Project (9&10 News, 7 October 2020): <https://www.9and10news.com/2020/10/07/nmc-freshwater-studies-students-help-track-fish-movement-for-fishpass-project/>
- Damming Decisions (Great Lakes Now, 29 September 2020): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myLtWZxecVU&list=PL_P35GZcjx3HSRzkSf78pHjk8hdCHcNbg.
- Fishpass Project at Union Street Dam questioned (UpNorthLive, 7 September 2020): <https://upnorthlive.com/news/local/fishpass-project-at-union-street-dam-park-questioned>
- FishPass prompts legal question (Record Eagle, 6 September 2020): https://www.record-eagle.com/news/fishpass-prompts-legal-question/article_30261d36-eee9-11ea-981b-e7d16ff12721.html