

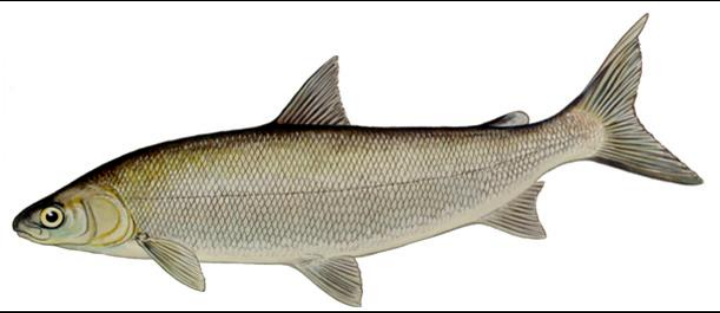
Fisheries of the St. Clair River

Department of Natural Resources

Jim Francis
Lake Erie Basin Coordinator
Michigan DNR-Fisheries



Thermal Habitat



Coldwater
species



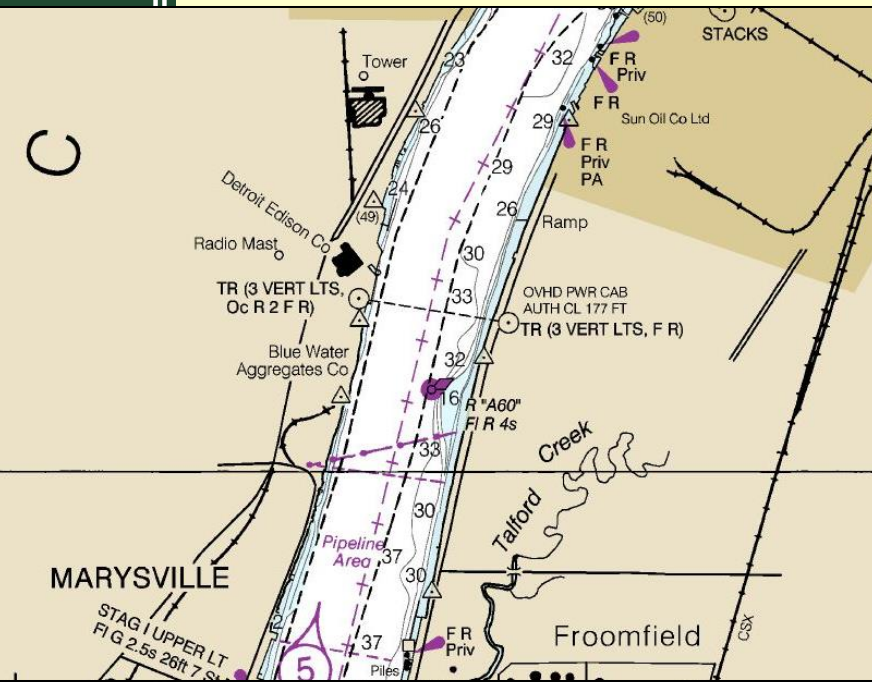
Coolwater
species



Warmwater
species



Physical Habitat





2007 Fish Survey



2007 Fish Survey



56 species
17 families

High proportion of juvenile fish



2007 Fish Survey

Proportion of sites

Percentage of catch

88%

22%

Brook silverside



71%

7%

Bluntnose minnow



70%

12%

Sand shiner



70%

2%

Rock bass



66%

8%

Spottail shiner



Other Species



Boat Angler Surveys

1942-1943 – 329,975 angler hours annually

1983-1984 – 365,975 angler hours annually

2002-2003 – 172,303 angler hours annually



Economic Benefit

St. Clair River Boat Fishery ~ \$2.4 million

St. Clair River Shore Fishery ~ \$1.0 million

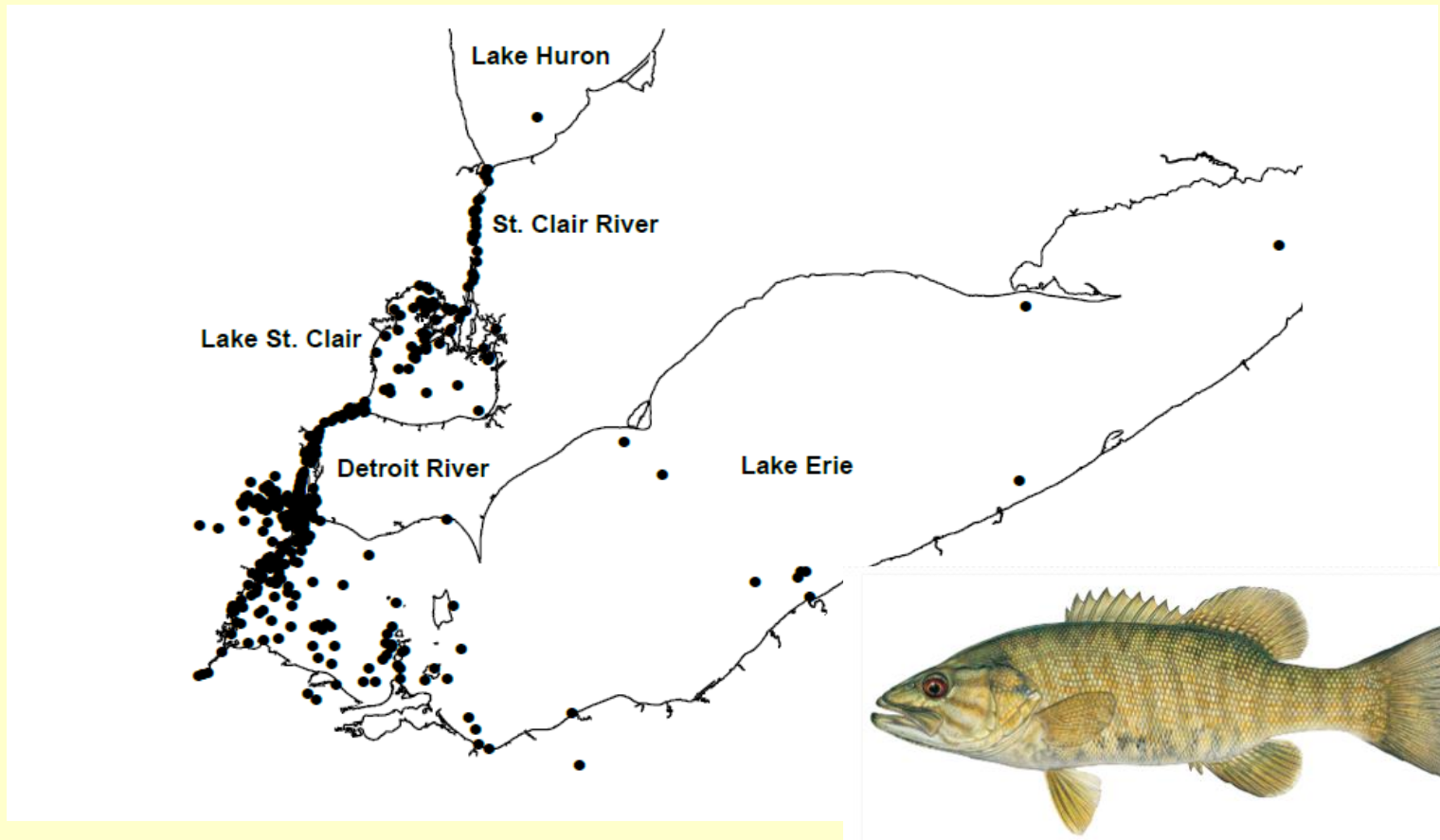


Boat Angler Survey 2002-2003

Walleye	38,756
Yellow perch	8,506
Bluegill	968
Largemouth bass	255
Smallmouth bass	111
Rock bass	41
Muskellunge	40
Chinook salmon	336
Brown trout	47
Steelhead	27
Coho salmon	21
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>49,200</u>



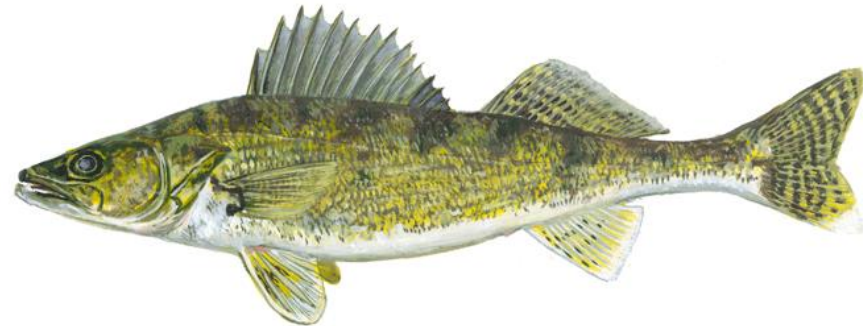
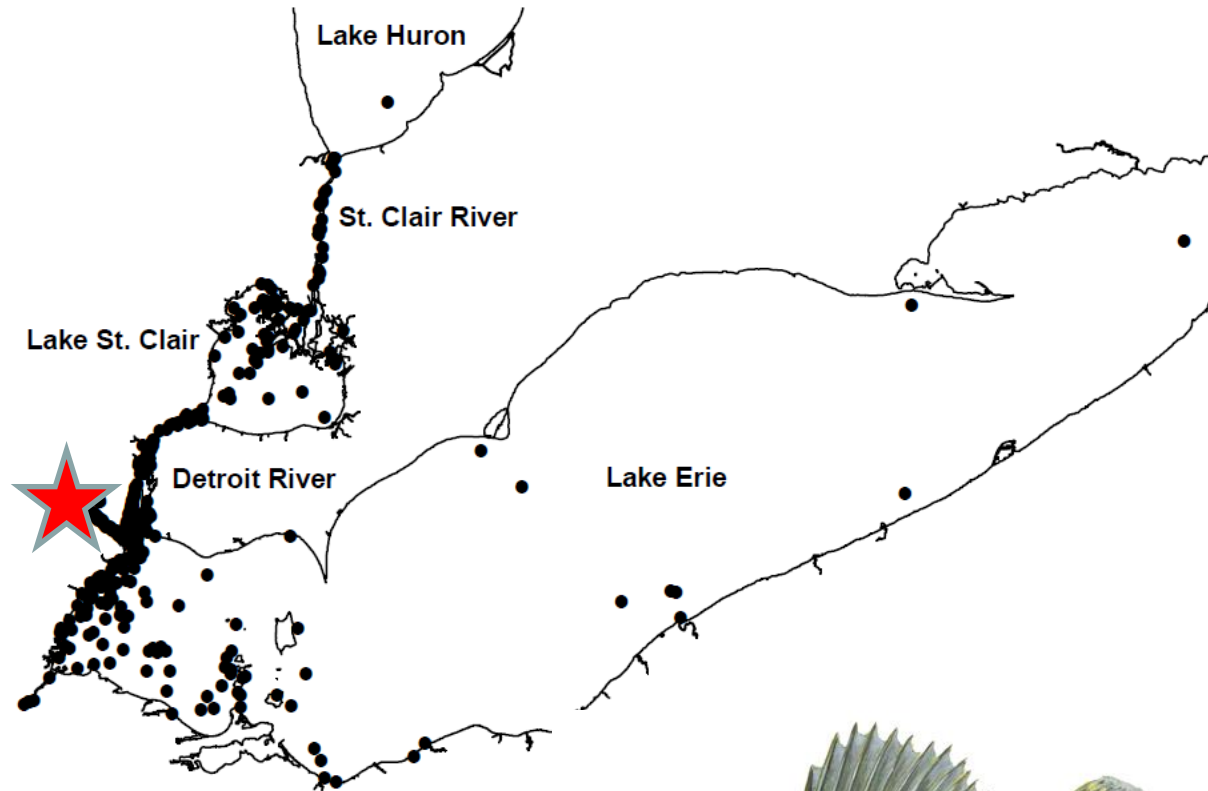
Smallmouth Bass tag recoveries 2012



Tagged in Anchor Bay



Walleye tag recoveries 2012



Beneficial Use Impairments

Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat

- Channel dredging and gravel mining
- Dredging/filling
- Contaminated sediments
- Seawalls and other shoreline modifications



Bridging the Environment and Economy

“Blue is the new green”

- 1.2 million fishing licenses in MI (5th nationally)
- Generates \$4.4 billion to the state's economy
- Sport, commercial, and tribal fisheries and bait harvest
- Recreation opportunities and Quality of Life issues



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Questions?

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