

## 6.2 Today Artifact Packet

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### **Fisherman catches three sturgeon in Grand River**

July 18, 2017

"GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -- A local fisherman considers himself very fortunate to have caught and released three sturgeon in the same area of the Grand River this past spring. (Above is a photo of the first sturgeon he landed.)

Matt Roy of Grand Rapids was fishing for steelhead in the Grand River across from Fish Ladder Park on April 17th when he caught his first sturgeon. "The water was high and I was fishing from shore," said Roy. "I came down around dusk and was fishing with two other gentlemen I had never met before." He struggled with the fish for an hour, finally landing it with the help of two other fishermen he had just met. "By the time I had landed the fish, I had walked over and... All three of us looked at each other and were in shock, including the fish I would say!"

The sturgeon was six feet long and weighed an estimated 200 pounds.

Roy caught two more sturgeon in May while fishing for steelhead. All of this happened before the legal target season for sturgeon on the Grand River, which began just a day ago.

The DNR says the catches didn't land him in trouble, because he wasn't fishing for sturgeon specifically. In fact, they appreciate the reports of sturgeon since they are a threatened species in the Great Lakes region. "It's nice that we get the reports just to know that the population is still there," said Scott Hanshue, a Fisheries Management Biologist with the DNR. "We don't have a lot of resources devoted to monitoring that population at this time."

Roy hopes his experiences with sturgeon are useful to the DNR, and that they help the fish become a thriving species in the Great Lakes watershed once again."

Sturgeon Caught in Grand River (Article & Video from Fox 17 Online)

<https://fox17online.com/2017/07/17/fisherman-catches-three-sturgeon-in-grand-river/>

Figure 1 Fish Ladder, 2013



*Fish Ladder during 2013 Flood - WikiCommons 4.0 License*

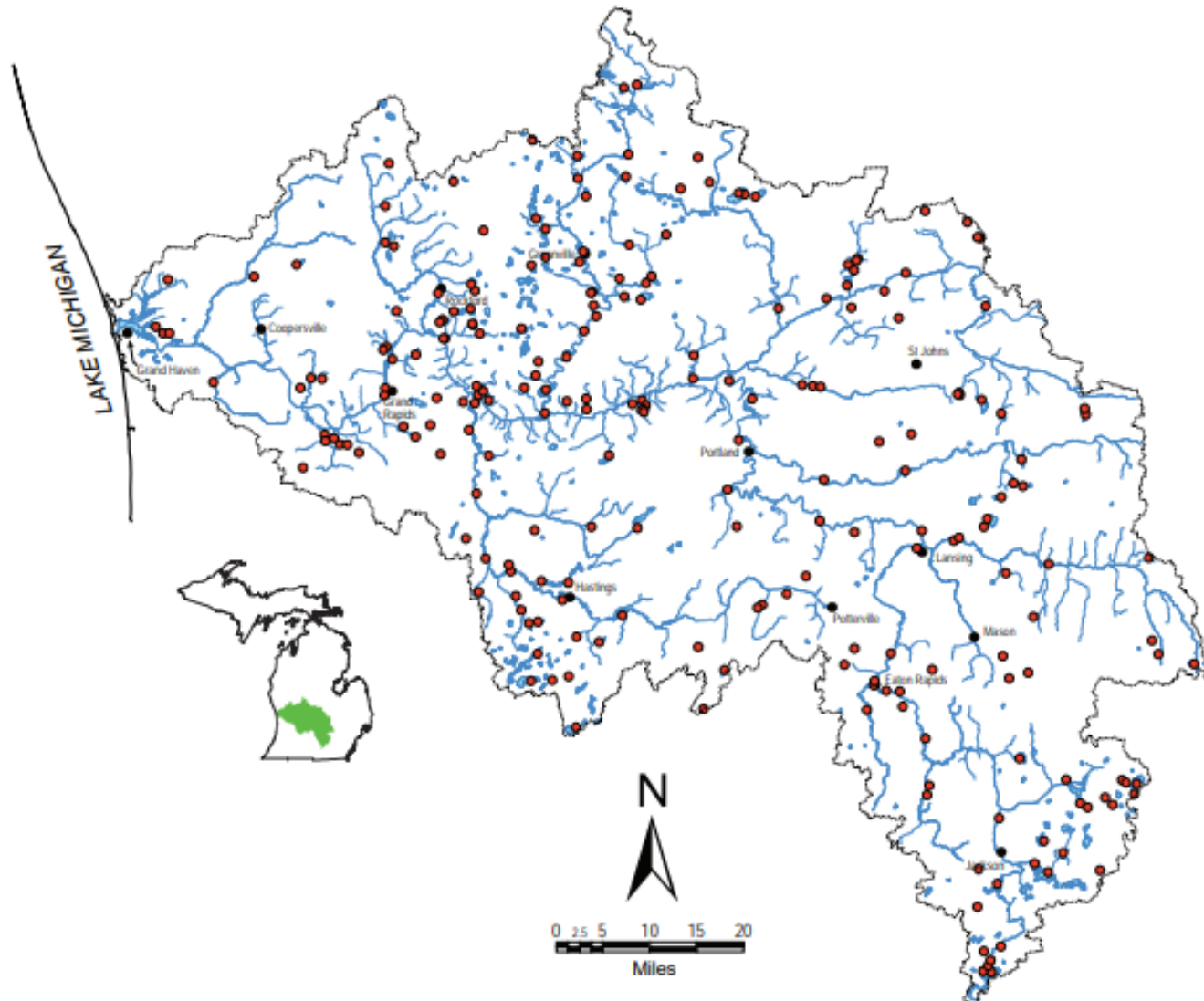
Figure 2 Biological and Habitat Water Quality Assessment Results

Station	Type	Waterbody	Location	County	Latitude	Longitude	Macroinvertebrate score	Macroinvertebrate rating	Habitat score	Habitat rating
1	Status	Grand River	D/S 68th Ave, Eastmanville	Ottawa	43.00589	-85.99676	22	poor	.	.
2	Status	Grand River	Bridge ST, Saranac	Ionia	42.93449	-85.22455	66	good	.	.
3	Status	Grand River	Leonard ST, Grand Rapids	Kent	42.98779	-85.6732	43	fair	.	.
4	Targeted	Unnamed tributary to Pottawattomie Bayou	Hofma Park, Grand Haven	Ottawa	43.00923	-86.17337	-3	acceptable	146	good
5	Trend	Black Creek	Cleveland ST	Ottawa	43.0741	-86.10714	-2	acceptable	113	good
6	Targeted	Norris Creek	Hilton Park RD	Muskegon	43.16048	-86.08656	3	acceptable	139	good
7	Status	Unnamed tributary to Crockery Creek	104th Ave	Ottawa	43.11036	-86.04705	1	acceptable	133	good
8	Status	Crockery Creek	Ensley Road	Muskegon	43.12028	-86.02711	3	acceptable	68	marginal
9	Status	Bass Creek	88th Ave	Ottawa	42.94156	-86.00228	-1	acceptable	96	marginal
10	Status	Bass Creek	Stanton ST	Ottawa	42.93605	-85.9955	-2	acceptable	72	marginal
11	Status	Little Bass Creek	76th St	Ottawa	42.95559	-85.97313	-4	acceptable	106	good
12	Status	Little Bass Creek	68th St	Ottawa	42.94645	-85.9529	-5	poor	119	good
13	Status	Deer Creek	Sheridan Park	Ottawa	43.07882	-85.94541	-3	acceptable	109	good
14	Status	Crockery Creek	Behler Road	Muskegon	43.25905	-85.88939	1	acceptable	145	good
15	Trend	North Branch Crockery Creek	36th Ave	Ottawa	43.19407	-85.87922	-2	acceptable	134	good
16	Trend	North Branch Crockery Creek	24th Ave	Ottawa	43.19776	-85.84983	1	acceptable	119	good
17	Status	North Branch Crockery Creek	Sherman Boulevard	Muskegon	43.20533	-85.81793	-1	acceptable	103	marginal
18	Status	East Branch Rush Creek/ Bliss Creek Inter County Drain	44th St SW	Ottawa	42.88329	-85.78674	0	acceptable	93	marginal
19	Targeted	Plaster Creek	Godfrey Ave SW	Kent	42.93752	-85.69001	-3	acceptable	111	good
20	Targeted	Plaster Creek	68th St SE	Kent	42.84109	-85.59683	1	acceptable	87	marginal
21	Targeted	Plaster Creek	Shadyside Park	Kent	42.83115	-85.57641	1	acceptable	87	marginal
22	Targeted	Plaster Creek	Hammond Ave SE	Kent	42.82972	-85.57452	-4	acceptable	71	marginal
23	Targeted	Little Plaster Creek	Forest Hill Ave SE	Kent	42.93501	-85.55533	-2	acceptable	120	good
24	Targeted	Plaster Creek	Broadmoor Ave SE	Kent	42.89919	-85.57757	-2	acceptable	101	marginal
25	Targeted	Unnamed tributary to Plaster Creek	60th St SE	Kent	42.85457	-85.58432	-2	acceptable	90	marginal
26	Targeted	Unnamed tributary to Plaster Creek	Paul Henry Thornapple TR	Kent	42.8495	-85.56539	-2	acceptable	105	good
27	Targeted	Crooked Creek	David Highway	Ionia	42.92965	-85.15629	2	acceptable	141	good
28	Status	Bellamy Creek	Dildine Rd	Ionia	43.0091	-85.15527	6	excellent	101	marginal
29	Trend	Prairie Creek	Main ST	Ionia	42.98552	-85.0261	7	excellent	145	good
30	Status	Prairie Creek	E. Charles Rd	Ionia	43.06153	-84.95701	6	excellent	165	excellent
31	Targeted	Libhart Creek	Sunfield Highway	Ionia	42.92126	-84.99519	3	acceptable	112	good

Biological Surveys of Selected Lower Grand River Streams Ionia, Kent, Muskegon, and Ottawa Counties, Michigan. Michigan August-September 2014. Department of Environmental Quality Water Resources Division.  
[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/wrd-monitoring-report-2014-lower-grand-watershed\\_606955\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/wrd-monitoring-report-2014-lower-grand-watershed_606955_7.pdf)



Figure 3 Registered Dams on Grand River, MI



Hanshue, S. K., and A. H. Harrington. 2017. Grand River assessment. Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Report 20, Lansing.



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

NICK LYON  
DIRECTOR

June 4, 2018

Adam London, MPA, RS, DAAS  
Health Officer  
Kent County Health Department  
700 Fuller Avenue NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Re: Recreational contact with PFAS-containing foam on the Rouge River, Rockford, Michigan.

Dear Mr. London:

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Division of Environmental Health has evaluated per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) analytical data for surface water from and for foam observed on the Rouge River in Rockford, Michigan. Surface water samples from the Rouge River and its tributary Rum Creek were collected in October 2017 and a sample of foam observed on the Rouge River near the Rockford Dam was collected in April 2018.

Concentrations of PFAS in foam were high relative to concentrations in surface water. MDHHS considered absorption of PFAS following skin contact with foam as well as swallowing foam, which could occur incidentally during recreational activities (e.g., swimming, playing) in the Rouge River. Available information suggests that, as a class of chemicals, PFAS do not easily enter through the skin, although the extent to which they do cross the skin depends on the chemical's characteristics, and some PFAS are more readily absorbed than others. Even under worst-case conditions for skin contact, PFAS were not determined to be absorbed at levels that would pose a risk to human health. Incidental ingestion (i.e. swallowing), however, may pose a risk to human health at the concentrations reported in recent foam samples. Gastrointestinal absorption of PFAS is highly efficient and therefore exposure to PFAS from swallowing foam is considered a primary exposure pathway for humans.

Dermal contact with, and incidental ingestion of, PFAS-containing **water** during recreational activities in the Rouge River are not expected to pose a risk to human health.

Therefore, MDHHS has reached the following conclusion:

**Based on the high levels of PFAS found in foam samples, the evidence for health effects associated with the ingestion of PFAS above EPA's health criterion, and the lack of scientific information fully characterizing exposure to PFAS via foam, MDHHS concluded that swallowing this PFAS-containing river foam may pose a human health risk. Therefore, MDHHS is recommending a public health advisory that precautions be taken to avoid the incidental ingestion of foam during recreational activities (e.g., swimming, kayaking, fishing) on the Rouge River.**

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Page one of a letter to the Kent County Health Department from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services about Rouge River PFAS Levels

<https://accesskent.com/Health/pdf/PFAS-Rouge-River-Foam-060418.pdf>

More PFAS Information:

Grand Valley State University PFAS in the News Article List - <https://www.gvsu.edu/pfas/pfas-in-the-news-4.htm>

Figure 4 Grand Rapids Population Data

Year	Grand Rapids Population
2000	197,800
2010	188,040
2017	198,820

*United States Census Data*