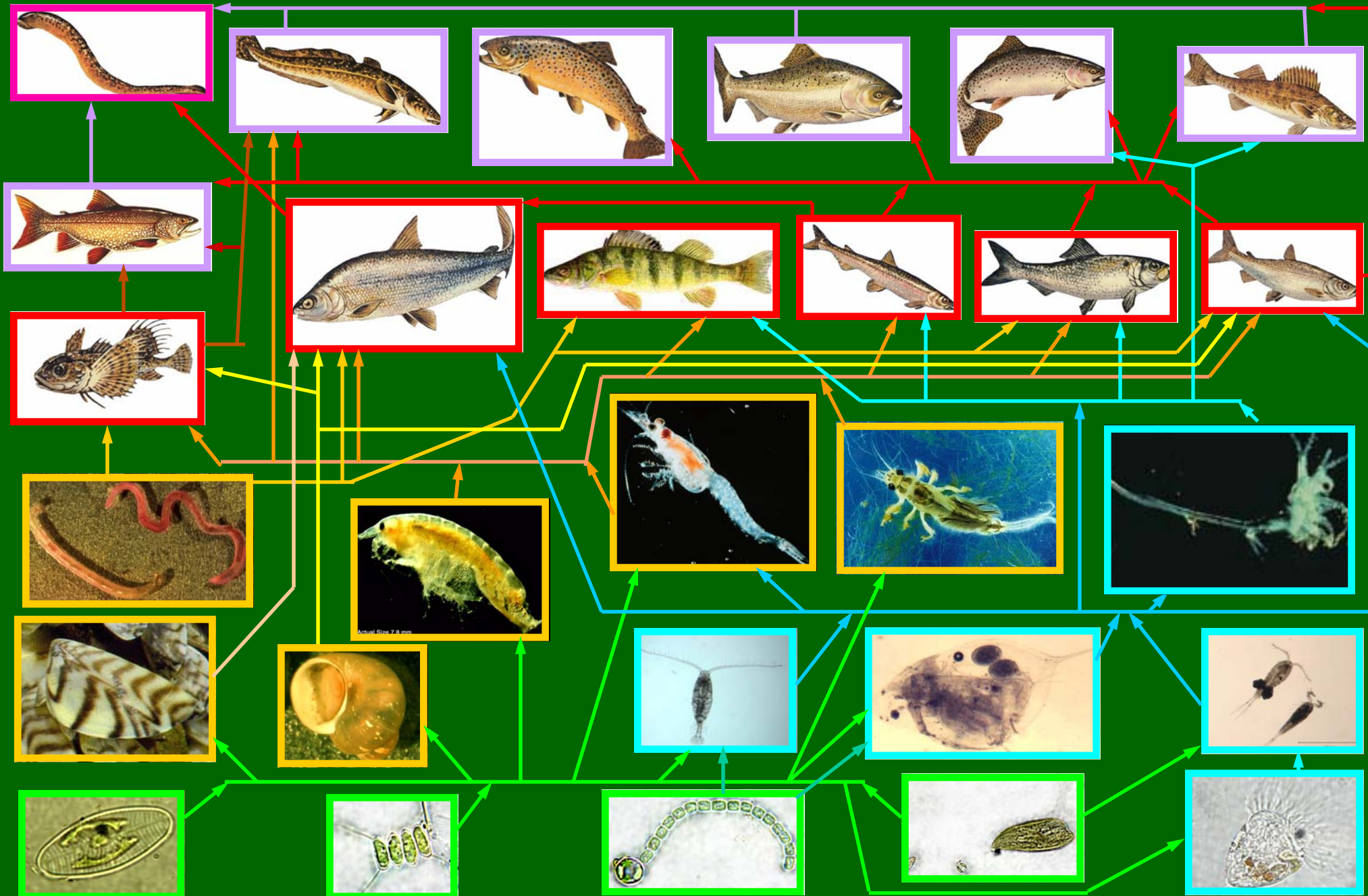




Lake Huron Food Web



Sea Lamprey



Sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) - an aggressive, non-native parasite which fastens onto its prey and rasps out a hole with its rough tongue. Numbers in Lake Huron remain at nuisance levels.

Piscivores (Fish Eaters)



Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) - Pacific salmon species stocked as a trophy fish and to control alewife. Natural reproduction may currently account for 85% of the stock.



Steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) - A lake strain of rainbow trout, rarely found deeper than 35 feet along the coast. Natural reproduction supplemented by stocking.



Lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) - Once the most valuable commercial fish in the Upper Great Lakes, overfishing and sea lamprey predation nearly eliminated this fish from Lake Huron by the 1950's. Stocking & lamprey control are resulting in it's resurgence.



Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) - A European species introduced in the late 1880's, mostly supported by stocking. Readily feed on invasive prey species such as alewives, gobies and rusty crayfish.



Walleye (*Stizostedion vitreum*) - Native coolwater species found in nearshore areas. Dominant predator in Saginaw Bay, where restoration efforts appear to have re-established a reproducing population.



Burbot (*Lota lota*) - Elongated, cylindrical, freshwater codfish.

Forage Fish



Lake whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis*) - Native found in cold waters including Saginaw Bay in the cooler months. Bottom feeder—diets have shifted to include zebra and quagga mussels as native Diporeia have declined. Prized commercial species with annual take exceeding 9 million pounds.



Yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*) - Native which schools near shore, usually at depths less than 30 feet.



Rainbow smelt (*Osmerus mordax*) - Carnivorous fish which usually schools in the dark, cool off shore depths. Introduced as food for stocked inland salmon in the 1900s and escaped to Lake Michigan. Currently the dominant forage fish in Lake Huron.



Bloater (*Coregonus hoyi*) - Native deepwater chub feeding on zooplankton and other organisms near the lake bottom. Harvested commercially for smoked fish.



Alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) - Atlantic species which invaded in 1949 via the Welland canal, has experienced recent declines in abundance in Lake Huron.



Deepwater sculpin (*Myoxocephalus quadricornis thompsonii*) - a native glacial relic which lives at the bottom of cold, deep water feeding largely on aquatic invertebrates.

129 species of fish, including at least 15 non-natives, make their homes in the waters of Lake Huron. 10 species of native fish have been extirpated from Lake Huron. This food web includes only the dominant species.

MacroInvertebrates



Chironomids/Oligochaetes - Larval insects and worms living on the lake bottom.



Amphipods (*Diporeia*) - The most common species of amphipod found in fish diets in Lake Huron which began declining in the late 1990's.



Mayfly nymphs (*Hexagenia spp.*) - Mayfly nymphs have been rare in Saginaw Bay since the 1950s, but are common in other shallow bays.



Opossum shrimp (*Mysis relicta*) - Omnivore feeding on algae and small cladocerans. Migrates into the water column at night.



Mollusks - A mixture of native and non-native species of snails and clams are eaten by lake whitefish and other bottom feeding fish.



Zebra & quagga mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha* and *Dreissena bugensis*) - Invaded Lake Huron in 1980's/90's, filter-feeders which remove huge quantities of plankton.

Zooplankton (Microscopic animals found in the water column)



Invasive Spiny waterfleas (*Bythotrephes longimanus*) - Raptorial predator found at high densities.



Cyclopoid copepods (*Cyclops bicuspidatus*) - One of 28 herbivorous, carnivorous and omnivorous cyclopoid copepod species in Lake Huron.



Native waterfleas (*Daphnia galeata*) - 22 genera of native filter-feeding waterfleas live in Lake Huron.



Calanoid copepods (*Diaptomus spp.*) - 7 genera of native filter-feeding copepods live in Lake Huron.



Rotifers - Omnivorous microscopic animals which package the smallest particles, including small phytoplankton and wastes into a form which can be eaten by larger zooplankton.

Phytoplankton (Algae found in the water column)



Blue-green algae - Largely inedible and frequently toxic, these algae often form large blooms which contribute to shoreline slime accumulations.



Green algae - Microscopic (single-celled) plants which form the main support of the summer food web. Also includes large nuisance species such as *Cladophora*.



Diatoms - Cold-loving microscopic (single celled) plants encased in silica shells which support the first wave of production in the spring.



Flagellates - Motile, single-celled plants or animals frequently found in high numbers. Most eat bacteria and so may help funnel bacterial products back into the food chain.