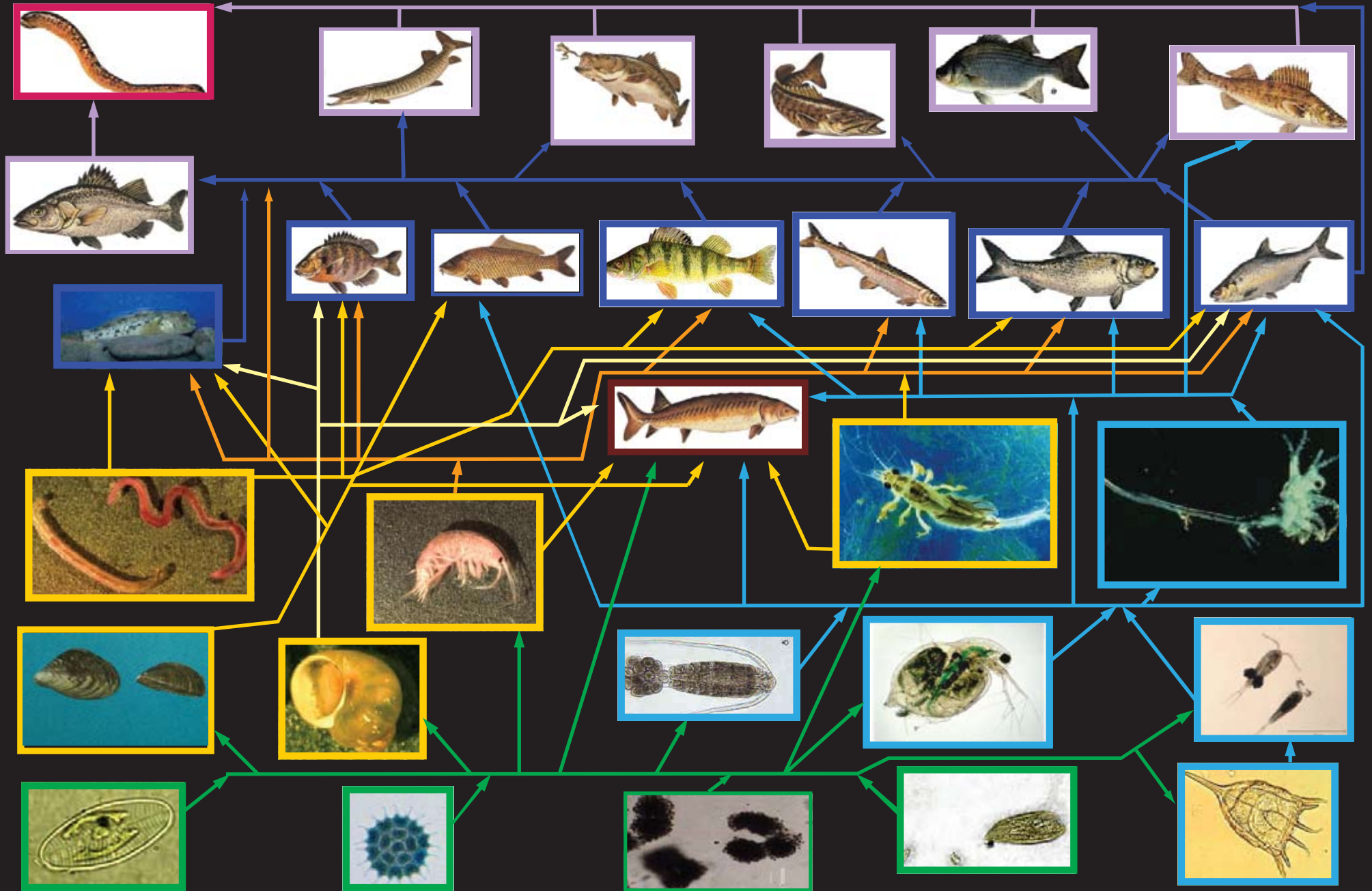




Lake St. Clair Food Web



Sea Lamprey



Sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) - An aggressive, non-native parasite that fastens onto its prey and rasps out a hole with its rough tongue.

Piscivores (Fish Eaters)



White bass (*Morone chrysops*) - Prefers clear open water in lakes and large rivers. Visual feeders, uses sight instead of smell to find prey.



White Perch (*Morone americana*) - Invaded the Great Lakes through the Erie and Welland canals in 1950. Feeds on invertebrates and fishes.



Smallmouth Bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*) - Usually in clear, medium-size rivers and lakes but prefer temperatures above 20 deg. C in the summer. Adults eat mostly fish and crayfish.



Muskellunge (*Esox masquinongy*) - Most often resides in water less than 4.5 m deep. Eats fish and, occasionally, ducks, and muskrats.



Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) - Commonly inhabit small to medium-sized clear lakes that have warm waters, sandy shorelines, and numerous weed beds. Adults consume fishes, crayfish, surface insects, and frogs.



Walleye (*Stizostedion vitreum*) - Native coolwater species found in nearshore areas.

Forage Fish



Round Goby (*Apollonia melanostomus*) - Exotic, found in deep water of the Great Lakes and tributary streams. Feed on bivalves, crustaceans, insects, and small fishes.



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



Freshwater drum (*Aplodinotus grunniens*) - Gets its scientific name from its odd grunt-grunting noises, produced by muscles vibrating against the swim bladder. Tolerates both clear and murky water.



Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) - Native to Asia, was introduced to North America in the late 1800s as a food fish. Eats submerged vegetation and benthos.



Alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) - Atlantic species that invaded in 1949 via the Welland canal.



Gizzard shad (*Dorosoma cepedianum*) - Commonly grows from 9 to 14 inches. Found in large schools. Has no commercial value. Found in freshwater habitats.



Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*) - Found to depths of 20 feet in bays, marinas, and rocky bottom areas, especially where vegetation is present.

Planktivores/Benthivores



Lake Sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*) - Listed as a rare species in the U.S. - endangered over most of its historic range. Its diet commonly includes small clams, snails, crayfish, sideswimmers, aquatic insect larvae, algae, and other plant matter.

MacroInvertebrates



Chironomids/Oligochaetes - Larval insects and worms living on the lake bottom. Species present are a good indicator of water quality.



Mayfly nymphs (*Hexagenia spp.*) - A burrowing insect larvae found in warm, shallow water bays and basins, usually in soft sediments. The presence of this sensitive organism indicates good water quality conditions.



Amphipods (*Gammarus*) - A common amphipod found in warm, shallow regions.



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



Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) - Invaded Lake Erie in 1980's, filter feeders that remove huge quantities of plankton.

Zooplankton (Microscopic animals found in the water column)



Invasive Spiny waterfleas (*Bythotrephes longimanus*) - Raptorial predator when found at high densities. Can depress mature water-flea populations.



Cyclopoid copepods (*Cyclops bicuspidatus*) - One of 11 carnivorous cyclopoid copepod species in Lake Erie.



Native waterfleas (*Daphnia galeata*) - More than 50 species of native filter-feeding waterfleas live in Lake Erie. Photo Credit : Dr. James F. Haney, 1999

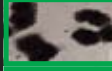


Calanoid copepods (*Diaptomus spp.*) - Eleven species of native calanoid copepods live in Lake Erie. Calanoid copepods are omnivores but prefer active prey.



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

Phytoplankton (Algae found in the water column)



Blue-green algae - Largely inedible and frequently toxic; blooms in late summer can look like spilled paint on the water surface.



Green algae - Microscopic (single-celled) plants that 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 that 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.