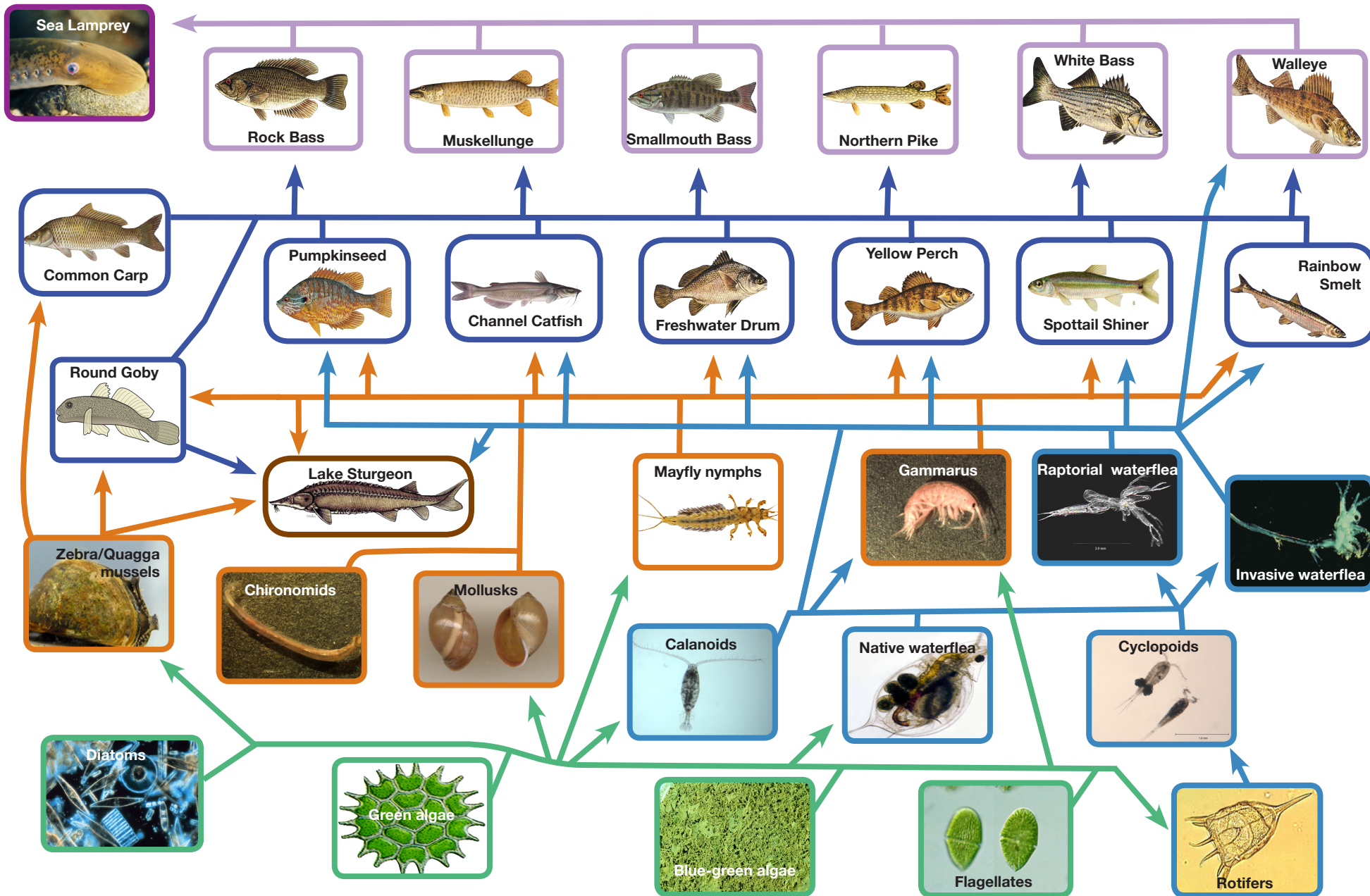


Lake St. Clair Food Web



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.



Smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*). Native coolwater species. Intolerant of pollution so is a good indicator of a healthy environment.



Rock bass (*Ambloplites rupestris*). Native that prefers clear, rocky, and vegetated stream pools and lake margins. It is carnivorous, and its diet consists of smaller fish, insects, and crustaceans.



Muskellunge (*Esox masquinongy*). Eats mostly fish but also eats crayfish, frogs, ducklings, snakes, muskrats, mice, other small mammals and small birds. The mouth is large with many large and hair-like teeth.



Northern Pike (*Esox lucius*). As with muskies, pike like the cover of vegetation in the clear, shallow, warm waters near shore. They eat smaller fish – about 90 percent of their diet, but also eat frogs, crayfish, waterfowl, rodents, and other small mammals.



Walleye (*Stizostedion vitreum*). Carnivorous night feeders, eating fishes such as yellow perch and freshwater drum, and insects, crayfish, snails, and mudpuppies.

Forage Fish



Common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). Large, omnivorous fish. Uproot plants on which ducks feed, muddy the water, and destroy plants and cover needed by other fish.



Pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*). Found in shallow, cool to moderately warm water. They eat a diverse diet of small prey, such as insects, insect larvae, mollusks, snails and other crustaceans, and small fish.



Channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*). Prefer cool, deep water with a sand or gravel bottom. Primarily bottom feeders, but also feed at the surface.



Freshwater drum (*Aplodinotus grunniens*). Gets its name from the odd grunting noises produced by muscles vibrating against the swim bladder.



Yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*). Native that schools near shore, generally preferring relatively shallow waters near shore.



Spottail shiner (*Notropis hudsonius*). Occur in a variety of habitats from large lakes and rivers to small streams. They do best in clear waters, and at times become quite abundant offshore.



Rainbow smelt (*Osmerus mordax*). Found in both coastal and offshore habitats. Light-sensitive, so prefer deeper, cooler waters during the warmer seasons.



Round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*). Invasive, introduced into the Great Lakes via freighter ballast. Feeds on bivalves, including zebra mussels, crustaceans, insects, and small fishes.

This food web includes only the dominant species.

Planktivores/Benthivores



Lake Sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*). 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 that live on the lake bottom. Feed on detritus. 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.

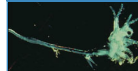


Mollusks. A mixture of native and non-native species of snails and clams are eaten by lake whitefish and other bottom feeding fish.



Zebra and quagga mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha* and *Dreissena bugensis*). Invaded Lake St. Clair in 1988 (zebra); 2001 (quagga), filter-feeders that remove huge quantities of plankton.

Zooplankton (Microscopic animals found in the water column)



Invasive Spiny waterfleas (*Bythotrephes longimanus*). Visual raptorial predator that can depress native waterflea populations.



Native Raptorial waterfleas (*Leptodora kindtii*). Slow moving and patchy distribution of small swarms at relatively low numbers.



Cyclopoid copepods (e.g., *Cyclops bicuspidatus*). Carnivorous copepods that feed on rotifers and other microzooplankton.



Native waterfleas (e.g., *Daphnia galeata*). Filter-feeding waterfleas that can be important for controlling phytoplankton.

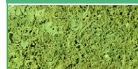


Calanoid copepods (e.g., *Diatomus* spp.). Omnivores that feed on both phytoplankton and microzooplankton.



Rotifers. A diverse group of microzooplankton that, depending on species, feed on phytoplankton, detritus, or other microzooplankton.

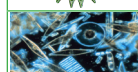
Phytoplankton (Algae found in the water column)



Blue-green algae (aka Cyanobacteria). Often inedible and frequently toxic; blooms in late summer and 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.