

FishPass Monthly Update



Dear partners and stakeholders:

On behalf of the FishPass team, I am pleased to provide to you our May FishPass update. Please distribute the update as you see fit.

Engineering Design Update:

- Final stamped and signed engineering plans and specifications for FishPass are complete and available through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) [website](#).
- The City of Traverse City completed the acquisition of a small parcel located on the east side of Union Street Bridge from the Michigan Department of Transportation. This parcel was required to build the project as designed which includes a boardwalk under Union Street Bridge to connect Union Street Dam Park and Hannah Park.

Assessment:

- No physical sampling of fish occurred in May 2020 in the Lower Boardman River. As part of the fish movement project, the Boardman River from the mouth to the Union St. Dam, is consistently monitored on a bi-weekly basis with a mobile radio-telemetry receiver. Individual fish with radio-telemetry tags are located and mapped as part of this effort. Tracking efforts were suspended after 22 March due to the executive order 2020-21 and were resumed on 7 May (Fig. 1). Existing stationary telemetry receivers continued to collect fish movement data in the Lower Boardman River throughout the executive order to shelter in place.

In the News:

- TC Commissioners To Consider Approving Safe Routes To School Construction, Forming City Transportation Committee (The Ticker, 4 May 2020): <https://www.traverseticker.com/news/tc-commissioners-to-consider-approving-safe-routes-to-school-construction-forming-city-transportation-committee/>
- 'Vampire fish' gorged on Great Lakes trout until the invasive species was subdued (Phys.org, 13 May 2020): <https://phys.org/news/2020-05-vampire-fish-gorged-great-lakes.html>
- Here's how neighboring dams could be impacting your watershed (Manistee News Advocate, 2 June 2020): <https://www.manisteenews.com/local-news/article/Here-s-how-neighboring-dams-could-be-impacting-15312040.php>

Upcoming:

- The FishPass Team will provide a project update to Traverse City Commissioners and seek approval and acceptance of a Right of Entry agreement that allows the USACE and their contractor (once selected) to construct FishPass infrastructure and replace Union Street Dam.
- The USACE anticipates the construction bid solicitation process to begin on June 19.
- The FishPass Team will be installing time-lapse cameras at Union Street Dam Park to record progress during project construction.
- 8 June. Our first 2020 quarterly fish population sampling of the lower Boardman River will be conducted in conjunction with the MI Department of Natural Resources and Grand Traverse Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians.

Lower Boardman River fish locations - May 2020



Figure 1. Locations of brown trout (BNT), white sucker (CWS), rainbow trout (RBT), smallmouth bass (SMB), and Walleye (WAE) by species (color) and date (shape) collected using manual radio telemetry techniques.