NMEAC Resolution regarding Fish Passage on the Boardman (Ottaway) River

WHEREAS: The decision of any fish species chosen for passage should be decided by citizens of Grand Traverse and Kalkaska counties, not outside agencies.

WHEREAS: Sea Lampreys will likely gain entrance to the Boardman (Ottaway) River via anadromous fish, if lake-run fish gain access to the river, any toxic larvicide, (such as TFM), must not be used to treat the river, as this toxin kills more than just Sea Lampreys.

WHEREAS: If a chosen passage fish is a species currently raised in a hatchery, then passage up the Boardman River is tantamount to aiding and abetting aquaculture.

WHEREAS: Fish passage to allow new, non-native, predatory fish species to exploit the river ecosystem will be at the expense of established fish and aquatic organisms. The Boardman river will not maintain the present status as a “Blue Ribbon Trout Stream” with the addition of exotic, predatory non-native fish.

WHEREAS: We must not ignore DEQ reports about consuming Grand Traverse Bay Lake Trout because of warnings of hazardous concentrations of PCVBs and chlordane. Lake-run Steelheads (Rainbow Trout) also have PCB concentrations that are more than twice the “No effects” limit.

WHEREAS: The adverse effects of new toxins on mink, otters, and snapping turtles may lead to deformities, reproductive failure, and sterility which could cause cascading effects throughout the land and water ecosystem (the watershed), and documented studies have previously reported “PCBs in fish below barrier dams continue to pose a hazard to sensitive wildlife.”

WHEREAS: Many proponents of anadromous fish passage have not heeded the warning of the studies done on Kids Creek by Notre Dame University (Janetski et al. 2012) which show unacceptable levels and transport of several powerful toxins in local Brook Trout that they ascribe to the passage of lake-run salmonids and toxic TFM treatments, and these same scientists have shown similar effects below a dam on the Manistee River.

THEFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council (NMEAC) opposes allowing the passage of any species of anadromous fish above the Union Street dam in Traverse City, and only allowing passage of fish species native to Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Superior and their watershed basins.

NMEAC

Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council  Post Office Box 1166, Traverse City, MI 49685-1166  231 946-6931

www.nmeac.org

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