



Fisheries Division Position Statement

Fish Passage Objectives for the FISHpass Project on the Boardman River at Union Street

Key components of the FISHpass Project are to prevent upstream sea lamprey migration and to provide passage for other important fish species. The current fish ladders at Union Street Dam allow salmonids (i.e. Chinook salmon, coho salmon, brown trout and steelhead) and to a lesser extent walleye, lake trout and suckers to migrate from Lake Michigan to the Sabin Dam. Fisheries Division annually stocks 100,000 Coho Salmon and 20,000 steelhead into the Boardman River. These efforts provide popular and unique angling opportunities in Traverse City and throughout the Grand Traverse Bay area. Fisheries Division has a significant interest in maintaining and enhancing both fish migration and recreational fishing opportunities with the FISHpass project.

Below are desired design criteria for the FISHpass facility:

- Stop all sea lamprey migration to protect Lake Michigan/Huron fisheries
- Be capable of stopping other invasive fish species
- Be capable of passing all native fish species
- Be capable of selectively passing introduced salmonids if desired and appropriate
- Allow access to view the experimental channel for education and outreach purposes to the greatest extent possible
- Provide pathway to safely portage the site by paddlers
- Maintain Run-of-river flow required at all regulated dams in Michigan
- Provide signage referencing legal fishing limits in terms of distance from the facility