

# Aquatic Food Web

The Detroit River and Lake Saint Clair are part of the Great Lakes basin that provides an important food source for the region and the country. Below are sample species in the Great Lakes Aquatic Food Web.

Top of the Food Chain

## Tertiary (Top-Level) Consumers

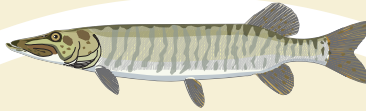
Humans, certain bird and fish species.



*Homo sapiens*  
(Human)



*Ardea herodias*  
(Great Blue Heron)



*Esox masquinongy*  
(Muskie)



*Micropterus dolomieu*  
(Smallmouth Bass)



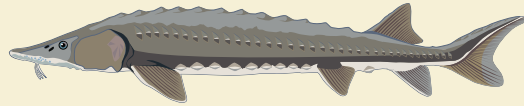
*Stizostedion vitreum*  
(Walleye)

## Secondary Consumers

Smaller fish and other species. Some species may be both predators and prey.



*Perca flavescens*  
(Yellow Perch)



*Acipenser fulvescens*  
(Lake Sturgeon)



*Neogobius melanostomus*  
(Round Goby)

## Primary Consumers

Smaller fish and other species. Some species may be both predators and prey.



Zooplankton  
(*Daphnia*, Waterflea)

*Gammarus*  
(Amphipod, Scud)



*Hirudinea*  
(Leech)



*Dreissena polymorpha*  
(Zebra Mussel)



Decapod crustacean  
(Crayfish)



*Aythya valisineria*  
(Canvasback)



*Physidae*  
(Pouch Snail)

*Oligochaeta*  
(Worm)



*Chironomidae*  
(Midge Larvae)



*Ephemeroptera*  
(Mayfly Nymph)



*Osmerus mordax*  
(Rainbow Smelt)

## Producers, Decomposers & Nutrients

Macrophytes, phytoplankton and zooplankton (microscopic plants and animals) and detritus.

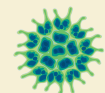


*Valisneria americana*  
(Wild Celery)



Macrophyte  
(Aquatic Plant)

Bacteria, Fungi and Detritus



Phytoplankton  
(Algae)

Base of the Food Chain