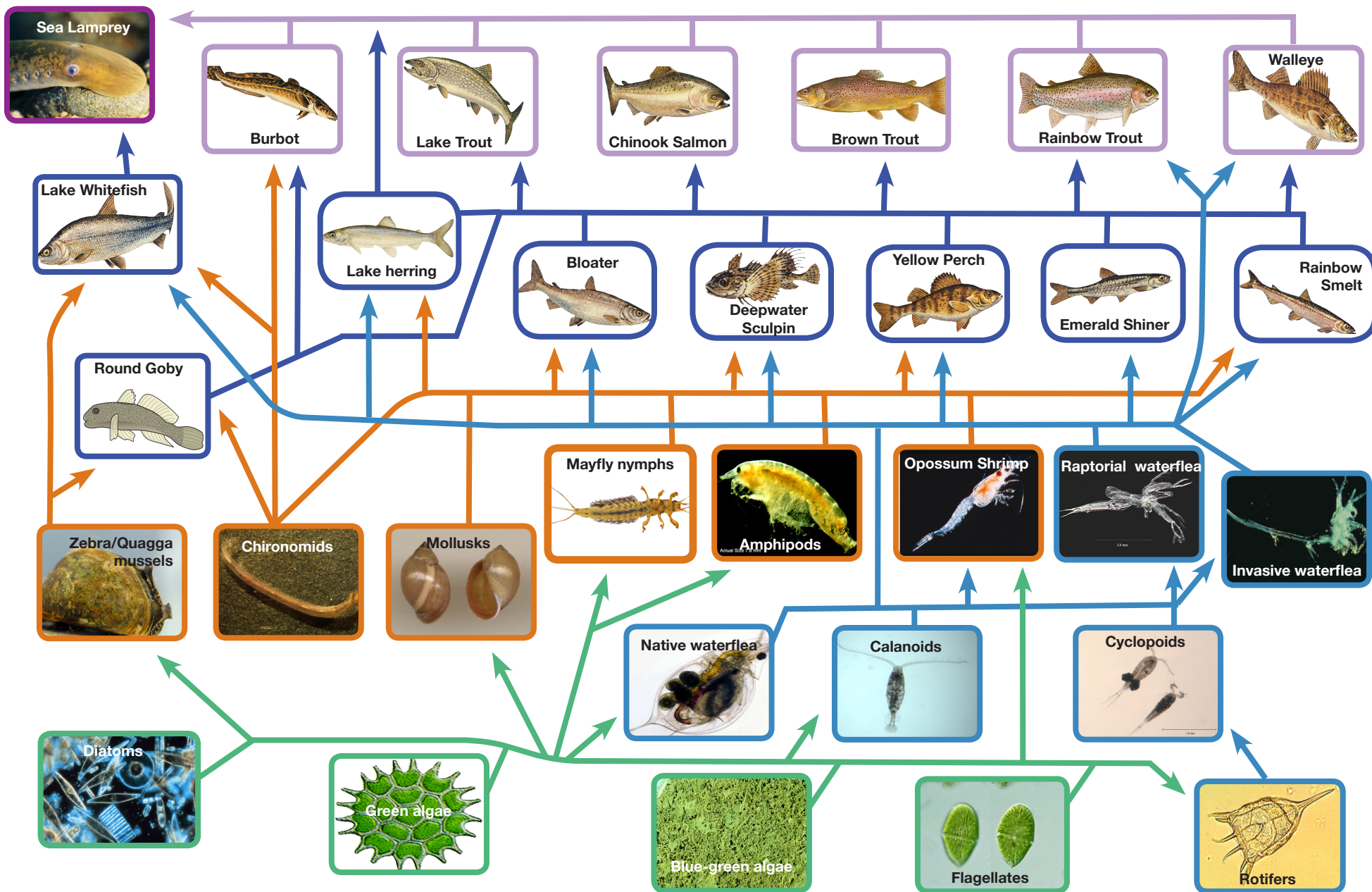


# Lake Huron Food Web



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## 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)



**Chinook salmon** (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*). Pacific salmon species stocked as a trophy fish and to control alewife.



**Rainbow trout or Steelhead** (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). A lake strain of non-native rainbow trout, rarely found deeper than 35 feet. Supplemented by stocking.



**Brown Trout** (*Salmo trutta*). A European species introduced in the late 1880's. Mostly does well in slightly degraded habitats.



**Lake trout** (*Salvelinus namaycush*). Nearly eliminated by sea lampreys during the 1950s and 1960s. Stocking and lamprey control are resulting in its resurgence.



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



**Burbot** (*Lota lota*). Elongated, cylindrical, freshwater codfish.

## Forage Fish



**Lake whitefish** (*Coregonus clupeaformis*). Native found in cold waters. Bottom feeder—diets have shifted to include zebra and quagga mussels.



**Yellow perch** (*Perca flavescens*). Native that schools near shore, usually at depths less than 30 feet.



**Bloater** (*Coregonus hoyi*). Native deepwater chub feeding on zooplankton and other organisms near the lake bottom. Harvested commercially for smoked fish.



**Deepwater sculpin** (*Myoxocephalus quadricornis thompsonii*). A native glacial relic that lives at the bottom of cold, deep water feeding on aquatic invertebrates.



**Lake herring or Cisco** (*Coregonus artedii*). A schooling fish, that prefer deep water, but move to shallower water in fall as upper waters cool. They are primarily plankton feeders, but also eat insects and small minnows.



**Emerald Shiner** (*Notropis atherinoides*). Numbers declined during the 1960s due to Alewife populations, but recent surveys show their resurgence.



**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.

115 species of fish, including at least 16 non-natives, make their homes in the waters of Lake Huron. Seven species of native fish have been extirpated from Lake Huron. This food web includes only the dominant species.

## 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.



**Amphipods** (*Diporeia*). The most common species of amphipod found in fish diets that began declining in the late 1990's.



**Opossum shrimp** (*Mysis relicta*). An omnivore that feeds on algae and small cladocerans. Migrates into the water column at night.



**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.



**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*). Established in Lake Huron in 1990 (zebra); 1997 (quagga). Filter-feeders that remove huge quantities of plankton.

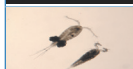
## Zooplankton (Microscopic animals found in the water column)



**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.



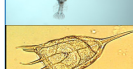
**Cyclopoid copepods** (e.g., *Cyclops bicuspidatus*). Carnivorous copepods that feed on rotifers and other microzooplankton.



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

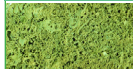


**Calanoid copepods** (e.g., *Diaptomus* spp.). Omnivores that feed on both phytoplankton and microzooplankton.



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

## Phytoplankton (Algae found in the water column)



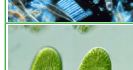
**Blue-green algae** (aka Cyanobacteria). Often inedible and frequently toxic; blooms in late summer and can look like spilled paint on the water surface.



**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.