

1 **Changes in Movements of Chinook Salmon Between Lakes Huron and Michigan After**  
2 **Alewife Population Collapse**

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30 <A> Abstract

31 Alewives *Alosa pseudoharengus* are the preferred food of Chinook Salmon  
32 *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* in the Laurentian Great Lakes. Alewife populations collapsed in  
33 Lake Huron in 2003, but remained comparatively abundant in Lake Michigan. We analyzed  
34 capture locations of coded-wire-tagged Chinook Salmon before, during, and after Alewife  
35 collapse (1993–2014). We contrasted the pattern of tag recoveries for salmon released at Swan  
36 River in northern Lake Huron and Medusa Creek in northern Lake Michigan. We examined  
37 patterns during April–July, when salmon were primarily occupied by feeding, and August–  
38 October, when salmon were primarily occupied by spawning. We found evidence that the Swan  
39 River salmon shifted their feeding location from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan after the  
40 collapse. Over years, proportions of Swan River salmon captured in Lake Michigan increased in  
41 correspondence with the decline in Alewives in Lake Huron. Mean proportions of Swan River  
42 salmon captured in Lake Michigan were 0.13 (SD, 0.14) before (1993–1997) and 0.82 (SD, 0.22)  
43 after (2008–2014) and were significantly different (Pairwise permutation test:  $Z=2.80$ ,  $P=0.01$ ).  
44 In contrast, proportions of Medusa Creek salmon captured in Lake Michigan did not change.  
45 Means were 0.98 (SD, 0.05) before and 0.99 (SD, 0.01) after. The mean distance to the center of  
46 the coastal distribution of Swan River salmon shifted 357 km (SD, 169) during April–July, from  
47 central Lake Huron before to central Lake Michigan after. The coastal distributions of salmon  
48 during August–October were centered on the respective sites of origin, which suggested that  
49 salmon returned to release sites to spawn regardless of their feeding locations. Regarding the  
50 impact on Alewife populations, this shift in inter-lake movement would be equivalent to  
51 increasing the stocking rate within Lake Michigan by 30%. The primary management  
52 implication is that inter-lake coordination of Chinook salmon stocking policies would be  
53 expected to benefit the recreational fishery.

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## 55 &lt;A&gt; Introduction

56 Chinook Salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* were successfully introduced into lakes  
57 Michigan and Huron of the Laurentian Great Lakes in the 1960s to support recreational fisheries  
58 and to suppress overabundant Alewives *Alosa pseudoharengus*, a non-native planktivore (Tanner  
59 and Tody 2002; Claramunt et al. 2012). Populations of Lake Trout *Salvelinus namaycush*, the  
60 native apex piscivore, had collapsed during the mid-20th century from commercial fishing and  
61 predation by invasive Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* (Wells and McClain 1973). The loss of  
62 Lake Trout reduced fishing opportunities and enabled Alewives to reach extremely high  
63 abundances (Smith 1968; Wells and McClain 1973; Muir et al. 2012). Along with Chinook  
64 Salmon, other salmonine predators also were stocked to support fisheries and ecosystem  
65 rehabilitation, including Lake Trout, Rainbow Trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, Coho Salmon  
66 *Oncorhynchus kisutch*, and Brown Trout *Salmo trutta*. However, Chinook Salmon were  
67 arguably the most successful in terms of their popularity among recreational anglers and their  
68 performance as Alewife predators (Stewart and Ibarra 1991; Claramunt et al. 2012). Beginning  
69 in the 1980s, many Chinook Salmon were tagged with coded-wire tags (CWTs) to evaluate their  
70 survival and movements. Adlerstein et al. (2007; 2008) analyzed CWT recoveries to describe  
71 the seasonal movement patterns of Chinook Salmon during the 1990s and found that salmon  
72 traveled extensively within each lake but traveled little between lakes even though the  
73 connection between lakes, the Straits of Mackinaw, is a broad, deep channel with no apparent  
74 barriers to fish passage. These results supported the prevailing management structures which  
75 were designed to organize and coordinate Chinook Salmon management by individual lakes. For  
76 example, management within the state of Michigan was coordinated by Lake Basin Teams and  
77 international and interstate management across the lakes was coordinated by Lake Committees  
78 through the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC). Thus, Chinook Salmon fishing  
79 regulations and stocking policies were developed separately by lake, with minimal attention to  
80 inter-lake coordination.

81 More recently, however, assessment of catch-per-effort (*CPE*) in recreational fisheries  
82 showed that the distribution of Chinook Salmon in the two lakes changed after the 1990s (Clark  
83 et al. 2016). Clark et al. (2016) suggested that the change may have been driven at least in part  
84 by increases in inter-lake travels of Chinook Salmon from Lake Huron into Lake Michigan as a

85 response to changes in the relative abundance of Alewives between lakes. Alewives are the  
86 preferred food of Great Lakes Chinook Salmon (Jacobs et al. 2013), and Alewife populations  
87 collapsed in Lake Huron in 2003 and have subsequently remained low (Riley et al. 2008;  
88 O’Gorman et al. 2012; Roseman et al. 2016). In contrast, Alewives have persisted in Lake  
89 Michigan despite a declining trend in recent years, and Chinook Salmon abundance is nearing an  
90 all-time high (Tsehaye et al. 2014; Clark et al. 2016; Madenjian et al. 2016). Fisheries managers  
91 have agreed to manage for a sustainable balance between Chinook Salmon and Alewives in Lake  
92 Michigan so as to maintain both at near present abundance levels and to avoid a collapse as  
93 occurred in Lake Huron (Lake Michigan Committee 2014).

94 In Lake Huron, abundance and body condition of Chinook Salmon declined sharply after  
95 the collapse of Alewives (Johnson et al. 2010; Brenden et al. 2012), but the severity of these  
96 declines varied regionally. The *CPE* of Chinook Salmon in the sport fishery declined over 90%  
97 from 2002 to 2010 in the main basin south of 45° N latitude (Figure 1) (Clark et al. 2016), likely  
98 from starvation as evidenced by critically low body conditions measured in this region after the  
99 Alewife collapse (Johnson et al. 2007). In contrast, declines in abundance and body condition  
100 were less affected in the main basin north of 45° N latitude and in Georgian Bay (Johnson and  
101 Gonder 2013; Clark et al. 2016). Chinook Salmon populations remain physically healthy and  
102 seasonally abundant in these regions. Our hypothesis is that these Chinook Salmon were able to  
103 persist at comparatively high levels because they changed their feeding locations from Lake  
104 Huron to Lake Michigan to take advantage of the more abundant Alewives in Lake Michigan.  
105 In this study we test our hypothesis by assessing the spatial distribution of captures of CWT  
106 Chinook Salmon over a series of years that include periods before, during, and after the collapse  
107 of Alewife populations in Lake Huron. We will attempt to relate any changes found to changes  
108 in the relative abundance of Alewives between lakes.

## 109 <A> Methods

110 We compared movement patterns of CWT Chinook Salmon released at index sites in  
111 each lake, Swan River in Lake Huron and Medusa Creek in Lake Michigan (Figure 1), over a  
112 period of 21 years (1993–2014). These sites provided the longest and most continuous set of  
113 tag-capture data for Chinook Salmon among the potential sites. Also, these sites had several  
114 other desirable characteristics. Both are small streams with little potential for Chinook Salmon

115 natural reproduction; are the same distance (80 km) on opposite sides of the dividing line  
116 between the two lakes (middle of the Straits of Mackinaw); and are north of 45° N latitude where  
117 the primary potential exists for the exchange of fish between lakes (Figure 1). From 1991–2014,  
118 tagged Chinook Salmon were released at both index sites in all but 5 years (1995– 1999), when  
119 none were tagged at Medusa Creek (Table 1). The fish released at both sites were reared from  
120 eggs and tagged at Platte River and Wolf Lake State Hatcheries in Michigan in the Lake  
121 Michigan watershed (Figure 1) and were transported by truck to the release sites. Production  
122 water for Platte River Hatchery was primarily from Brundage Creek and spring water from  
123 Brundage Spring. Production water for Wolf Lake Hatchery was predominately from wells.  
124 From 1991–1999 and 2007–2014, all tagged fish for both index sites came from Platte River  
125 Hatchery (Table 1).

126 We used preexisting datasets for our analysis that were produced and maintained by the  
127 Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS),  
128 and U.S. Geological Survey, Great Lakes Science Center (USGS, GLSC). These included data  
129 on: 1) tagging and recovery of CWT Chinook Salmon (MDNR and USFWS); 2) recreational  
130 fishing effort (MDNR); and 3) YAO Alewife abundance (USGS, GLSC). The tagging data  
131 included fish that were manually tagged with CWTs and fin-clipped through 2009, and fish that  
132 were tagged and fin-clipped using an automated system (AutoFish System™, Northwest Marine  
133 Technology, Shaw Island, WA) thereafter. Under both processes, CWTs were inserted into  
134 cartilaginous tissue in the snout, while adipose fins were clipped to provide an external identifier  
135 of tagged fish. Unique tag numbers were assigned to groups of fish to denote year classes and  
136 stocking locations. These tagging operations included making estimates of the amount of  
137 tagging error and loss and the effectiveness of fin clipping. The results provided estimates of the  
138 number of effectively tagged fish by lot and are hereafter referred to as the number of  
139 recoverable tags. During the study, the mean recoverable tags by lot was 95.6% (SD, 6.0%), and  
140 this mean value was applied to tag lots for which information on tagging error/retention at  
141 release was not available.

142 Free-ranging Chinook Salmon in the open-waters of the lakes were sampled for tags in  
143 catches of the recreational fishery, and we adjusted capture rates for differences in fishing effort  
144 by subregions within lakes. We used estimates of fishing effort that targeted trout and salmon

145 from boats for the state of Michigan portion of both lakes as reported by Clark et al. (2016).  
146 Fishing effort was estimated through angler surveys using a stratified, random sampling design at  
147 all major salmon fishing access sites (Su and Clapp 2013). Troll fishing from boats was the most  
148 effective mode of capturing Chinook Salmon and regularly accounts for 85% of the harvest  
149 (Rakoczy and Svoboda 1997). Fishing effort was measured in angler hours, defined as the total  
150 number of anglers multiplied by the total hours of each completed fishing trip (Su and Clapp  
151 2013).

152 We compared annual trends in opposite-lake capture rates for the index sites to trends in  
153 yearling and older (YAO) Alewife abundance. We defined opposite-lake captures as captures of  
154 fish released at Swan River in Lake Michigan and captures of fish released at Medusa Creek in  
155 Lake Huron. In addition, we compared Lake Michigan captures rates, finer-scale coastal  
156 distributions, and minimum distances and directions traveled for series of years before and after  
157 the Alewife collapsed in Lake Huron.

158 We used estimates of abundance of YAO Alewives derived from lake-wide, bottom trawl  
159 surveys to characterize trends in abundance of Alewives within the individual lakes (Madenjian  
160 et al. 2016; Roseman et al. 2016). These surveys have produced annual, lake-wide biomass  
161 estimates for YAO Alewives since 1973 by expanding the biomass caught in areas swept by  
162 trawls to the estimated amount of all similar habitats lake wide. However, while these estimates  
163 reflected the trends in abundance in each lake, they differed by lake in the proportion of area  
164 covered, seasonal timing, gear size, and towing methods (Gorman 2012). For example, in Lake  
165 Michigan, 11.9-m head rope, 20-m footrope,  $\frac{3}{4}$  Yankee bottom trawls were towed along contour  
166 depths of 9 to 110 m for 10 minutes at several index transects each year. In Lake Huron, trawl  
167 sizes changed over the years: 11.9 m head rope trawls from 1973–1991 and 21-m head rope  
168 trawls from 1992–2014. We did not attempt to make direct comparisons of abundances between  
169 lakes, because such a comparison would have been dubious and was not necessary to test our  
170 hypothesis. The trend in abundance of Alewives in Lake Huron was the most important factor  
171 for testing our hypothesis, because it showed the timing of Alewife population collapse. The  
172 trend in abundance in Lake Michigan was sufficient to show Alewives persisted and were  
173 comparatively abundant there.

174 We divided captures of fish from each site into spatial and seasonal strata. We used two  
175 levels of spatial strata. Because our primary objective was to determine the extent of inter-lake  
176 movement, we first divided captures by lake. Then we used annual trends in the proportions of  
177 opposite-lake captures as a measure of the distribution of tagged fish between lakes when  
178 comparing to Alewife abundances. Second, because we wanted to describe finer-scale lake  
179 distributions and evaluate minimum distances and directions traveled, we organized captures into  
180 a regional grid system that was similar to methods used for evaluating movements of Chinook  
181 Salmon on the Pacific Coast of North America (e.g. Weitkamp 2010). We defined three regions  
182 in Lake Michigan as LM1, LM2, and LM3 and three regions in Lake Huron as LH1, LH2, and  
183 LH3 (Figure 1). We restricted our analysis to regions in state of Michigan waters because tag  
184 recovery effort was extensive and consistent there for our entire period of study. We assumed  
185 that captures in these regions would serve our primary purpose of identifying changes in inter-  
186 lake movements and would provide useful descriptions of coastal distributions and minimum  
187 distances and directions traveled from the stocking sites. These regions spanned the entire  
188 latitudinal gradient and covered about half the main basins of each lake. However, it should be  
189 recognized that the lakes are up to 160 km wide (east-west) and 500 km long (north-south), and  
190 the recreational fisheries, from which tagged fish were captured, primarily operated within 15  
191 kilometers from shore. This meant that the movement patterns of Chinook Salmon we described  
192 herein were heavily weighted towards shoreline areas and should be considered as near-shore or  
193 coastal distributions.

194 We divided years into two seasonal strata, because we thought it was likely that Chinook  
195 Salmon would change their feeding locations but not their spawning locations. Chinook Salmon  
196 stocks in the Great Lakes are semelparous fall spawners. The hatchery fish used in this study  
197 were released near the mouths of Swan River or Medusa Creek in April–May. They entered the  
198 open lakes as fingerling-sized smolts (90–95 mm total length), fed and grew for one to four years  
199 until maturity, and then returned to the site of their release to attempt to spawn beginning in mid-  
200 August through October. Thus, to help isolate feeding and spawning behavior, we defined the  
201 months of April through July as the feeding season and the months of August through October as  
202 the spawning season. We realized our definitions of feeding and spawning seasons were only  
203 approximations; for example, Chinook Salmon do feed in August through October, and  
204 immature fish might not exhibit spawning behavior in fall. Nonetheless, dividing tag recovery

205 data into these two seasons is reasonable based on life history considerations. Fishing effort and  
206 captures of salmon were very limited during the winter months of November through March  
207 because wind, cold, and ice cover reduced fishing effort to near zero, so this season was  
208 excluded from analysis.

209 We examined the correlation in timing of changes in movements between lakes to  
210 changes in Alewife abundance by comparing annual trends of the proportions of opposite-lake  
211 capture to annual trends in the abundance of YAO Alewives in the source lakes. We reasoned  
212 that the hypothesis would be supported if: 1) the trend in the proportion of opposite-lake  
213 captures for Swan River during the feeding season appeared to be inversely related to the trend in  
214 abundance of YAO Alewives in Lake Huron; and 2) the proportion of opposite-lake captures for  
215 Medusa Creek was comparatively low during the feeding season, or at least did not increase  
216 when the abundance of YAO Alewives in Lake Huron decreased.

217 We tested for significant ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) changes in the proportion of captures in Lake  
218 Michigan by site and season using nonparametric permutation tests that compared the annual  
219 proportions by site and season in periods before (1993–1997) and after (2008–2014) the Alewife  
220 collapse in Lake Huron. We organized captures as though the tagging of Chinook Salmon was  
221 initially designed to be a set of single-factor experiments to test the effects of reducing Alewife  
222 abundance in Lake Huron on the proportions of fish captured in Lake Michigan. Thus, our  
223 design can be viewed as though Medusa Creek (Lake Michigan) was an experimental control site  
224 where Alewives were present in both before and after periods and Swan River (Lake Huron) was  
225 the experimental treatment site where Alewives were present before, but were greatly reduced or  
226 absent after. We excluded 2009 and 2010 from the after period because we judged there were  
227 insufficient captures (<10 per year) during the feeding season for Swan River (Appendix Table  
228 A1). We did not include the 1998–2007 recovery data in these tests, because, based on the  
229 timing of the Alewife collapse in Lake Huron, we thought movement patterns during that period  
230 could be in a transitional state. Also, no tagged Chinook Salmon were released at Medusa Creek  
231 during 1995–1999 (Table 1) and, because of the relatively short life span of these fish,  
232 insufficient captures (<10 per year) were collected for Medusa fish from 1998–2001 (Appendix  
233 Tables A3 and A4). Applying these criteria resulted in a balanced, one-way comparison of  
234 before and after periods with a sample size of 5 years per period for the tests (i.e., 1993–1997



235 before and 2008, 2009, 2012–2014 after). Hereafter, we will refer to the after period simply as  
236 2008–2012. In an initial analysis, we examined whether the groups defined by release site,  
237 season, and period differed in the proportion of salmon recovered from Lake Michigan (response  
238 variable) using a multifactorial permutation test (Manly 1998); the *lmp* function from the  
239 *LmPerm* package in *R*. This approach uses normalized sum of squares and type 3 tests (i.e., it  
240 evaluates an effect with all others in the model). Given this model would lead to significant ( $\alpha =$   
241 0.05) interaction effects and an overall significant model (in comparison with a constant mean  
242 model), we planned to followed up with four specific before versus after period comparisons of  
243 interest: 1) Swan River salmon recovered in feeding season; 2) Medusa Creek salmon recovered  
244 in feeding season; 3) Swan River salmon recovered in spawning season; and 4) Medusa Creek  
245 salmon recovered in spawning season. These post hoc tests were based on pairwise permutation  
246 tests with Bonferroni-adjusted *P* values ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) to correct for the family-wise error rate in the  
247 multiple-test comparisons. We used the *PairwisePermutationTest* function in the *rcompanion*  
248 package in *R* for these tests (Mangiafico 2016).

249 We described coastal distributions of Chinook Salmon for each release site by plotting  
250 the average annual proportions and standard errors of fish captured by lake region in each  
251 season. We compared plots of distributions for before (1993–1997) and after (2008–2014)  
252 periods. We assessed differences in lake distributions by visual comparisons of these plots. If  
253 our hypothesis was correct, we expected the coastal distribution of Swan River fish to shift into  
254 Lake Michigan during the feeding season in the after period, and the distributions for Medusa  
255 Creek fish not to change, or at least not to shift into Lake Huron.

256 We defined the displacement distance for each capture as the shortest swimming distance  
257 from its release site to the center of the lake region of capture. These displacement distances  
258 would represent the minimum distances travelled from the release site. Distances were measured  
259 with the Google Earth® ruler function. We calculated means (SDs) for displacement distances  
260 by age for captures aggregated for entire fishing seasons (April–October), feeding seasons  
261 (April–July), and spawning seasons (August– October). We also calculated coefficients of  
262 variation ( $CV = 100 \cdot SD/mean$ ) to compare the relative dispersion of captures by season. Our  
263 displacement distances for entire fishing seasons were comparable to methods used by Weitkamp  
264 (2010) to calculate the mean minimum distances traveled by age for 29 Chinook Salmon stocks

265 along the Pacific Coast of North America and allowed us to compare age-specific distances  
266 traveled for stocks in lakes Huron and Michigan to stocks in their native range.

267 To help assess changes in directions traveled by Chinook Salmon, we standardized  
268 distributions of displacement distances so that they were centered on the release sites. That is,  
269 we assigned a negative sign (-) to distances for captures from lake regions to the west of the  
270 release site, a positive sign (+) to distances for captures from lake regions to the east of the  
271 release site, or a distance of 0 to captures from the lake region containing the release site. This  
272 approach causes the mean displacement distance for any sample of captures to be zero if fish  
273 moved equally to the west and the east of the release site, to be negative if more fish moved  
274 greater distances to the west, or to be positive if more fish moved greater distances to the east.  
275 Because of the geographic configuration of the lakes, these (-) and (+) directions would actually  
276 be southwest and southeast from the stocking sites (Figure 1), but we treated the continuous Lake  
277 Michigan-Lake Huron shoreline within the state of Michigan as a straight, east-west line for the  
278 analysis. The end result is essentially a linearized simplification of the two-dimensional map  
279 space, but it provided a practical assessment of potential changes in direction and mean  
280 minimum distances of movements. We defined the mean, standardized displacement distance as  
281 the net displacement distance and compared net displacement distances by site, season, and age  
282 group in before and after periods by plotting them on maps of the lakes.

283 We expected that spatial differences in fishing effort and temporal differences in numbers  
284 of tags released would bias the distribution of tag recoveries. We knew that fishing effort in Lake  
285 Huron was substantially lower than in Lake Michigan and that fishing effort had declined to a  
286 greater extent in Lake Huron over the period of study (Clark et al. 2016). Also, the number of  
287 recoverable tags stocked by year varied from 0–394 thousand (Table 1). In order to adjust for  
288 these biases, we weighted each individual capture by the fishing effort in the stratum (i.e., region,  
289 season, and year) of its capture and the number of recoverable tags released in the year it was  
290 stocked. Then, we used the sum of weighted captures in each stratum as an index of abundance  
291 of tagged fish in the stratum. In essence, our weighting adjustment was similar to assuming *CPE*  
292 is an index of abundance, but here we are assuming captures-per-effort-per-number-tagged is an  
293 index of abundance. Thus, the index of abundance of tagged fish *NR* in region *i*, season *j*, and  
294 year *k* from a given site was:

$$NR_{i,j,k} = \sum_{l=1}^{nr_{i,j,k}} WC_{i,j,k,l}$$

295 where  $nr_{i,j,k}$  was the total number of captures in region  $i$ , season  $j$ , year  $k$  and  $WC_{i,j,k,l}$  was the  $l^{th}$   
 296 weighted capture. Similarly, the index of abundance of tagged fish in an entire lake  $NL$  in region  
 297  $i$ , season  $j$ , year  $k$  from a given site was:

$$NL_{i,j,k} = \sum_{l=1}^{nl_{i,j,k}} WC_{i,j,k,l}$$

298 where  $nl_{i,j,k}$  was the total number of captures in lake  $i$ , year  $j$ , year  $k$ , and  $WC_{i,j,k,l}$  is the  $l^{th}$   
 299 weighted capture. Weighted captures  $WC$  were calculated as:

$$300 \quad WC_{i,j,k,l} = (1/E_{i,j,k})/T_m$$

301 where  $E_{i,j,k}$  was the fishing effort in region  $i$ , season  $j$ , and year  $k$  and  $T_m$  is the number of  
 302 recoverable tags stocked at the given site in year  $m$ , which was the year the tagged fish was  
 303 released.

304 *Assessment of other potential biases.* – We were aware of two other potential sources of  
 305 bias in our analysis that we wanted to assess: 1) temporal and spatial differences in mortality;  
 306 and 2) temporal and spatial differences in sampling effort for tagged fish. Concerning the first,  
 307 we knew that proportional distributions of fish over space could change because movement  
 308 patterns changed, mortality patterns changed, or both. For example, if the proportion of Swan  
 309 River fish captured in Lake Michigan increased in the after period, it could be caused by  
 310 increased fish movement from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan, by increased mortality of fish  
 311 entering Lake Huron (e.g., from starvation), or a combination of both. To evaluate the potential  
 312 effects of mortality bias on spatial distributions of Swan River-released fish, we calculated total  
 313 capture rates (i.e., all captures from both lakes for a cohort divided by number of recoverable  
 314 tags stocked for the cohort) by year in both the before and after periods. We used the total  
 315 capture rates as surrogates for survival/mortality and tested for differences between periods with  
 316 a pairwise permutation test ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) (Mangiafico 2016). We reasoned that if the spatial  
 317 distributions of captures changed from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan in the after period because

318 mortality increased in Lake Huron and not because movement patterns changed, it should be  
319 reflected as significantly lower total capture rates for after period cohorts. Alternatively, if the  
320 capture rate in the after period was equal to or greater than the before period, then it would be  
321 more likely that changes in movements were responsible for changes in spatial distributions.

322         Concerning the second potential bias, it should be recognized that overall recoveries of  
323 tags were obtained from numerous sources, and that each source had potential biases with  
324 respect to spatial distribution. We attempted to minimize biases by only using recoveries taken  
325 from the open-water recreational fishery by technicians who were trained to collect tagging data.  
326 This fishery generally targeted Chinook Salmon and consistently operated in both of our  
327 seasonal strata. Other captures, such as those from stream fisheries, weirs, research  
328 assessments, commercial fisheries, and volunteer anglers were not used because returns from  
329 these sources occurred only during spawning and not the feeding season (i.e., stream fisheries  
330 and weirs), Chinook Salmon were not targeted and bycatch was sporadic across strata (i.e.,  
331 commercial fisheries and research assessments), or captures were not spatially or temporally  
332 consistent (i.e., voluntary returns from anglers). The technicians collecting data consisted of  
333 three primary types: angler survey clerks (i.e., technicians employed to collect data on fishing  
334 effort and catch), tag recovery technicians (i.e., technicians employed specifically to target tag  
335 recovery by sampling angler catches), and charter captains (professional anglers who serve as  
336 guides for others).

337         The temporal and spatial deployment of sampling effort and the efficiency of tag  
338 recovery per unit of effort was different for each type of technician (Adlerstein et al 2007),  
339 which potentially could have caused biases in describing the lake spatial distributions of Chinook  
340 Salmon. The majority of the CWT recoveries were from two sources, angler survey clerks  
341 (42%) and tag recovery technicians (48%). Sampling effort of angler survey clerks was the most  
342 temporally and spatially consistent over the entire period of study because these technicians were  
343 deployed in a stratified sampling design with a primary purpose of estimating the catches and  
344 fishing efforts for multiple species of fishes. They collected CWT Chinook Salmon only when  
345 they were observed in angler catches. On the other hand, tag recovery technicians targeted CWT  
346 trout and salmon. They sampled at times and places where the highest trout and salmon catches  
347 were expected, such as during fishing tournaments, and they were more efficient in obtaining

348 tags per unit of sampling effort. Because fishing tournaments were not evenly distributed  
349 throughout the lakes, we were concerned that this type of target sampling could bias the spatial  
350 distribution of captures of CWT Chinook Salmon. We elected to use captures by tag recovery  
351 technicians in spite of this potential bias, because addition of these captures more than doubled  
352 the sample size, and we thought the bias would have a minimal effect on the results. However, to  
353 assess the presence and degree of this potential bias, we ran one-way permutation tests of  
354 symmetry and post hoc pairwise permutation tests using data from each source of recovery  
355 separately ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) to evaluate the proportions of Swan River salmon captured in Lake  
356 Michigan in before and after periods during the feeding season, the combination of greatest  
357 interest. We assumed that if results of tests were similar for both sources of recovery, then target  
358 sampling did not cause undue bias in the distributions.

### 359 <A> Results

360 Our analysis was based on a total of 2,327 recoveries (1,095 in feeding season and 1,232  
361 in spawning season) of CWT Chinook Salmon released at Swan River, Lake Huron (Appendix  
362 Tables A1 and A2) and 2,718 recoveries (1,349 in feeding season and 1,369 in spawning season)  
363 of fish released at Medusa Creek, Lake Michigan (Appendix Tables A3 and A4). These captures  
364 all met our criteria of being collected by trained technicians from the open-water recreational  
365 fishery in state of Michigan waters, and were used in all the analyses after being adjusted for  
366 fishing effort and numbers stocked.

### 367 <B> Proportions of Captures by Lake Versus Alewife Abundance

368 The estimated percent of CWT Chinook Salmon released at Swan River, Lake Huron and  
369 captured in Lake Michigan during the feeding season showed an increasing trend over years,  
370 which appeared to be inversely related to the population density of YAO Alewives in Lake  
371 Huron (Figure 2 – top panel). The estimated percent captured in Lake Michigan increased  
372 sharply from 16% in 1999 to 58% in 2000, which was 4 years prior to the Alewife collapse in  
373 Lake Huron, but did correspond with the peak abundance of YAO Alewives in Lake Michigan  
374 (Figure 2 – bottom panel). On the other hand, the estimated percent of salmon released at  
375 Medusa Creek, Lake Michigan and captured in Lake Huron during the feeding season (Figure 2  
376 – bottom panel), the estimated percent of Swan River salmon captured in Lake Michigan during

377 the spawning season (Figure 3 – top panel), and the estimated percent of Medusa Creek salmon  
378 captured in Lake Huron during the spawning season (Figure 3 – bottom panel) were all  
379 consistently low and without apparent trend, and thus, did not appear to be related to the  
380 abundance of YAO Alewives in either lake.

381 We found a highly significant overall effect for the proportion captured in Lake Michigan  
382 for the groups defined by site of release, season, and period (Multifactorial permutation test;  $P <$   
383  $0.000001$ ). Given that all the interactions were highly significant, main effects were not  
384 interpreted, and we focused on our planned comparisons. Of the four planned comparisons, the  
385 only significant result was the before and after period comparison of Swan River salmon  
386 recovered in feeding season, where a higher proportion of fish were recovered in Lake Michigan  
387 after Alewife collapse than before (Table 2).

#### 388 <B> Coastal Distributions Before and After Alewife Collapse

389 Graphical comparisons of coastal distributions before and after Alewife collapse also  
390 showed that the distribution of tagged fish released at Swan River shifted from Lake Huron to  
391 Lake Michigan during the feeding season (Figure 4 – top panel). In contrast, the majority of  
392 captures of salmon released at Medusa Creek were in Lake Michigan regions in both before and  
393 after periods (Figure 4 – bottom panel). During the spawning season, the greatest portion of  
394 captures occurred in the lake regions where fish were released (Figure 5).

#### 395 <B> Displacement Distances

396 Mean displacement distances for all age groups were greater in the feeding season than  
397 the spawning season. They ranged from 127 km (SD, 125) to 274 km (SD, 160) in the feeding  
398 season and from 55 km (SD, 110) to 107 km (SD, 110) in the spawning season (Table 3). On the  
399 other hand, CVs were greater in the spawning season than the feeding season for all ages. For  
400 example, CVs for age-1 fish for Swan River were 157% in the spawning period and 70% in the  
401 feeding season (Table 3). Mean displacement distances by age ranged from 85 km (SD, 116) to  
402 177 km (SD, 177) for captures aggregated for entire fishing seasons (April–October)

#### 403 <B> Net Displacement Directions Before and After Alewife Collapse

404 In the feeding season, the net displacement directions for salmon released at Swan River  
405 shifted from east of the stocking site, in the before period, to west of the stocking site in the after  
406 period. When these distances are repositioned onto maps of the lakes, it is clear that Swan River  
407 salmon of all ages shifted locations from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan (Figure 6). In the before  
408 period, net displacements were +7 km (SD, 231), +81 km (SD, 142), and +100 km (SD, 121) east  
409 of the stocking site in Lake Huron for ages 2, 3, and 4, respectively. Net displacement was -70  
410 km (SD, 223) west of the stocking site for age 1, but still in Lake Huron (Figure 6 – top panel).  
411 In contrast, during the after period, net displacements were -293 km (SD, 132), -316 km (SD,  
412 144), and -337 km (SD, 150) from the stocking site and well into Lake Michigan for ages 1, 2,  
413 and 3, respectively (Figure 6 – bottom panel). Therefore, the change in displacement location for  
414 Swan River fish from before to after was 223 km (SD, 178) at age 1, 323 km (SD, 187) at age 2,  
415 418 km (SD, 146) at age 3, and 357 km (SD, 169) for all fish combined. No age 4 fish were  
416 captured during the after period.

417 For salmon released at Medusa Creek, net displacements in the feeding season were all  
418 west of the stocking site in both before and after periods, which means they were well into Lake  
419 Michigan (Figure 7). During the before period, net displacements were -245 km (SD, 118), -225  
420 km (SD, 124), and -220 km (SD, 109) west of the stocking site in Lake Michigan for ages 1, 2,  
421 and 3, respectively (Figure 7 – top panel). During the after period, net displacements for all age  
422 groups were -209 km (SD, 101) east of the stocking site in Lake Michigan (Figure 7 – bottom  
423 panel).

424 During the spawning season, net displacements for fish released at Swan River in both  
425 before and after periods were relatively short distances east or west of the site, all within Lake  
426 Huron (Figure 8). The net displacements were +30 km (SD, 102) east of the stocking site for  
427 age-2-and-older fish and -40 km (SD, 168) west of the site for age-1 fish (Figure 8 – top panel).  
428 Net displacements for salmon of all ages were -34 km (SD, 104) to -64 km (SD, 133) west of the  
429 stocking site during the after period, but still within Lake Huron (Figure 8 – bottom panel). Net  
430 displacements for fish released at Medusa Creek were all relatively short distances west of the  
431 stocking site and all within Lake Michigan (Figure 9), varying from -198 km (SD, 127) for age-1  
432 fish in the before period to -35 km (SD, 79) for age-3 fish in the after period.

433 <B> Assessment of Potential Bias

434 Potential biases from increased mortality in Lake Huron did not have a significant effect  
435 ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) on the distribution of recoveries between lakes. Total capture rates for Swan River  
436 fish were not significantly different in before and after periods (Pairwise permutation test:  $Z =$   
437  $1.47, P = 0.14$ ).

438 Potential biases from target sampling did not have a significant effect ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) on the  
439 distribution of recoveries between lakes. The distributions in before and after periods for  
440 salmon released at Swan River and captured in Lake Michigan were statistically significant for  
441 captures collected solely by spatially-consistent sampling (Pairwise permutation test:  $Z = 2.80, P$   
442  $= 0.02, P$  adjusted  $= 0.04$ ) and for captures collected solely by target sampling (Pairwise  
443 permutation test:  $Z = 2.95, P = < 0.01, P$  adjusted  $= 0.01$ ).

#### 444 <A> Discussion

445 The multiple analyses of CWT Chinook Salmon we conducted all supported the  
446 hypothesis that the fish stocked into northern Lake Huron changed their feeding location from  
447 Lake Huron to Lake Michigan to take advantage of the more abundant Alewives in Lake  
448 Michigan. The proportion of Swan River salmon captured in Lake Michigan increased during  
449 the feeding season and the timing of the increase corresponded with the decline in YAO Alewife  
450 abundance in Lake Huron. Alewife abundance has remained low in Lake Huron for over 10  
451 years and the proportion of Swan River salmon captured in Lake Michigan has remained high  
452 (Figure 2). The proportion captured in Lake Michigan was significantly greater ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) in  
453 years after than before Alewife collapse (Table 2). Spatial assessment of capture locations  
454 within and between lakes showed that the coastal distributions of Swan River salmon shifted to  
455 Lake Michigan after collapse (Figure 4). And finally, the net displacement distances of Swan  
456 River salmon shifted 357 km from central Lake Huron to central Lake Michigan after collapse  
457 (Figure 6). We ruled out the potential effects of biases in these analyses caused by spatial  
458 differences in natural mortality and for different methods of sampling for tagged fish. In  
459 contrast, the same analyses applied to Medusa Creek salmon found that those fish tended to  
460 remain in Lake Michigan for the entire period of study. Thus, tag recoveries from these two  
461 stocking sites suggested that the shift in inter-lake movement was in one direction: Lake Huron  
462 to Lake Michigan.



463           The degree of change in movement patterns that we found were reasonable based on the  
464 expected feeding behavior and physical capabilities of Chinook Salmon. The shift in capture  
465 locations occurred only during April–July, a time of year when salmon were primarily feeding,  
466 and it has been established that Chinook Salmon in the Great Lakes preferred Alewives as prey,  
467 even when Alewife abundance was low and alternative prey were present (Jacobs et al. 2013). In  
468 addition, the minimum distances moved by Chinook Salmon in our study, including the distance  
469 from Swan River to central Lake Michigan (300 km), were comparable to distances of  
470 movement reported previously for the species in their native range (Quinn 2005; Weitkamp  
471 2010). The grand average minimum distance traveled for 29 West Coast stocks was 152 km, 215  
472 km, 297 km, and 314 km for ages 1, 2, 3, and 4, respectively (Weitkamp 2010), which could be  
473 compared directly to our “entire fishing season” distances in Table 3. Thus, minimum distances  
474 traveled by our Great Lakes stocks were about average for younger salmon (age 1) but below  
475 average for older salmon (ages 2–4).

476           The basic movement behavior of Chinook Salmon in lakes Huron and Michigan was  
477 similar to that observed in their native range on the West Coast of North America. That is, they  
478 imprinted on their stocking sites, traveled hundreds of kilometers in open-water to feed, and  
479 displayed a high degree of homing fidelity in returning to their stocking sites to attempt to  
480 spawn. Even the Swan River fish maintained a high degree of homing fidelity to their release  
481 site after changing their feeding location from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan. Their distribution  
482 during the spawning season remained centered on LH1, the lake region containing Swan River,  
483 for the entire 21-year study period (Figure 5). Fish released at Medusa Creek also displayed a  
484 high degree of homing fidelity (Figure 5).

485           However, major changes in coastal distributions like we found here have not been  
486 reported for Chinook Salmon in the Pacific Ocean. Studies there found that stocks from the  
487 same freshwater origin and genetic background maintained distinctive coastal distributions that  
488 were consistent over years despite considerable variability in ocean ecological factors, including  
489 periods of strong El Niño and La Niña events (Weitkamp 2010; Quinn et al. 2011; Chamberlin  
490 and Quinn 2014). In contrast, our Swan River Chinook Salmon were from the same freshwater  
491 origin, run type, and genetic background for our entire period of study (Weeder et al. 2005; Suk  
492 et al. 2012), yet they displayed a major, long-term change in their coastal distribution that was

493 most likely driven by ecological factors (i.e., changes in forage distribution). While many  
494 unknowns remain regarding genetic versus ecological control of coastal distributions, our  
495 findings suggested that changes in ecological factors can lead to substantial changes in  
496 movement patterns and coastal distributions. Chinook Salmon are not native to the Great Lakes,  
497 and this fact could have confounded genetic control of feeding migrations here causing salmon to  
498 be more opportunistic. Also, the Pacific Ocean probably contains more numerous forage  
499 options for Chinook Salmon as compared to the Great Lakes where they rely heavily on  
500 Alewives and travel long distances to seek them out. In addition, our ability to detect the change  
501 in distribution of Swan River salmon was enhanced because we stratified our captures into  
502 seasonal periods. Had we not done so, the consistency of the homing behavior in August–  
503 October might have obscured the change in distribution that occurred only in April–July.

504 We found that Chinook Salmon in lakes Huron and Michigan were spatially more  
505 dispersed in the spawning season than the feeding season. For fish released at both sites and for  
506 all age groups, CVs for displacement distances in the spawning season were about double those  
507 for the feeding season (Table 3). We can only speculate that greater dispersion in the spawning  
508 season was caused by separation of mature and immature fish, with mature fish tending to return  
509 to release site and immature fish tending to remain in spring-summer feeding areas.

510 Although we focused our assessment on only two stocking sites, we think the results  
511 have broader management implications. First, Chinook Salmon tagged and released at other  
512 sites in region LH1 since 2011 have travelled into Lake Michigan at rates similar to salmon  
513 stocked at Swan River (authors' unpublished data), and the potential impact of all LH1-stocked  
514 salmon on the forage base of Lake Michigan is likely significant. An average of 0.7 million  
515 Chinook Salmon per year have been stocked in LH1 in recent years versus 1.8 million per year  
516 stocked directly into all of Lake Michigan. Therefore, even if only 80% of the LH1 fish fed in  
517 Lake Michigan, which would be reasonable based on our findings, then movements of LH1  
518 salmon into Lake Michigan would have a similar impact on the forage base as directly increasing  
519 the annual stocking rate within Lake Michigan by 0.5 million Chinook Salmon, or by about 30%.  
520 Thus, consideration of Chinook Salmon stocked into region LH1 of Lake Huron when  
521 determining stocking policies for Lake Michigan would be expected to enhance effective  
522 management of the Lake Michigan recreational fishery, based on our analysis results. Also,

523 because the shift in movement of Swan River salmon has persisted for over 10 years, it is  
524 unlikely to change in the future unless the relative abundance of Alewives in the two lakes also  
525 changes. Nevertheless, continuing to tag Chinook Salmon stocked into northern Lake Huron at  
526 a sufficiently high level would enable fishery managers to monitor possible future changes in  
527 inter-lake movement patterns.

528         The only other Chinook Salmon stocked into Lake Huron and potentially travelling to  
529 Lake Michigan were released in the Province of Ontario, where an average of 0.3 million  
530 fingerlings per year were stocked. Most of these fish were stocked into southern Georgian Bay  
531 about 400 km from Lake Michigan, but they have not been tagged in recent years, so we could  
532 not describe their movement dynamics. However, it seems likely that some of these fish have  
533 been feeding in Lake Michigan, because CPE of anglers in Georgian Bay did not decline after  
534 the Alewife collapse (Clark et al. 2016). Also, mean minimum recovery distances of over 700  
535 km from tagging sites have been observed for Chinook Salmon in the Pacific Ocean (Weitkamp  
536 2010), so Lake Michigan should be within range of Georgian Bay salmon. Tagging or marking  
537 Chinook Salmon stocked into Georgian Bay would broaden our understanding of inter-lake  
538 movement, which, in turn, would be expected to improve management of the Lake Michigan  
539 recreational fishery.

540         Wild, naturally-produced Chinook Salmon originating in tributaries of Lake Huron are  
541 also likely entering Lake Michigan. Tagged wild and hatchery Chinook Salmon of the same  
542 genetic background and originating from the same freshwater sites displayed similar marine  
543 distributions in the Pacific Ocean (Weitkamp 2010). In Lake Huron, Ontario tributaries in  
544 particular are known to produce substantial numbers of wild Chinook Salmon (Johnson et al.  
545 2010; Johnson and Gonder 2013), and these wild fish are genetically similar to the tagged,  
546 hatchery fish released at Swan River (Suk et al. 2012). Furthermore, based on otolith  
547 microchemistry, Marklevitz et al. (2016) found that the recreational catch of Chinook Salmon in  
548 Lake Huron during 2010 was composed mostly of wild fish, of which, 55% originated from  
549 streams of southern Georgian Bay and 35% originated from streams in northern Lake Huron.  
550 The northern Lake Huron group included fish originating from the same freshwater region (LH1)  
551 as the Swan River fish, which indicated there must be substantial natural reproduction in streams  
552 entering LH1. If these LH1-wild fish behave as LH1-hatchery fish, then the majority are

553 currently traveling to Lake Michigan in the feeding season. Additional work in the future  
554 examining otolith microchemistry of wild fish from Lake Michigan could help determine the  
555 proportion coming from Lake Huron tributaries.

556 Another important result from this study with management implications was that age-1  
557 Chinook Salmon exhibited mean minimum travel distances of up to 300 km (Figure 6). The  
558 importance of this finding related to the way that managers have been estimating the amount of  
559 Chinook Salmon natural reproduction. Since the late-1990s, all hatchery-reared Chinook  
560 Salmon stocked into Lake Michigan were marked with either oxytetracycline (Williams 2012) or  
561 CWTs (Bronte et al. 2012). Managers used the proportion of unmarked age-1 fish captured in the  
562 fishery to estimate wild recruitment rates (Williams 2012). We found that an average of 82% of  
563 tagged fish released at Swan River and captured during the feeding seasons of 2008–2014 were  
564 captured in Lake Michigan and that these fish were already present in Lake Michigan by age 1  
565 (Figure 6). Prior to 2014, estimates of wild recruitment were made using the total number of  
566 fish stocked within each individual lake without any consideration of inter-lake movement.  
567 Tagged, age-1 salmon stocked into Lake Huron and moving into Lake Michigan would have  
568 biased these estimates of wild recruits. Therefore, based on our results, we suggested to fisheries  
569 managers to account for Chinook Salmon planted in region LH1 of Lake Huron when estimating  
570 the abundance of wild Chinook Salmon that will potentially feed in Lake Michigan, and our  
571 suggestion was implemented (Notes of winter meeting of the Lake Michigan Technical  
572 Committee in Zion, Illinois, January 28–29, 2015, B. Breidert, Indiana Department of Natural  
573 Resources, Chair).

574 One of the main limitations of our study was our assumption that state of Michigan  
575 waters were representative of the whole lakes, which was necessary to assemble the most  
576 temporally and spatially consistent recovery data. One possible violation of this assumption  
577 would be that tagged Chinook Salmon increased their movements during the feeding season into  
578 Ontario waters of Lake Huron, because if this happened, it would weaken our conclusion that  
579 Swan River fish shifted their feeding locations into Lake Michigan. However, we thought this  
580 was unlikely given that *CPE* of Chinook Salmon in Ontario waters declined or remained constant  
581 after the collapse of Alewives (Clark et al. 2016). On the other hand, *CPE* of Chinook Salmon  
582 increased more in Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan than in Michigan waters after collapse

583 (Clark et al. 2016), which suggested that Swan River salmon could have moved into Wisconsin  
584 waters of Lake Michigan at a greater rate than into Michigan waters. If so, then our conclusion  
585 would be strengthened, because it would mean that more Swan River fish were in Lake Michigan  
586 than we estimated. The potential effects of these biases can be resolved more definitively in the  
587 future, because the CWT program for Chinook Salmon was expanded in 2011–2016, so that all  
588 hatchery-reared Chinook Salmon were tagged and the sampling for recoveries was expanded and  
589 made more consistent across state boundaries.

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713

714 Table 1. – Numbers (thousands) of Chinook Salmon tagged (recoverable CWTs)  
 715 and released at Swan River (Lake Huron) and Medusa Creek (Lake Michigan) from  
 716 1991-2014. Total number and number from each source hatchery, Platte River (PR)  
 717 and Wolf Lake (WL), are given below release site.

| Year   | Swan River, Lake Huron |     |       | Medusa Creek, Lake Michigan |     |       |
|--------|------------------------|-----|-------|-----------------------------|-----|-------|
|        | PR                     | WL  | Total | PR                          | WL  | Total |
| 1991   | 203                    | 0   | 203   | 106                         | 0   | 106   |
| 1992   | 187                    | 0   | 187   | 100                         | 0   | 100   |
| 1993   | 189                    | 0   | 189   | 86                          | 0   | 86    |
| 1994   | 186                    | 0   | 186   | 85                          | 0   | 85    |
| 1995   | 92                     | 0   | 92    | 0                           | 0   | 0     |
| 1996   | 86                     | 0   | 86    | 0                           | 0   | 0     |
| 1997   | 91                     | 0   | 91    | 0                           | 0   | 0     |
| 1998   | 86                     | 0   | 86    | 0                           | 0   | 0     |
| 1999   | 94                     | 0   | 94    | 0                           | 0   | 0     |
| 2000   | 88                     | 0   | 88    | 82                          | 0   | 82    |
| 2001   | 85                     | 103 | 187   | 75                          | 94  | 170   |
| 2002   | 95                     | 84  | 180   | 97                          | 100 | 197   |
| 2003   | 94                     | 101 | 195   | 97                          | 98  | 195   |
| 2004   | 89                     | 87  | 175   | 97                          | 85  | 182   |
| 2005   | 96                     | 89  | 185   | 97                          | 88  | 186   |
| 2006   | 63                     | 93  | 157   | 80                          | 89  | 169   |
| 2007   | 96                     | 0   | 96    | 89                          | 0   | 89    |
| 2008   | 88                     | 0   | 88    | 97                          | 0   | 97    |
| 2009   | 93                     | 0   | 93    | 96                          | 0   | 96    |
| 2010   | 98                     | 0   | 98    | 215                         | 0   | 215   |
| 2011   | 394                    | 0   | 394   | 215                         | 0   | 215   |
| 2012   | 336                    | 0   | 336   | 190                         | 0   | 190   |
| 2013   | 360                    | 0   | 360   | 71                          | 0   | 71    |
| 2014   | 348                    | 0   | 348   | 68                          | 0   | 68    |
| Totals | 3,637                  | 556 | 4,193 | 2,043                       | 556 | 2,599 |

719 Table 2. – Summary of pairwise permutation test results comparing the  
 720 proportion of Chinook Salmon captured in Lake Michigan during before (1993–  
 721 1997) and after (2008–2014) periods for groups based on sites of release and  
 722 seasons of capture. Adjusted *P* was the Bonferroni adjustment for 4 test  
 723 comparisons. The “\*” indicates that before and after distributions were  
 724 significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ). Means and SDs of the groups are also given  
 725 for reference.

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| Release site,<br>Period | Mean | SD   | Z     | <i>P</i> | Adjusted<br><i>P</i> |
|-------------------------|------|------|-------|----------|----------------------|
| <b>Feeding Season</b>   |      |      |       |          |                      |
| Swan River              |      |      |       |          |                      |
| Before                  | 0.13 | 0.14 | 2.80  | 0.01     | 0.04 *               |
| After                   | 0.82 | 0.21 |       |          |                      |
| Medusa Creek            |      |      |       |          |                      |
| Before                  | 0.98 | 0.05 | 0.66  | 0.51     | 1.00                 |
| After                   | 0.99 | 0.01 |       |          |                      |
| <b>Spawning Season</b>  |      |      |       |          |                      |
| Swan River              |      |      |       |          |                      |
| Before                  | 0.06 | 0.02 | -0.36 | 0.71     | 1.00                 |
| After                   | 0.05 | 0.01 |       |          |                      |
| Medusa Creek            |      |      |       |          |                      |
| Before                  | 0.97 | 0.04 | -1.29 | 0.20     | 0.80                 |
| After                   | 0.91 | 0.07 |       |          |                      |

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730 Table 3. – Mean displacement distances (km) (SDs) and coefficients of variation (CV =  
 731  $100 \cdot \text{SD}/\text{mean}$ ) by site and age for Chinook Salmon captures aggregated by entire fishing season  
 732 (April–October), feeding season (April–July), and spawning season (August–October). Means  
 733 are for the entire period of study (1993–2014) and do not account for direction of travel.

| Release site                 | Mean recoveries per age group | Age (years) |           |           |           |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                              |                               | 1           | 2         | 3         | 4         |
| <b>Entire fishing season</b> |                               |             |           |           |           |
| Swan River                   | 583                           | 142 (163)   | 177 (177) | 122 (155) | 85 (116)  |
| CV                           |                               | 114%        | 100%      | 127%      | 137%      |
| Medusa Creek                 | 694                           | 141 (125)   | 171 (123) | 141 (120) | 141 (108) |
| CV                           |                               | 89%         | 72%       | 85%       | 77%       |
| <b>Feeding season</b>        |                               |             |           |           |           |
| Swan River                   | 274                           | 237 (167)   | 274 (160) | 197 (164) | 127 (125) |
| CV                           |                               | 70%         | 58%       | 83%       | 98%       |
| Medusa Creek                 | 340                           | 201 (120)   | 226 (106) | 208 (103) | 200 (73)  |
| CV                           |                               | 60%         | 47%       | 50%       | 36%       |
| <b>Spawning season</b>       |                               |             |           |           |           |
| Swan River                   | 309                           | 82 (128)    | 72 (127)  | 55 (110)  | 60 (103)  |
| CV                           |                               | 157%        | 176%      | 198%      | 171%      |
| Medusa Creek                 | 354                           | 93 (108)    | 107 (110) | 88 (104)  | 102 (111) |
| CV                           |                               | 116%        | 103%      | 119%      | 109%      |

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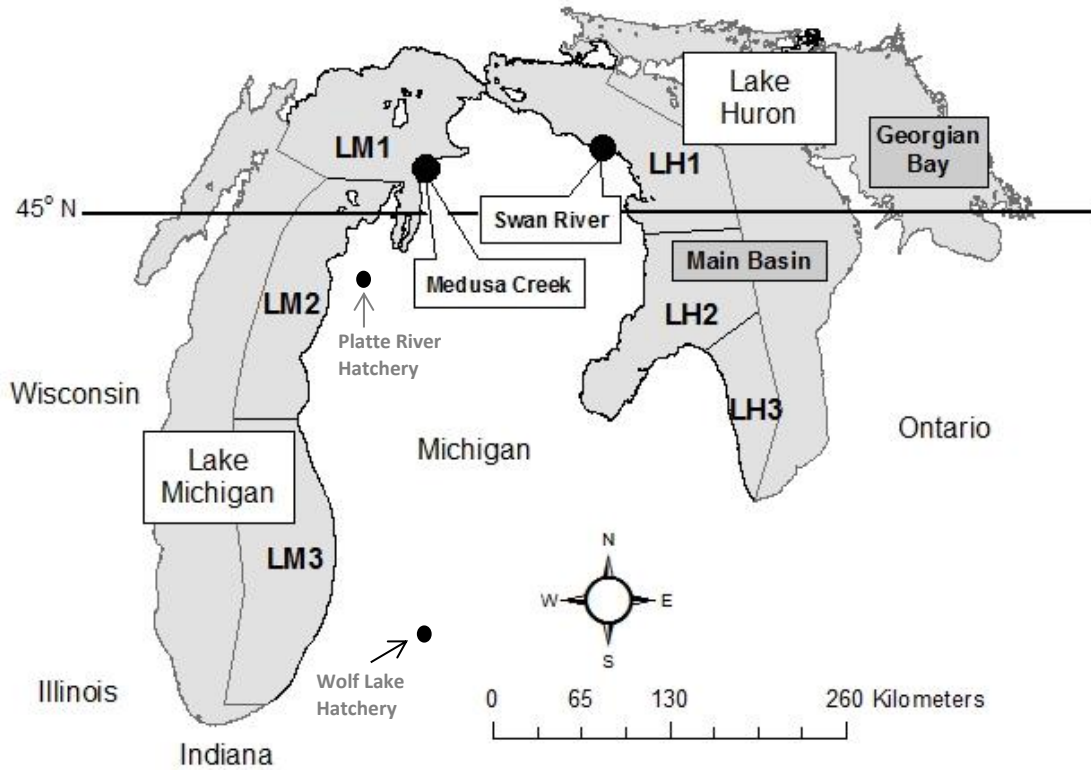


Figure 1. – Regions used to evaluate Chinook Salmon movements are delineated on this map as LM1, LM2, LM3 in Lake Michigan and LH1, LH2, and LH3 in Lake Huron. Locations of Medusa Creek and Swan River stocking sites and Platte River and Wolf Lake Hatcheries are also indicated on the map. Medusa Creek and Swan River are 80 km and 87 km, respectively, from the dividing line between lakes Michigan and Huron.

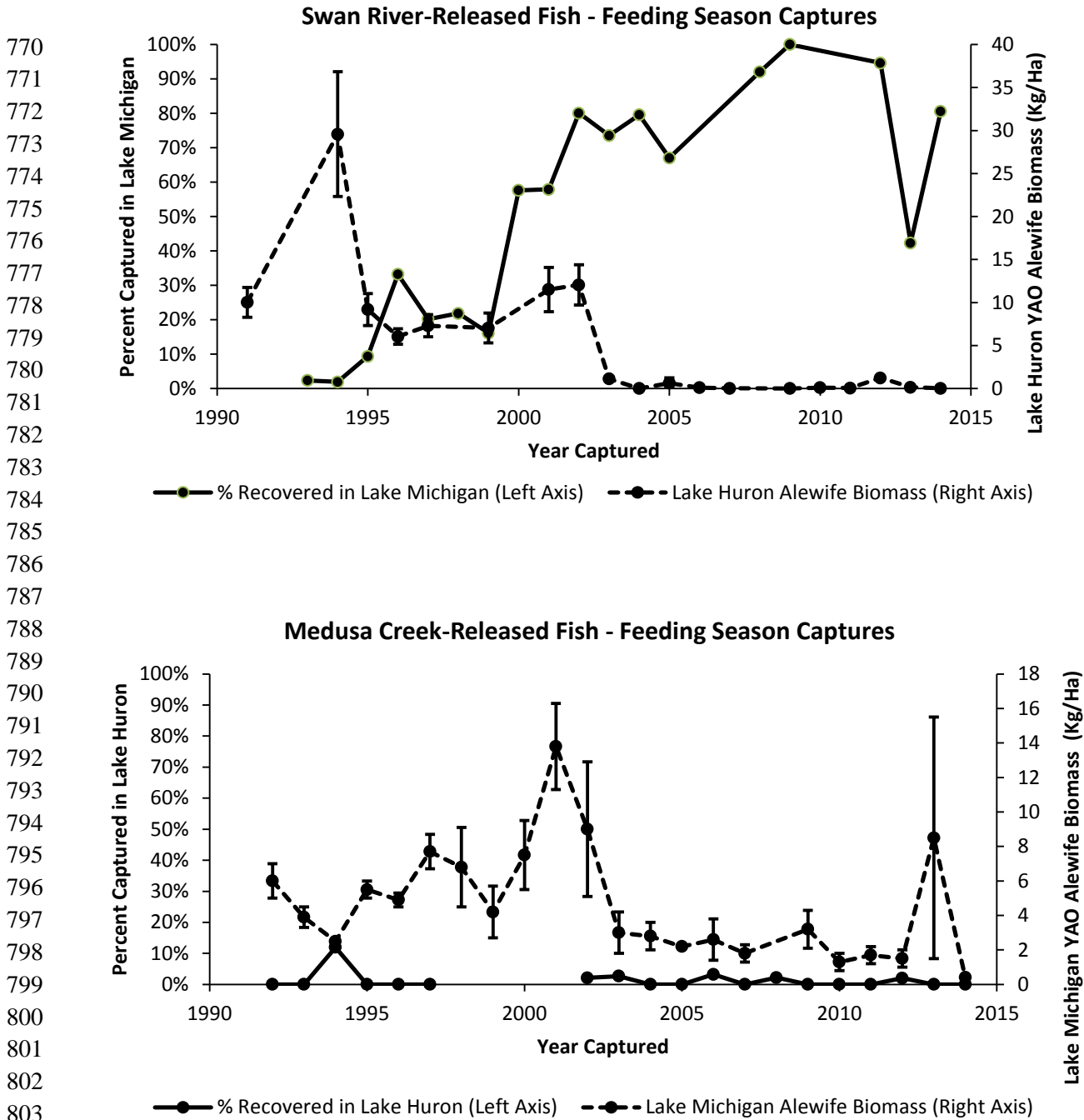
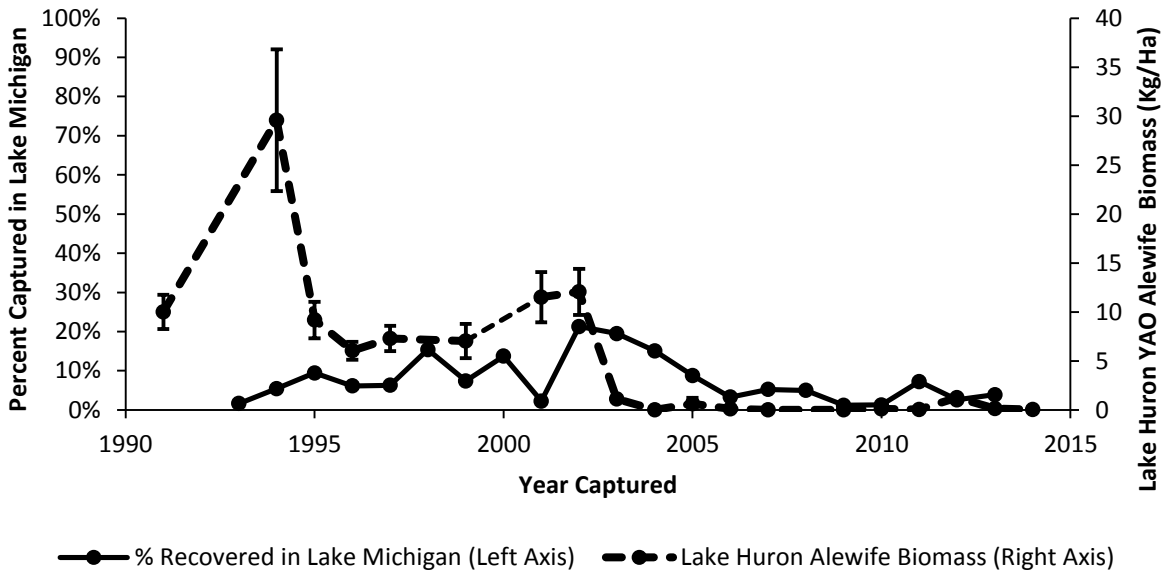


Figure 2. – For the April–July feeding season, the top panel shows the percent of Chinook Salmon released at Swan River in Lake Huron and captured in Lake Michigan (left axis) along with YAO Alewife biomass by year in Lake Huron (right axis). Also for the feeding season, the bottom panel shows the percent of Chinook Salmon released at Medusa Creek in Lake Michigan and captured in Lake Huron (left axis) along with YAO Alewife biomass by year for Lake Michigan (right axis). Error bars for YAO Alewife biomass are  $\pm 1$  standard error.

**Swan River-Released Fish - Spawning Season Captures**



**Medusa Creek-Released Fish - Spawning Season Captures**

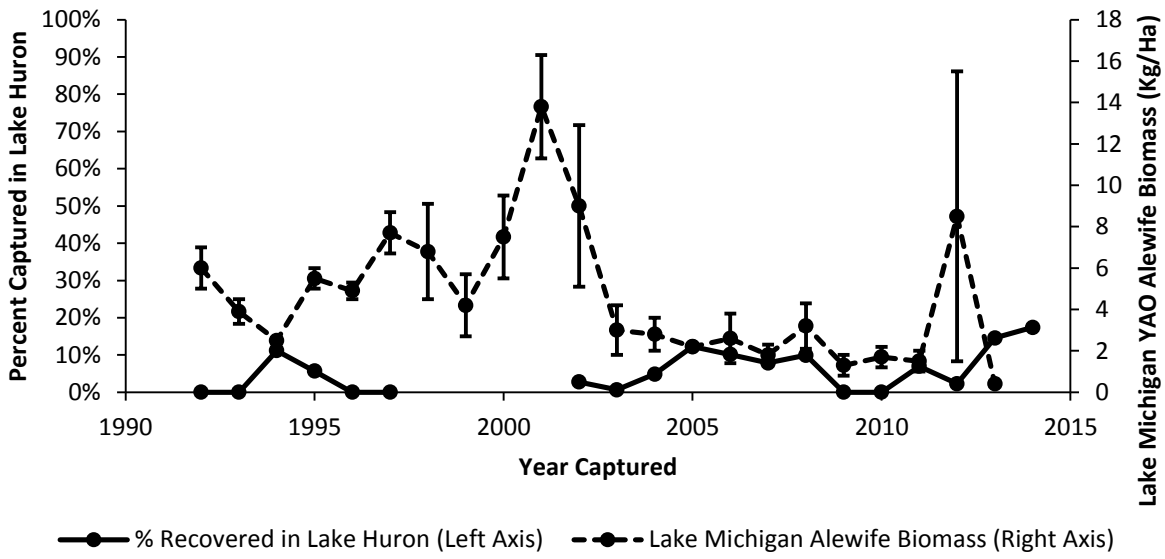
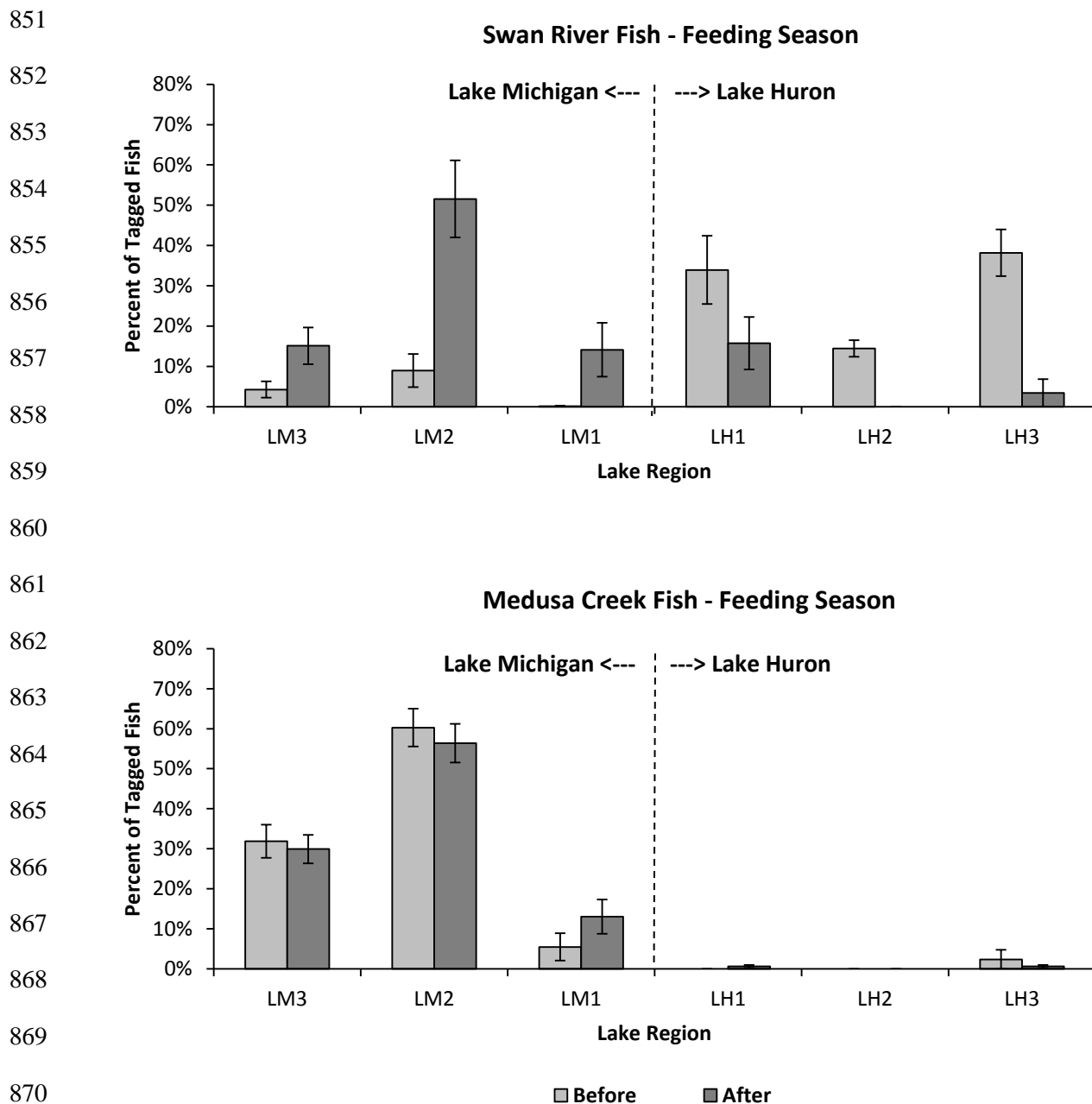
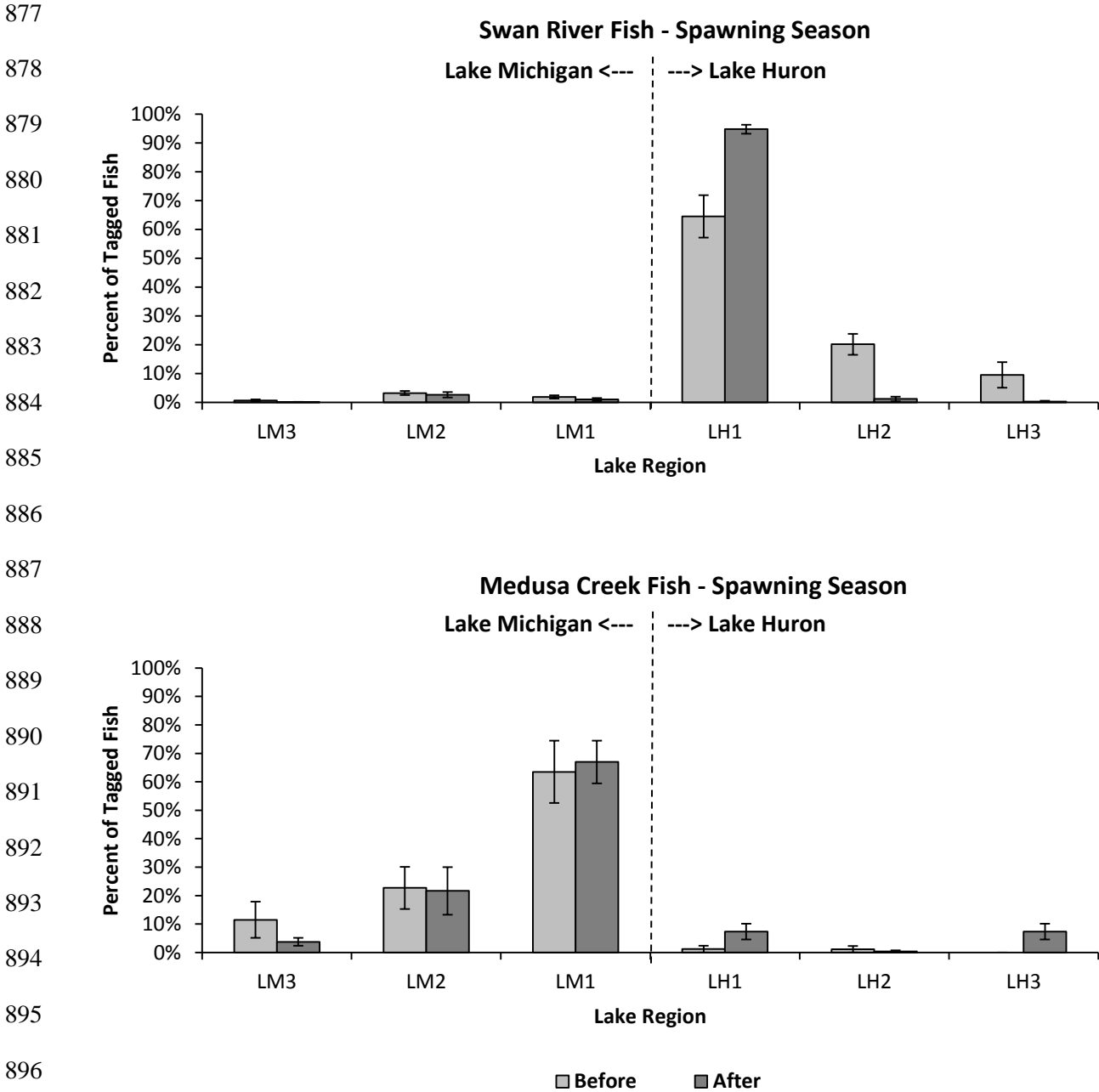


Figure 3. – For the August–October spawning season, the top panel shows the percent of Chinook Salmon released at Swan River in Lake Huron and captured in Lake Michigan (left axis) along with YAO Alewife biomass by year in Lake Huron (right axis). Also for the spawning season, the bottom panel shows the percent of Chinook Salmon released at Medusa Creek in Lake Michigan and captured in Lake Huron (left axis) along with YAO Alewife biomass by year for Lake Michigan (right axis). Error bars for YAO Alewife biomass are  $\pm 1$  standard error.





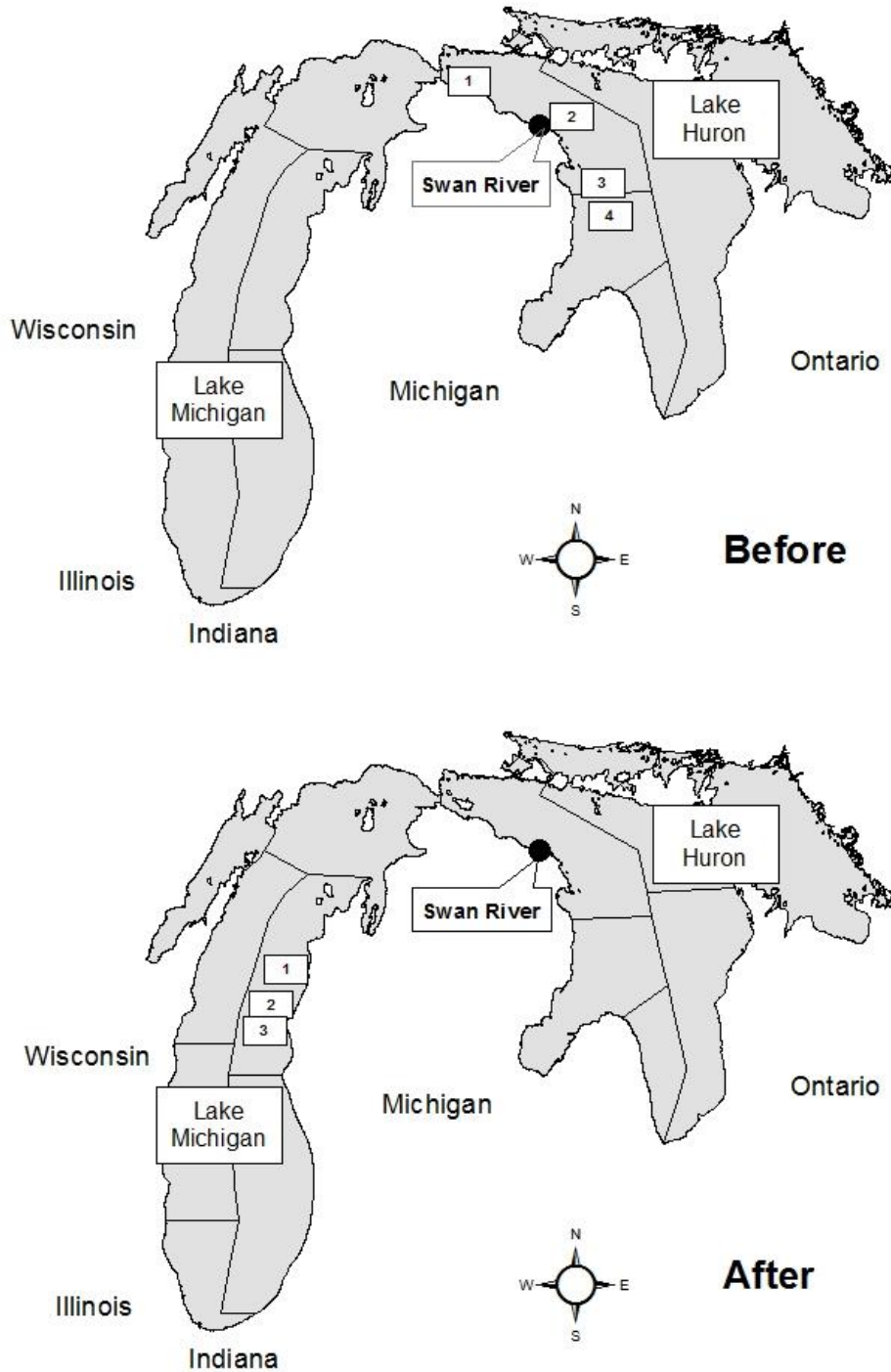
872 Figure 4. – Distributions of captured Chinook Salmon before (1993–1997) and after  
 873 (2008–2014) the collapse of Alewives in Lake Huron during the feeding season. The top panel  
 874 shows average annual percentages captured by region for fish released at Swan River, Lake  
 875 Huron. The bottom panel shows average annual percentages captured by region for fish released  
 876 at Medusa Creek, Lake Michigan. Error bars are  $\pm 1$  standard error of annual values.



898 Figure 5. – Distributions of captured Chinook Salmon before (1993–1997) and after  
 899 (2008–2014) the collapse of Alewives in Lake Huron during the spawning season. The top panel  
 900 shows average annual percentages captured by region for fish released at Swan River, Lake  
 901 Huron. The bottom panel shows average annual percentages captured by region for fish released  
 902 at Medusa Creek, Lake Michigan. Error bars are  $\pm 1$  standard error of annual values.

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### Swan River – Feeding Season

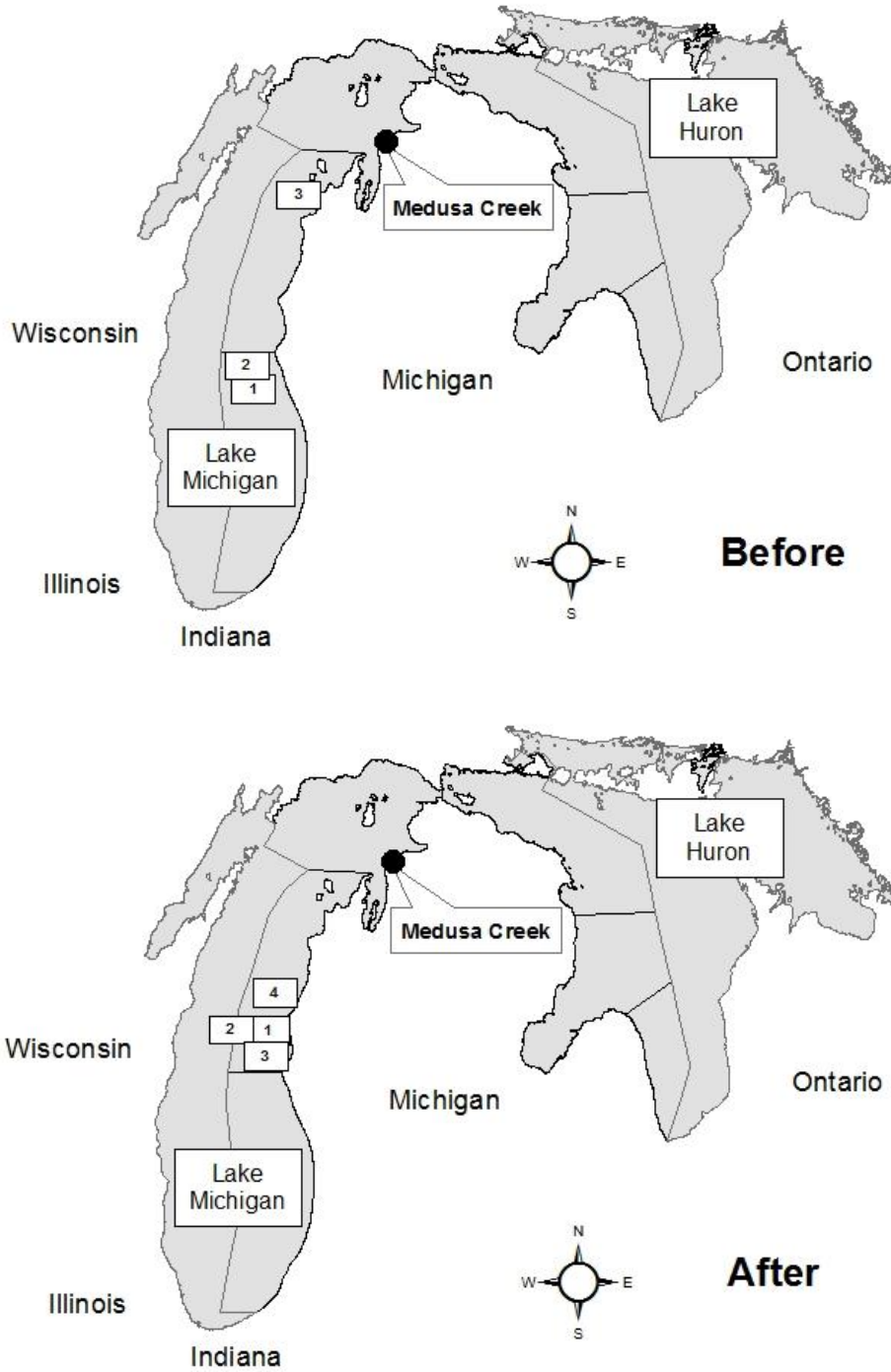


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927 Figure 6. – Numbered boxes on maps represent age groups of tagged Chinook Salmon  
928 stocked at Swan River, Lake Huron. Locations of boxes show the approximate the net  
929 displacement directions from Swan River during the feeding season before (1993–1997 – top  
930 panel) and after (2008–2014 – bottom panel) the collapse of Alewife populations in Lake Huron.

### Medusa Creek – Feeding Season

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953 Figure 7. – Numbered boxes on maps represent age groups of tagged Chinook Salmon  
954 stocked at Medusa Creek, Lake Michigan. Locations of boxes show the approximate the net  
955 displacement directions from Medusa Creek during the feeding season before (1993–1997 – top  
956 panel) and after (2008–2014 – bottom panel) the collapse of Alewife populations in Lake Huron.

### Swan River – Spawning Season

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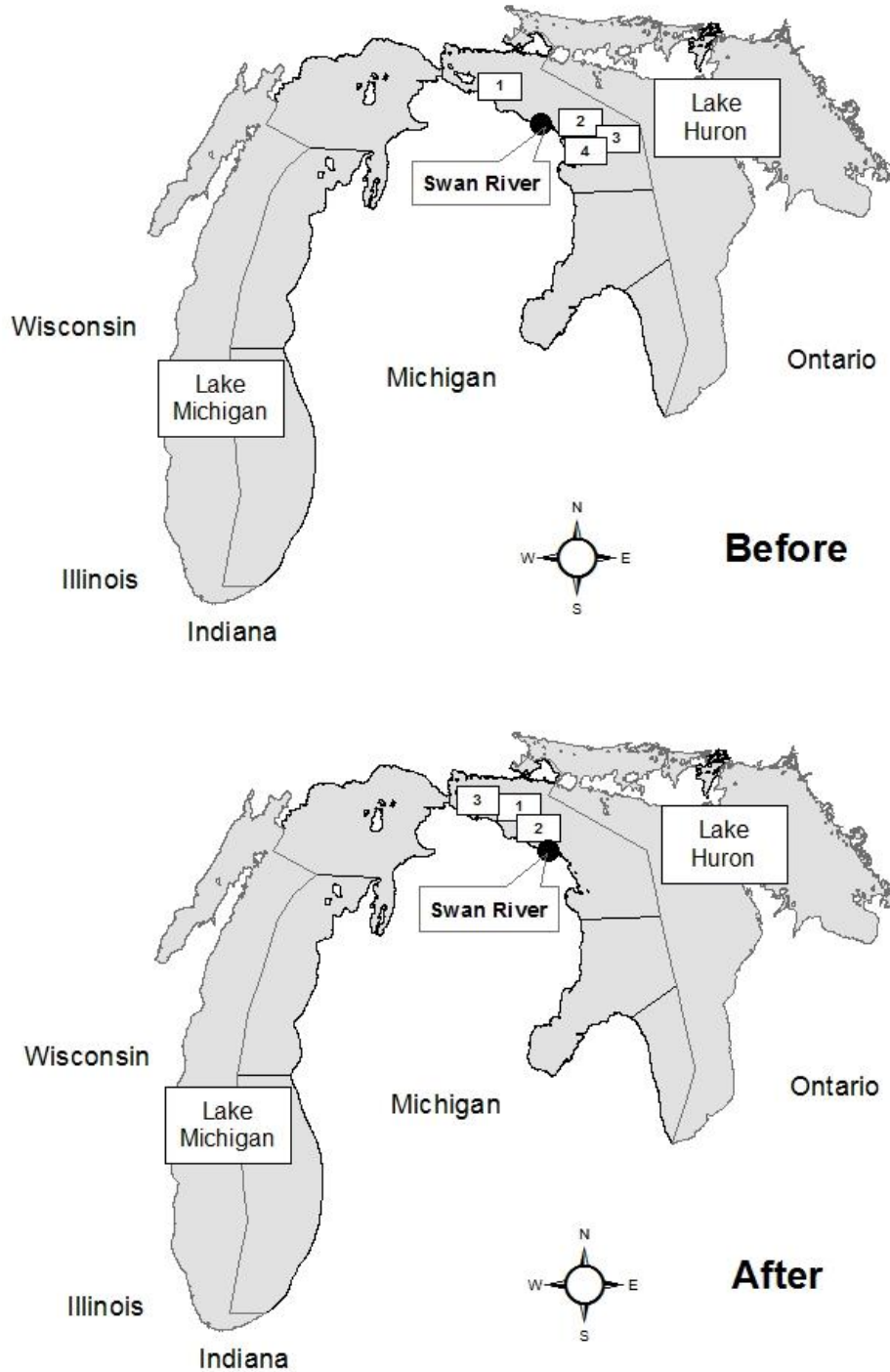


Figure 8. – Numbered boxes on maps represent age groups of tagged Chinook Salmon stocked at Swan River, Lake Huron. Locations of boxes show the approximate the net displacement directions from Swan River during the spawning season before (1993–1997 – top panel) and after (2008–2014 – bottom panel) the collapse of Alewife populations in Lake Huron.

### Medusa Creek – Spawning Season

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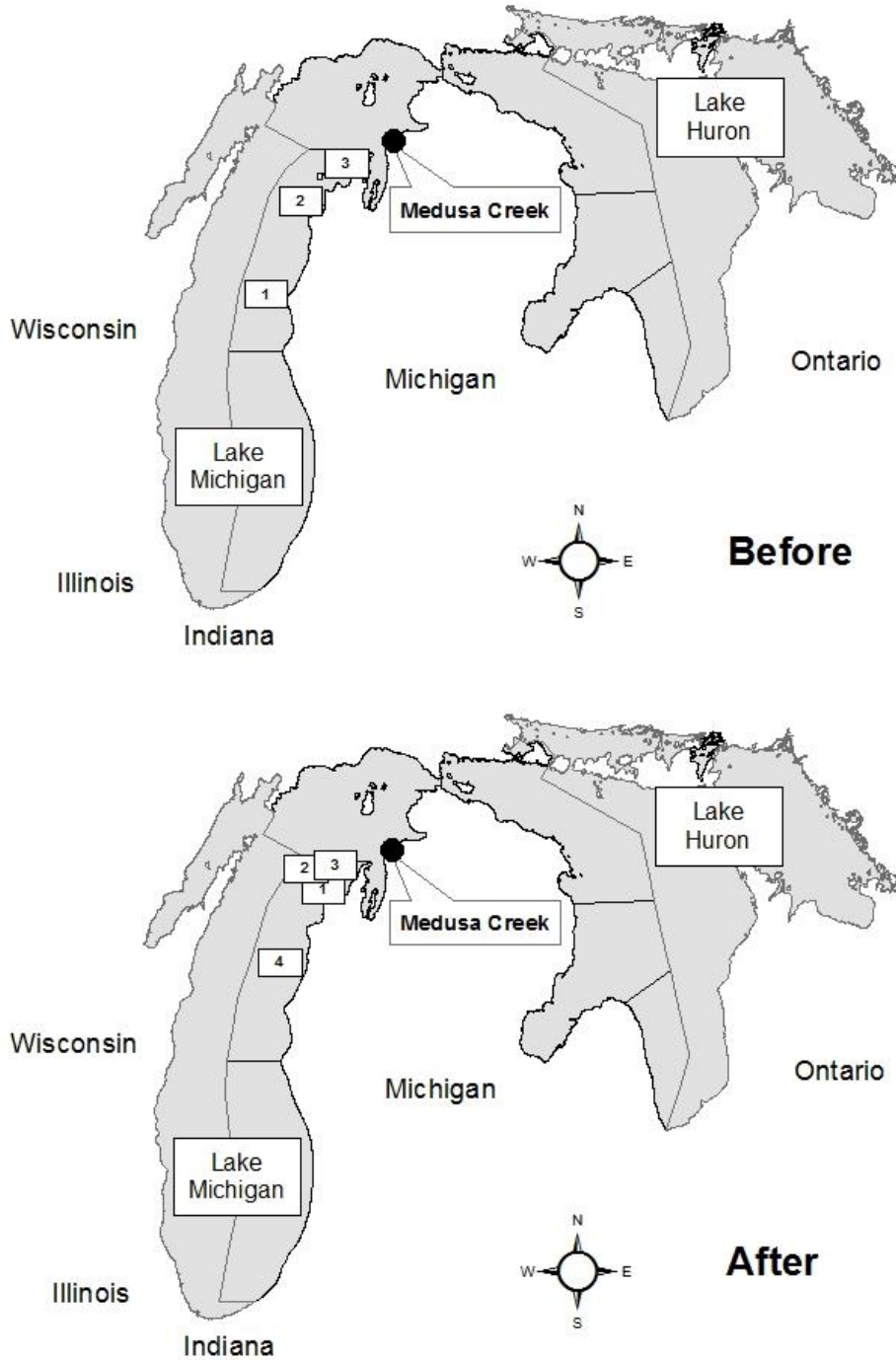


Figure 9. – Numbered boxes on maps represent age groups of tagged Chinook Salmon stocked at Medusa Creek, Lake Michigan. Locations of boxes show the approximate the net displacement directions from Medusa Creek during the spawning season before (1993–1997 – top panel) and after (2008–2014 – bottom panel) the collapse of Alewife populations in Lake Huron.

1012 <A> Appendix: Number of individual captures for each release site by season, year, lake, and  
 1013 lake region.

1014

1015 Table A1. – Locations of feeding season (April–July) recoveries for Chinook Salmon  
 1016 released at Swan River Lake Huron.

| Year        | Lake and region of capture |     |     |            |       |     |     |            | Grand total |
|-------------|----------------------------|-----|-----|------------|-------|-----|-----|------------|-------------|
|             | Michigan                   |     |     |            | Huron |     |     |            |             |
|             | LM3                        | LM2 | LM1 | Lake total | LH1   | LH2 | LH3 | Lake total |             |
| 1993        | 1                          | 1   | 0   | 2          | 8     | 7   | 14  | 29         | 31          |
| 1994        | 4                          | 1   | 0   | 5          | 43    | 21  | 44  | 108        | 113         |
| 1995        | 3                          | 15  | 2   | 20         | 106   | 45  | 32  | 183        | 203         |
| 1996        | 6                          | 16  | 0   | 22         | 7     | 14  | 14  | 35         | 57          |
| 1997        | 11                         | 11  | 0   | 22         | 22    | 19  | 28  | 69         | 91          |
| 1998        | 8                          | 18  | 0   | 26         | 16    | 21  | 12  | 49         | 75          |
| 1999        | 4                          | 4   | 0   | 8          | 12    | 3   | 4   | 19         | 27          |
| 2000        | 13                         | 15  | 0   | 28         | 6     | 1   | 1   | 8          | 36          |
| 2001        | 5                          | 7   | 0   | 12         | 0     | 1   | 2   | 3          | 15          |
| 2002        | 10                         | 15  | 2   | 27         | 1     | 2   | 1   | 4          | 31          |
| 2003        | 33                         | 13  | 0   | 46         | 5     | 0   | 1   | 6          | 52          |
| 2004        | 23                         | 16  | 10  | 49         | 6     | 2   | 0   | 8          | 57          |
| 2005        | 5                          | 10  | 2   | 17         | 2     | 0   | 0   | 2          | 19          |
| 2006        | 1                          | 1   | 0   | 2          | 2     | 0   | 0   | 2          | 4           |
| 2007        | 2                          | 3   | 3   | 8          | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 8           |
| 2008        | 5                          | 10  | 8   | 23         | 1     | 0   | 0   | 1          | 24          |
| 2009        | 6                          | 7   | 1   | 14         | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 14          |
| 2010        | 0                          | 4   | 0   | 4          | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 4           |
| 2011        | 1                          | 5   | 0   | 6          | 1     | 0   | 0   | 1          | 7           |
| 2012        | 7                          | 27  | 6   | 40         | 2     | 0   | 0   | 2          | 42          |
| 2013        | 14                         | 21  | 7   | 42         | 9     | 0   | 2   | 11         | 53          |
| 2014        | 45                         | 75  | 3   | 123        | 9     | 0   | 0   | 9          | 132         |
| Grand total | 207                        | 295 | 44  | 546        | 258   | 136 | 155 | 549        | 1095        |

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1018 Table A2. – Locations of spawning season (August–October) recoveries for Chinook  
 1019 Salmon released at Swan River Lake Huron.

| Year        | Lake and region of capture |     |     |            |       |     |     |            | Grand total |
|-------------|----------------------------|-----|-----|------------|-------|-----|-----|------------|-------------|
|             | Michigan                   |     |     |            | Huron |     |     |            |             |
|             | LM3                        | LM2 | LM1 | Lake total | LH1   | LH2 | LH3 | Lake total |             |
| 1993        | 1                          | 1   | 0   | 1          | 15    | 7   | 1   | 23         | 24          |
| 1994        | 0                          | 2   | 0   | 5          | 69    | 13  | 0   | 82         | 87          |
| 1995        | 3                          | 7   | 3   | 12         | 74    | 34  | 2   | 110        | 122         |
| 1996        | 2                          | 3   | 0   | 4          | 31    | 22  | 4   | 57         | 61          |
| 1997        | 1                          | 3   | 1   | 5          | 70    | 24  | 3   | 97         | 102         |
| 1998        | 1                          | 8   | 3   | 11         | 25    | 22  | 0   | 47         | 58          |
| 1999        | 0                          | 8   | 1   | 9          | 58    | 3   | 1   | 62         | 71          |
| 2000        | 0                          | 0   | 1   | 4          | 31    | 4   | 0   | 35         | 39          |
| 2001        | 3                          | 2   | 0   | 2          | 35    | 1   | 0   | 36         | 38          |
| 2002        | 0                          | 4   | 2   | 10         | 27    | 8   | 4   | 39         | 49          |
| 2003        | 4                          | 15  | 3   | 19         | 42    | 4   | 0   | 46         | 65          |
| 2004        | 1                          | 10  | 5   | 16         | 33    | 4   | 0   | 37         | 53          |
| 2005        | 1                          | 5   | 1   | 6          | 9     | 0   | 0   | 9          | 15          |
| 2006        | 0                          | 2   | 0   | 2          | 4     | 0   | 0   | 4          | 6           |
| 2007        | 0                          | 3   | 0   | 3          | 7     | 0   | 0   | 7          | 10          |
| 2008        | 0                          | 7   | 0   | 7          | 24    | 0   | 0   | 24         | 31          |
| 2009        | 0                          | 2   | 0   | 4          | 19    | 0   | 0   | 19         | 23          |
| 2010        | 2                          | 1   | 0   | 1          | 19    | 0   | 0   | 19         | 20          |
| 2011        | 0                          | 2   | 0   | 2          | 19    | 0   | 0   | 19         | 21          |
| 2012        | 0                          | 9   | 0   | 9          | 28    | 2   | 0   | 30         | 39          |
| 2013        | 0                          | 7   | 1   | 18         | 118   | 1   | 0   | 119        | 137         |
| 2014        | 10                         | 16  | 6   | 29         | 130   | 1   | 1   | 132        | 161         |
| Grand total | 27                         | 117 | 35  | 179        | 887   | 150 | 16  | 1053       | 1232        |



1021 Table A3. – Locations of feeding season (April–July) recoveries for Chinook Salmon  
 1022 released at Medusa Creek Lake Michigan.

| Year        | Lake and region of capture |     |     |            |       |     |     |            | Grand total |
|-------------|----------------------------|-----|-----|------------|-------|-----|-----|------------|-------------|
|             | Michigan                   |     |     |            | Huron |     |     |            |             |
|             | LM3                        | LM2 | LM1 | Lake total | LH1   | LH2 | LH3 | Lake total |             |
| 1993        | 10                         | 9   | 0   | 19         | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 19          |
| 1994        | 9                          | 7   | 0   | 16         | 0     | 0   | 1   | 1          | 17          |
| 1995        | 14                         | 11  | 3   | 28         | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 28          |
| 1996        | 5                          | 15  | 0   | 20         | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 20          |
| 1997        | 4                          | 5   | 1   | 10         | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 10          |
| 1998        | 0                          | 1   | 0   | 1          | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 1           |
| 1999        | 0                          | 0   | 0   | 0          | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 0           |
| 2000        | 0                          | 0   | 0   | 0          | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 0           |
| 2001        | 0                          | 1   | 0   | 1          | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 1           |
| 2002        | 21                         | 35  | 2   | 58         | 0     | 0   | 1   | 1          | 59          |
| 2003        | 89                         | 40  |     | 129        | 0     | 2   | 0   | 2          | 131         |
| 2004        | 73                         | 71  | 22  | 166        | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 166         |
| 2005        | 40                         | 77  | 23  | 140        | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 140         |
| 2006        | 50                         | 43  | 21  | 114        | 1     | 0   | 0   | 1          | 115         |
| 2007        | 28                         | 60  | 22  | 110        | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 110         |
| 2008        | 27                         | 50  | 17  | 94         | 1     | 0   | 0   | 1          | 95          |
| 2009        | 17                         | 59  | 1   | 77         | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 77          |
| 2010        | 17                         | 36  | 3   | 56         | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 56          |
| 2011        | 19                         | 27  | 2   | 48         | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 48          |
| 2012        | 35                         | 84  | 7   | 126        | 1     | 0   | 0   | 1          | 127         |
| 2013        | 20                         | 19  | 4   | 43         | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 43          |
| 2014        | 34                         | 52  | 0   | 86         | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 86          |
| Grand total | 512                        | 702 | 128 | 1342       | 3     | 2   | 2   | 7          | 1349        |

1024 Table A4. – Locations of spawning season (August–October) recoveries for Chinook  
 1025 Salmon released at Medusa Creek Lake Michigan.

| Year        | Lake and region of capture |     |     |            |       |     |     |            | Grand total |
|-------------|----------------------------|-----|-----|------------|-------|-----|-----|------------|-------------|
|             | Michigan                   |     |     |            | Huron |     |     |            |             |
|             | LM3                        | LM2 | LM1 | Lake total | LH1   | LH2 | LH3 | Lake total |             |
| 1993        | 5                          | 6   | 10  | 21         | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 21          |
| 1994        | 6                          | 8   | 6   | 20         | 2     | 0   | 0   | 2          | 22          |
| 1995        | 0                          | 6   | 5   | 11         | 0     | 1   | 0   | 1          | 12          |
| 1996        | 3                          | 5   | 25  | 33         | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 33          |
| 1997        | 0                          | 6   | 11  | 17         | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 17          |
| 1998        | 0                          | 0   | 2   | 2          | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 2           |
| 1999        | 0                          | 0   | 0   | 0          | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 0           |
| 2000        | 0                          | 0   | 0   | 0          | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 0           |
| 2001        | 0                          | 3   | 0   | 3          | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 3           |
| 2002        | 3                          | 10  | 23  | 36         | 2     | 0   | 0   | 2          | 38          |
| 2003        | 23                         | 39  | 86  | 148        | 0     | 1   | 0   | 1          | 149         |
| 2004        | 19                         | 32  | 84  | 135        | 6     | 0   | 0   | 6          | 141         |
| 2005        | 6                          | 35  | 39  | 80         | 3     | 0   | 0   | 3          | 83          |
| 2006        | 14                         | 93  | 62  | 169        | 4     | 0   | 0   | 4          | 173         |
| 2007        | 6                          | 53  | 20  | 79         | 1     | 0   | 0   | 1          | 80          |
| 2008        | 5                          | 56  | 17  | 78         | 3     | 0   | 0   | 3          | 81          |
| 2009        | 0                          | 54  | 20  | 74         | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 74          |
| 2010        | 1                          | 29  | 39  | 69         | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0          | 69          |
| 2011        | 1                          | 10  | 77  | 88         | 2     | 0   | 0   | 2          | 90          |
| 2012        | 4                          | 39  | 60  | 103        | 1     | 0   | 0   | 1          | 104         |
| 2013        | 13                         | 14  | 69  | 96         | 5     | 1   | 0   | 6          | 102         |
| 2014        | 9                          | 32  | 30  | 71         | 4     | 0   | 0   | 4          | 75          |
| Grand total | 118                        | 530 | 685 | 1333       | 33    | 3   | 0   | 36         | 1369        |

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