Research and management of invasive species: on the road to ecological recovery.

Jackson Gross MSPH PhD Smith – Root Inc

## Many invasive aquatic species, but few management methods proven to be successful.





### Innovative Conservation Technology

- Current methods primarily targets adult fish
- Objectives:
  - Specific life stages
  - Lethal and nonlethal
  - Critical periods of susceptibility
  - Dose response







### Management vs. Research



Since Introduction of Lake Trout, Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout in the Yellowstone Ecosystem have Declined Dramatically.

- Ecosystem wide impacts with loss of cutthroat
- Genetics (pure strain)





## **Suction / Water Jet Technology**



## Electricity



#### Early embryonic stage most susceptible

Electric Barrier: Fish control and passage

> Carp, Carp, Carp and some other stuff

#### Studies designed to evaluate fish physiology associated with common electric barrier settings to prevent fish passage

- Bighead and Silver Carp, Topeka IL
- <u>Round Goby and Sea Lamprey</u>, Charlevoix MI
- <u>Common Carp</u>, Boulder City NV
- <u>Northern Pike, Grass Carp, Rainbow</u> <u>Trout</u>, Osage Beach MO
- Additional studies for 2016?
  - <u>Sturgeon</u> (Lake, White, Pallid)
  - Paddlefish
  - <u>Walleye</u>
  - <u>Pikeminnow</u>



#### **Homogenous Electric Field Gradients**

- Electrode types: Bar
- Electrode mounting: U-shaped
- Spacing: 0.66 1 meter
- Width: 2 3 meters
- Length: 0.33 20.1 meters
- Depth: 0.45 1.2 meters
- Conductivity: 250-350 uS
- Flow: Static
- Approach electrode: Anode



## Sea lamprey and Round goby



# Tested the ability to move and incapacitate bighead and silver carps





- 23 x 2.4 x 1 m deep raceway
- 1 Static 4.9 m terminal field
- 2 Dynamic 8 m sweeping fields
- **3** sizes of bighead
- **1** size of silver
- Video surveillance



Large bighead carp (TL mean 51.3 cm, range 45.3-58.5 cm)

## Effects of light radiation





UV light and seismic technology as potential control strategies for Dreissenid mussels

#### **Delayed Mortality for QM Veligers**



### Lake Mead, Nevada

#### 2 year study: October 2015 – October 2017





Determine the dosage of UV to prevent settlement in a flow through system and at variable transmissibilities

#### Determine minimum UV-C & UV-B dose to prevent larval settlement



#### Continuous-flow system

## Carbon Dioxide / dCO<sub>2</sub>



## Little effect of acute dCO2 exposure from fertilization to early hatch



## **Invasive Amphibian Species**



FIG. 2. Larval mortality (expressed as a percentage of individuals exposed for 24 h) as a function of dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> concentration. Each point represents the mortality documented using nine tadpoles per CO<sub>2</sub> concentration trial. The 24-h LC<sub>50</sub> is denoted by a black diamond at 371 mg CO<sub>2</sub>/L.



Lethal and sublethal effects of electricity on Ranid larvae (American bullfrog)

#### Conservation of Leopard frogs



## Dose dependent decrease in behavioral response in tadpole larvae associated with increasing voltage



## Use of Electricity to Control African Frogs











## **Initial Testing**

#### Dose Response

Fish Behavior

Barriers

 Static
 Mobile



#### The Effects of Pulse Pressure from Seismic Water Gun Technology on Northern Pike



# Use of seismic technology to divert or eradicate Asian carps



Suppression and Deterrence: Successful fish clearing in electric barrier, Oct 2011 and May 2012



# Use of acoustic pulse pressure technology for fish deterrence



The Effects of Pulse Pressure Water Gun Technology on Rusty Crayfish and Round Goby, Non-native Egg Predators in Lake Michigan



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## **Other stuff**

## Laser Transmission Spectroscopy: High sensitivity with ability to detect differences between similar species



## **Control of Asian clams**



## **Dietary Modulation**





## **Bruneau Hot Spring Snail**









#### Habitat Erosion, Bear River ID



**New Zealand Mud Snail** 



#### Sand Wand, Streamside Systems



## Human – Wildlife Dimensions









