
FishPass Scientific Research Project Guiding Principles:

Purpose: The [FishPass Project Overview](#) defines project goals organized according to core aesthetic, biological, economic, recreational, and social elements of the project. These goals serve as a framework for evaluating project success and functional project values. However, to ensure that scientific research at FishPass is transparent and accountable, it is necessary to also define the core values and principles that will guide the research and outreach and communication associated with that research.

Focus:

- All research and outreach functions of the FishPass Project will be consistent with the FishPass Mission and Project Element Goals.

Transparency and Accountability:

- All data will be collected according to academic or agency standards, industry standard quality controlled, maintained, and stored in duplicate electronic repositories.
- All data collected from scientific research for publication in databases or information products will be properly documented and disseminated to ensure that research can be interpreted appropriately.
- All data will meet the highest scientific standards of excellence and data will be made available per the FishPass data management policy.
- The FishPass Advisory Board will operate in a manner consistent with the Advisory Board Charter and will handle all complaints and queries in a constructive, impartial, and efficient manner. Written responses to queries and data calls will be provided within 30 days.
- Operation of FishPass infrastructure (including the former Union Street Dam) will be strictly monitored by dedicated FishPass staff and Traverse City Department of Public Services for safety and operational status in accordance with the Operation and Maintenance Plan, all relevant Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) and Agreements (MOA), and regulatory permits.
- Staff at FishPass will maintain open communication on the status of research priorities and operational changes.
- All staff and visiting researchers will uphold the highest ethical standards in their work, personal conduct, and communications as representatives of FishPass.

Diversity and Inclusion:

- A diverse, inclusive working and learning environment that fosters innovative research, engagement, and thought will be maintained with project partners and the public.
- The FishPass Advisory Board will listen and incorporate where feasible and possible, public and stakeholder information into project planning.
- Everyone associated with FishPass will be respectful of differences in opinion, backgrounds, and ways of thinking.

Collaboration:

- Interdisciplinary collaboration will be encouraged and pursued.
- Project partners will be engaged to pursue innovative, interdisciplinary research that best fits the research objectives of FishPass.

- Public/private and locally and/or regionally based partnerships will be encouraged by the Advisory Board and Science Team in developing new research plans to improve fish sorting or ecosystem monitoring.
- Any fisheries implications as a result of research at FishPass will be coordinated with state, federal, and tribal fisheries agencies.

Communication and outreach:

- The FishPass facility will be a top-notch, multi-cultural education and learning environment.
- Regular updates by permanent staff and visiting researchers will be coordinated and hosted in a casual setting throughout the community.
- An annual report of all publicly available information on operation and research progress at FishPass will be prepared and distributed to project partners, funding agencies, and public.
- Innovative ways to communicate about project status and ongoing research to a general audience will be developed and implemented.
- Scientific results will be published in peer-reviewed journals and, where feasible, re-packaged for public consumption.
- The outreach and education plan will be maintained and updated to reflect the current project priorities and status of the project.

Sustainability:

- Fish passage solutions that are resilient to the effects of multiple anthropogenic, socioeconomic, climatic, and ecological, stressors associated with a rapidly changing environment will be emphasized.