

PROJECT SUMMARY—

ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING OF MINNESOTA RIVER AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Problem—The ecological health of the Minnesota River is continually impacted by:

INVASIVE
SPECIES

CLIMATE
CHANGE

LAND
MANAGEMENT

CONSERVATION
EFFORTS

Objective—Accelerate understanding of the Minnesota River ecosystem including:

PLANKTON
COMMUNITIES

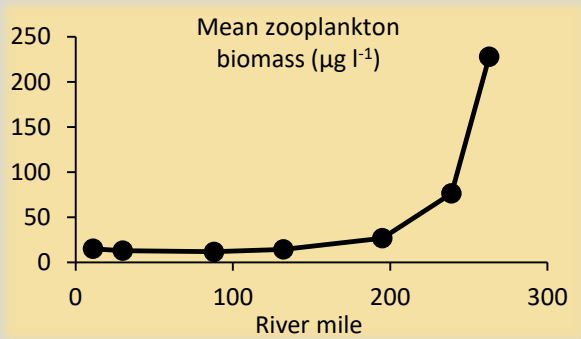
HABITAT
FEATURES

BACKWATER
ECOSYSTEMS

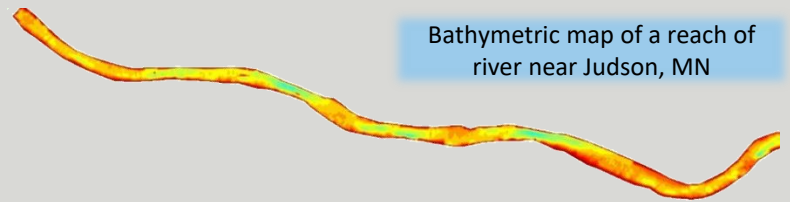
UNIQUE
FISH SPECIES

Outcomes

Plankton—Conducted the first comprehensive survey of Minnesota River plankton communities.



Habitat—Quantified habitat features, including relative elevation of the riverbed at 12 fixed sites.



Bathymetric map of a reach of river near Judson, MN

Backwaters—Highlighted the diversity and importance of backwater habitats; capturing 51 fish species.



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Fish—Unveiled a population of Paddlefish and evaluated population dynamics of Shovelnose Sturgeon.



Sectioned fin rays were used to estimate age and growth of sturgeon

Paddlefish exhibited home ranges of over 200 miles



Project outcomes will be used to quantify future ecosystem changes and inform management strategies that will benefit the ecological health of the Minnesota River.



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M.L. 2016, Chp. 186, Sec. 2, Subd. 03ib

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