



School of Natural Resources: Fall 24 Seminar Guest Speaker

(18 October 2024; 2:00-3:00PM; Library Learning Commons)

Title: *Providing Science and Operational Support for the Conservation and Restoration of Native Prey Fishes in the Great Lakes*



Dr. Andrew Honsey
Fisheries Biologist, US
Geological Survey, Great
Lakes Science Center

Bio: Dr. Honsey is a fisheries biologist with the US Geological Survey Great Lakes Science Center, stationed at the Hammond Bay Biological Station in northeastern lower Michigan. He provides science support for the conservation and restoration of ciscoes and whitefishes in the Great Lakes. Dr. Honsey's research program covers range of topics including surveying Great Lakes tributaries for river spawning populations of ciscoes or whitefishes, analyzing recruitment (population-level reproductive success) drivers and dynamics of cisco and lake whitefish populations across the basin, and investigating the impacts of hatchery or laboratory rearing on ciscoes. Prior to his employment with USGS, he received a Master's degree from Purdue University and a PhD from the University of Minnesota.

Abstract: Coregonines (ciscoes and whitefishes) were historically among the most abundant and diverse groups of fishes in the Great Lakes. They played key ecological roles, supported some of the world's largest freshwater fisheries, and were (and continue to be) culturally significant to the Indigenous peoples of the region. Unfortunately, Great Lakes coregonines declined throughout the 19th and 20th centuries to the point that many species are extirpated from some lakes or thought to be extinct, and remnant populations are fragmented and much reduced in abundance compared to historical levels. Fishery scientists and managers in the Great Lakes have partnered together to conserve and restore coregonines through an adaptive management process called the Coregonine Restoration Framework. In this seminar, I describe the Framework and provide examples of research and operational projects in which I and my colleagues are engaged to support these efforts.