

ECOLOGICAL PARADOXES OF THE LAURENTIAN GREAT LAKES.

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A paradox is a statement or proposition that seems self-contradictory or absurd, but in reality expresses a possible truth. Ecology posits that dams, polluted water, and non-native species are bad for aquatic communities. However, these generally held ecological “truths” are often contradicted in the Laurentian Great Lakes. These paradoxes include that dams on tributary streams are good, clean water is bad, and non-native species, such as alewives *Alosa pseudoharengus* and rainbow trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss* are good. How can these apparent contradictions be reconciled? “Well, it all depends” ... on space, time, and values and whether the clock can be turned back on the indignities suffered by the Great Lakes.