

Pallid Sturgeon Impact Pathway Database Overview

This document describes the Pallid Sturgeon Impact Pathway Database, its purpose, and how to use and navigate the tool.

What the pathway tool represents and how we intend for you to use it

The Impact Pathway tool is simply a method for organizing all of the information relevant to the broad question “*What do we know about the connection between Program water management actions and pallid sturgeon?*”. This information is presented in the form of findings and hypotheses from reports and research articles, assembled and summarized by the Pallid Sturgeon Task Group.

The information is organized according to an impact pathway diagram, which is meant to represent the key influences between Central Platte water management actions and pallid sturgeon in the Lower Platte. It is not intended as a conceptual ecological model (CEM), and therefore does not capture all the factors influencing the pallid sturgeon population. Instead, it captures what we know about the Program’s ability to influence the pallid sturgeon population in the Lower Platte River. The circles are colour-coded to indicate at a high level the relative weight of information behind these various influences in the pathway diagram. It is a qualitative scale that roughly incorporates the proportion of statements in the ‘Strong’ versus ‘Weak/Conflicting’ versus ‘Uncertain’ categories, and the number of statements in general.

Our hope is that you’ll use this tool to help you become familiar with the state of the Program’s technical understanding of its influence on pallid sturgeon, using this tool and the accompanying Knowledge Summary documents.

How to download, open, and navigate through the tool

1. Download the tool from the PRRIP website where you collected the other pre-reading materials. The zip file containing the tool is large and could take some time to download, because it also contains PDF versions of each reference in the tool.
2. Save the zip file to your computer and extract it. In order for the tool to work properly, the file structure must be maintained in the same form as you downloaded it, with a parent folder that holds the Excel workbook (the Pathway tool) and the ‘Refs’ folder. Make sure you keep the extracted folder intact to ensure that the tool works correctly.
3. Open the file in Excel. At the top banner, or if otherwise prompted, click “Enable Content” to enable macros.
4. Once the tool is open and you’ve enabled macros, you will be able to click on any numbered circle. When you do, you’ll get a pop-up window with several tabs: ‘Summary’ describes in basic terms what that particular link represents; the tabs ‘Strong Evidence’, ‘Weak/Conflicting Evidence’, and ‘Uncertain’ correspond to the information in the Knowledge Summary documents, and contain statements from those documents as they pertain to the link you’ve selected.
5. Navigate through the links in one of two ways: (a) click on a link, navigate through the tabs, and close the window when you’re finished, or (b) use the drop-down menu at the top of the pop-up window to find the next link you’re interested in.
6. Statements in the ‘Strong Evidence’ and the ‘Weak/Conflicting Evidence’ tabs have references associated with them, which have been compiled by the Pallid Sturgeon Task Group. Clicking the links at the bottom of the pop-up window will open the PDF of that reference (which are stored in the ‘Refs’ folder). If nothing happens when you click the link, double check that the Excel file and the ‘Refs’ folder are stored in the same parent folder.