

# TRIBAL LANDS





# “When can we eat the fish?”



university-community research in Lake Superior's Keweenaw Bay

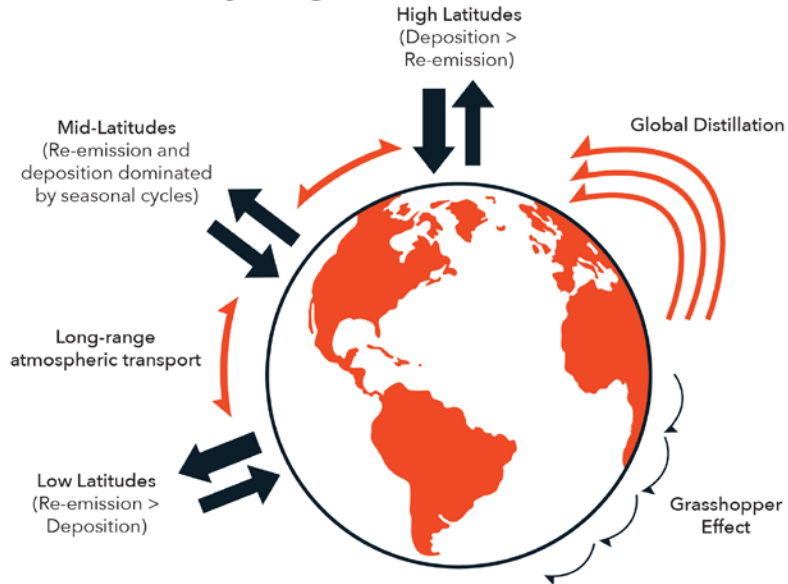


Panel on Contaminants, Tribal Exposure Pathways, Environmental Human Health, & Trust Resources  
2018 BIA Partners in Action Conference

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Great Lakes Research Center, Michigan Tech  
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# Well, it depends...

## Global ASEP Cycling

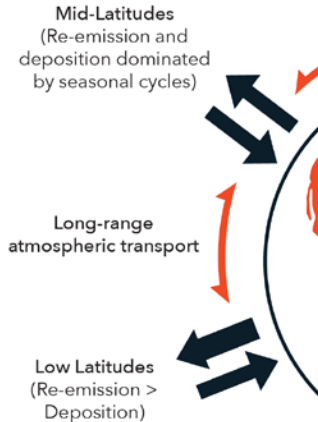


Schematic of global atmospheric transport of ASEPs through the 'grasshopper effect' (Wania & Mackay 1996)

The cover features a photograph of two blue-spotted fish in a basket with green leafy vegetables. The Michigan Technological University logo is in the top left corner. The title 'Eliminating the Need for Fish Consumption Advisories in the Great Lakes Region' is prominently displayed in white text. Below the title is the subtitle 'A Policy Brief' and the authors' names: Valoree S. Gagnon, Hugh S. Gorman, and Emma S. Norman. The Great Lakes Research Center logo is in the bottom left corner, and the report number 'Report No. 50' and date 'March 7, 2018' are in the bottom right corner.

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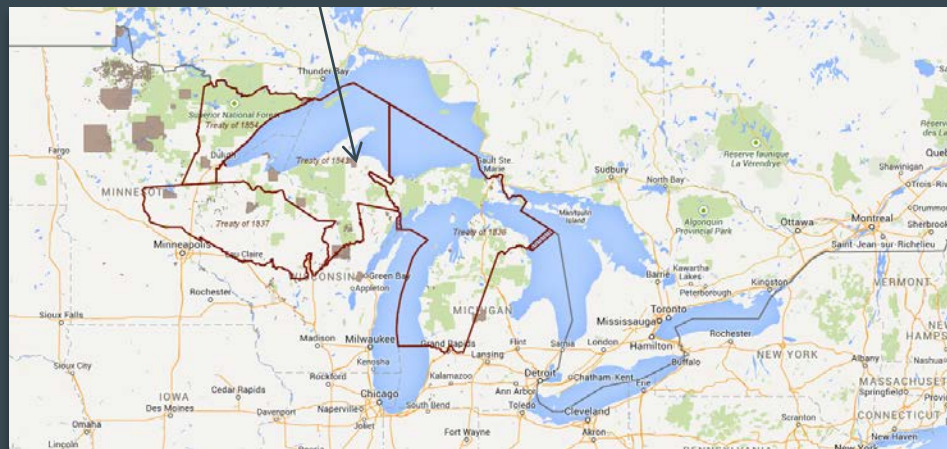
Advisories are not and should not be viewed as a permanent policy to address the problems associated with widespread fish [and wildlife and plants] contamination.

(O'Neill 2004; National Environmental Justice Advisory Council 2002; Gagnon et al. 2018)

The cover features a photograph of a fish and green aquatic plants. The Michigan Technological University logo is in the top left. The title 'Eliminating the Need for Fish Consumption Advisories in the Great Lakes Region' is in large white text. Below it is the subtitle 'A Policy Brief' and the authors' names: Valoree S. Gagnon, Hugh S. Gorman, and Emma S. Norman. The Great Lakes Research Center logo is in the bottom left, and the report number 'Report No. 50' and date 'March 7, 2018' are in the bottom right.

# Managing Impacts of Global Transport of Atmosphere-Surface Exchangeable Pollutants (ASEPs) in the Context of Global Change 2013-2018

- Michigan Technological University
- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Desert Research Institute
- University of Massachusetts, Boston
- Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College
- Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission
- Lake Superior Binational Forum
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Park Service
- International Joint Commission
- Arctic Monitoring & Assessment Programme



Created from <http://maps.glifwc.org/> 2015

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(NSF # ICER-1313755)

**Community-based question** (from an initial project-launch workshop)

“When can we eat the fish?”

**Scientific inquiry** (definitions & metrics from a 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop)

How many **years** will it take before the most **sensitive populations** in **Keweenaw Bay** are able to **safely consume** the amount of fish that they **desire**?



*Ogaa* (“walleye”) spearfishing spring harvest  
Pike’s Bay, Houghton County MI 2010

“Years” defined in terms of  
“generations.”

The “Seven Generations” philosophy—  
long-term thinking , long-term planning

(“Seven generations” ~ 150 years)

## Guiding Principles

This Strategic Plan anticipates future needs based upon the knowledge, visions and sacrifices of those who have gone before us. It also incorporates the notion of “Anishinaabe bimaadiziwin,” which, loosely translated, refers to the Indian lifeway, or the physical and spiritual life journey that begins at birth and extends throughout life. It should be noted that the Ojibwe language, Ojibwemowin, is alive and operates on a different level of consciousness. Each Ojibwemowin word is specific and contains a story in its origin that is difficult to effectively translate into English or explain through non-Anishinaabe ideologies.

One such word is “nindaanikoobijiganag,” which can refer either to a great grandchild or a great grandparent. This word enlightens the Anishinaabe perspective of Seven Generations that involves a generational circle from great grandparents to great grandchildren:

1. *nindaanikoobijiganag (my great grandparents)*
2. *nokomis (my grandmother) and nimishomis (my grandfather)*
3. *nimaama (my mother) and nindehdeh (my father)*
4. *niin (myself)*
5. *nindaanis (my daughter) and ningozis (my son)*
6. *nooshisens (my grandchild) and nooshis*
7. *nindaanikoobijiganag (my great grandchildren)*



This circle of Seven Generations helps us apply in a very real and practical way the teaching that we can only move forward based upon what we bring with us from the past. It aids us in thinking for the long term, so we can anticipate and protect the needs of the seventh generation from now. Anishinaabe bimaadiziwin acknowledges that the traditions of the Anishinaabe encompass an understanding of the sacredness of land, people, resources and history. Through the use of Anishinaabe bimaadiziwin, the Ojibwe are able to express their identity and being, define themselves as a people, pass on their history from generation to generation, and provide a means for cultural survival through connection to all living things on earth.

The circle of Seven Generations and Anishinaabe bimaadiziwin provide a foundation for the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission’s work. That work is also supported by the use of the traditions and sacred items with which the Commission has been entrusted—dewe’igan (drum), opwaaganag (pipes), miigwanaatigoog (staffs), miigwanag (feathers), nagamonan (songs), gaye mashkiwan (medicines).

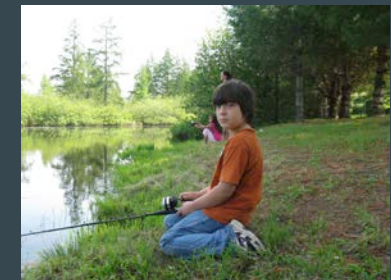


“Sensitive populations” defined as: women of child-bearing age, developing children, and those who depend heavily on marine diets.

## Methyl-mercury via Fish Consumption

(O'Neill 2007)

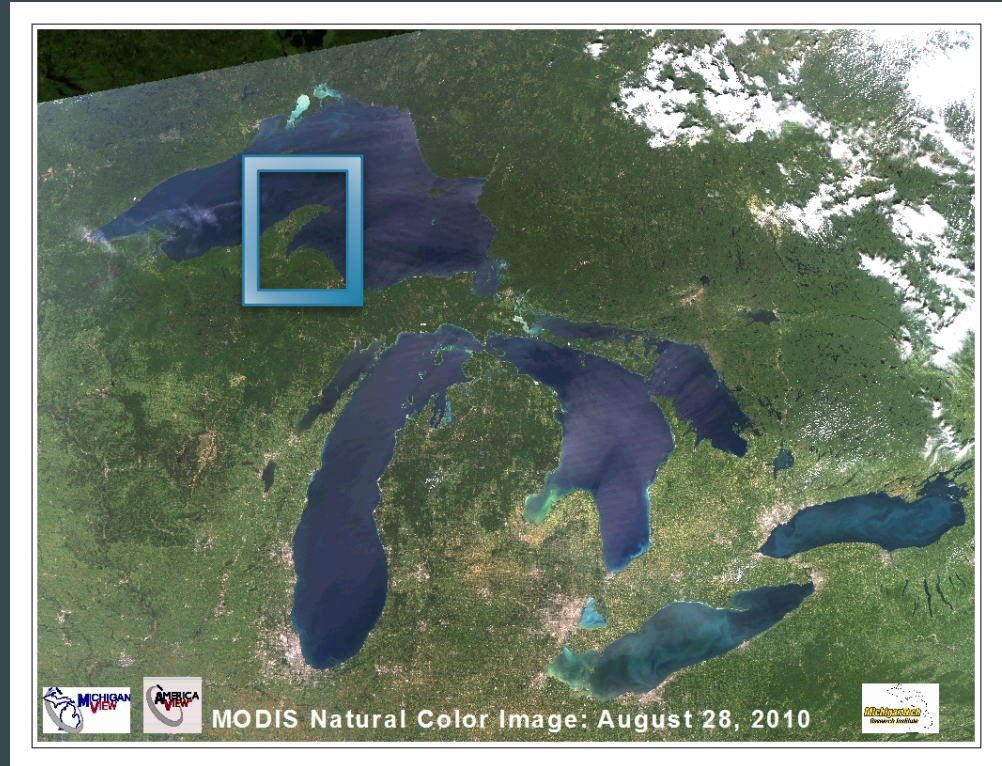
Population	Fish Consumption Rate (g/day)	Current Methylmercury Exposure: Average Woman (microgram/kg bodyweight/day)	Methylmercury Exposure if Mercury Deposition Reduced 60%: Average Woman (microgram/kg bodyweight/day)	Difference (microgram /kg bodyweight/day)
United States General Population	17.5	0.1050	0.042	0.063
Great Lakes Fish Consumers	42	0.2520	0.1008	0.1512
GLIFWC Tribal Fish Consumers	189.6	1.1376	0.45504	0.68256



“Keweenaw Bay” as  
the focal region.

For modeling  
purposes—

Great Lakes Basin  
Inland water bodies



“Safely consume”  
defined by using the  
most-stringent human  
health standards, not  
exceeding EPA’s  
“reference dose.”

**“Reference dose” (RfD) in micrograms of MeHg  
per kilogram of body weight per day ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}/\text{day}$ )**

Agency	RfD	Source
U.S. EPA	0.1	USEPA 2013
Michigan Department of Community Health	0.1	MDCH 2013
Health Canada	0.2	Health Canada 2007
Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC)	0.3	GLIFWC 2013
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)	0.3	ATSDR 2008
Alaska Division of Public Health (ADPH)	0.4	Hamade 2014
US Federal Department of Agriculture (FDA)	0.5	Cunningham et al. 1994
World Health Organization (WHO)	0.5	WHO 2006

## “Desired” versus “current”

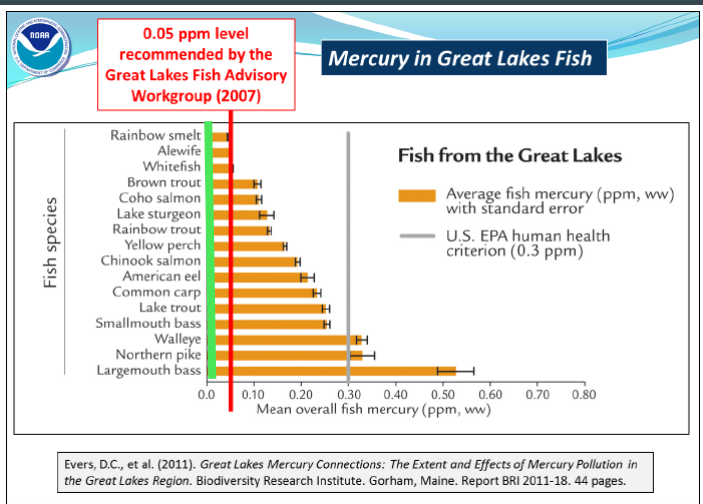
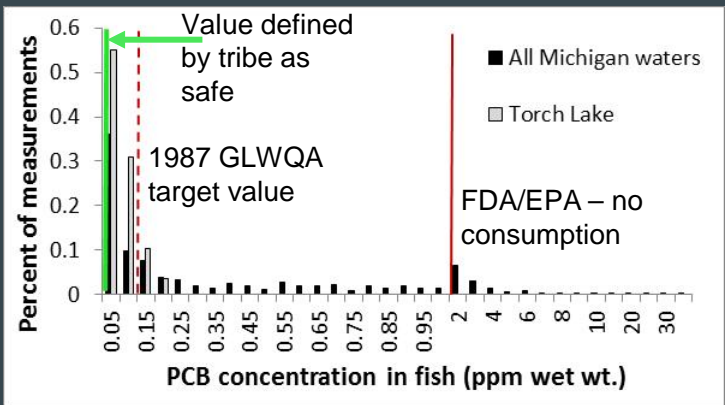
(Donatuto and Harper 2008; Donatuto et al. 2011)

**Desired fish consumption** =  
two 8 oz. meals per day  
(height of Great Lakes fishing  
season, *ogaa* spring spearfishing)



Live-fish release, KBIC Hatchery, Menge Creek, Baraga County MI 2010

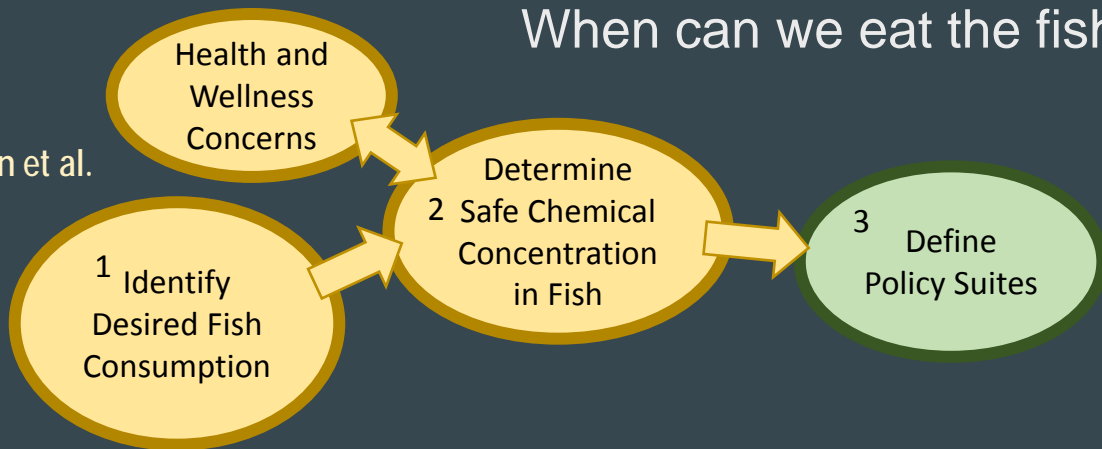
# What is Health(y)?



(slide by Urban, Perlinger, et al. 2017)

# When can we eat the fish?

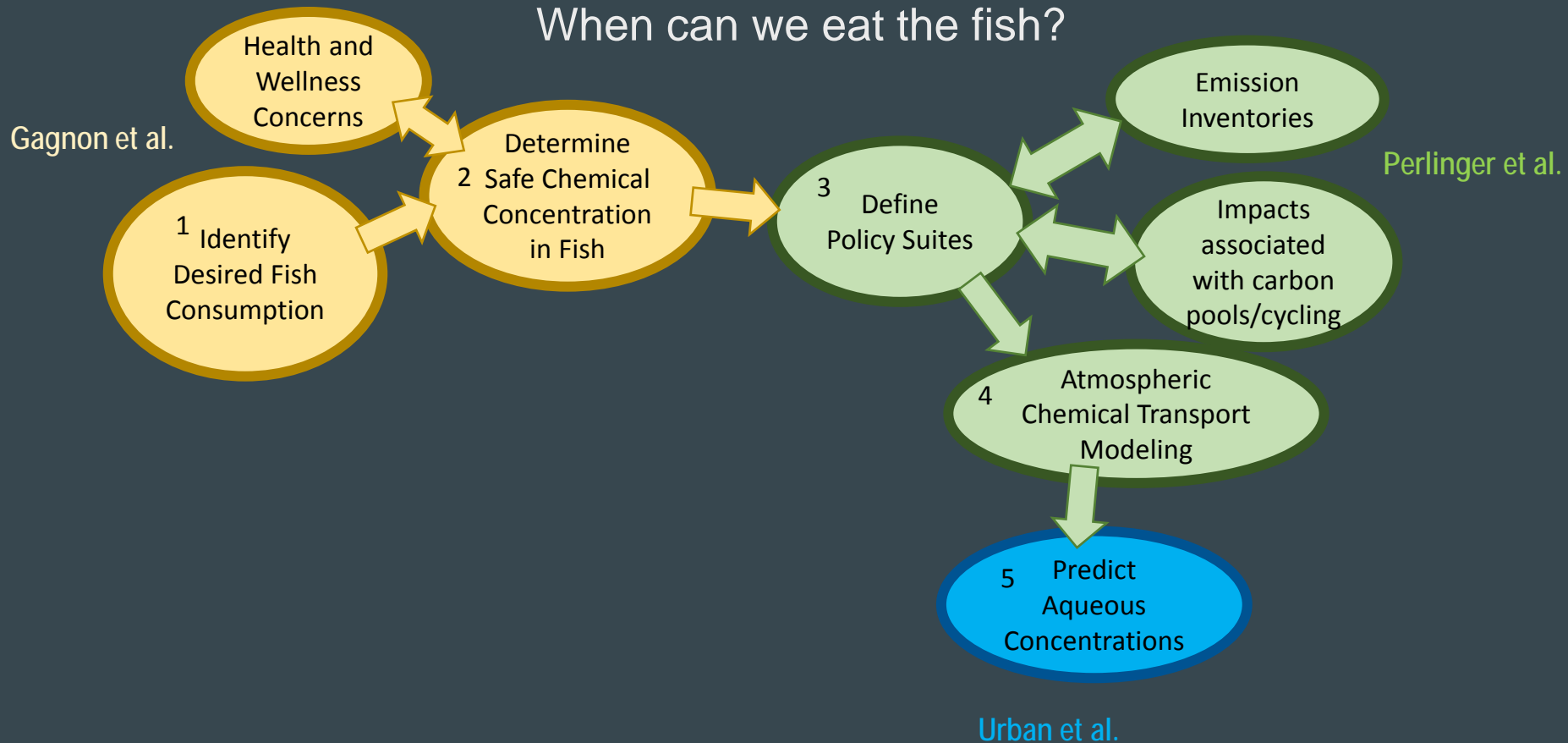
Gagnon et al.



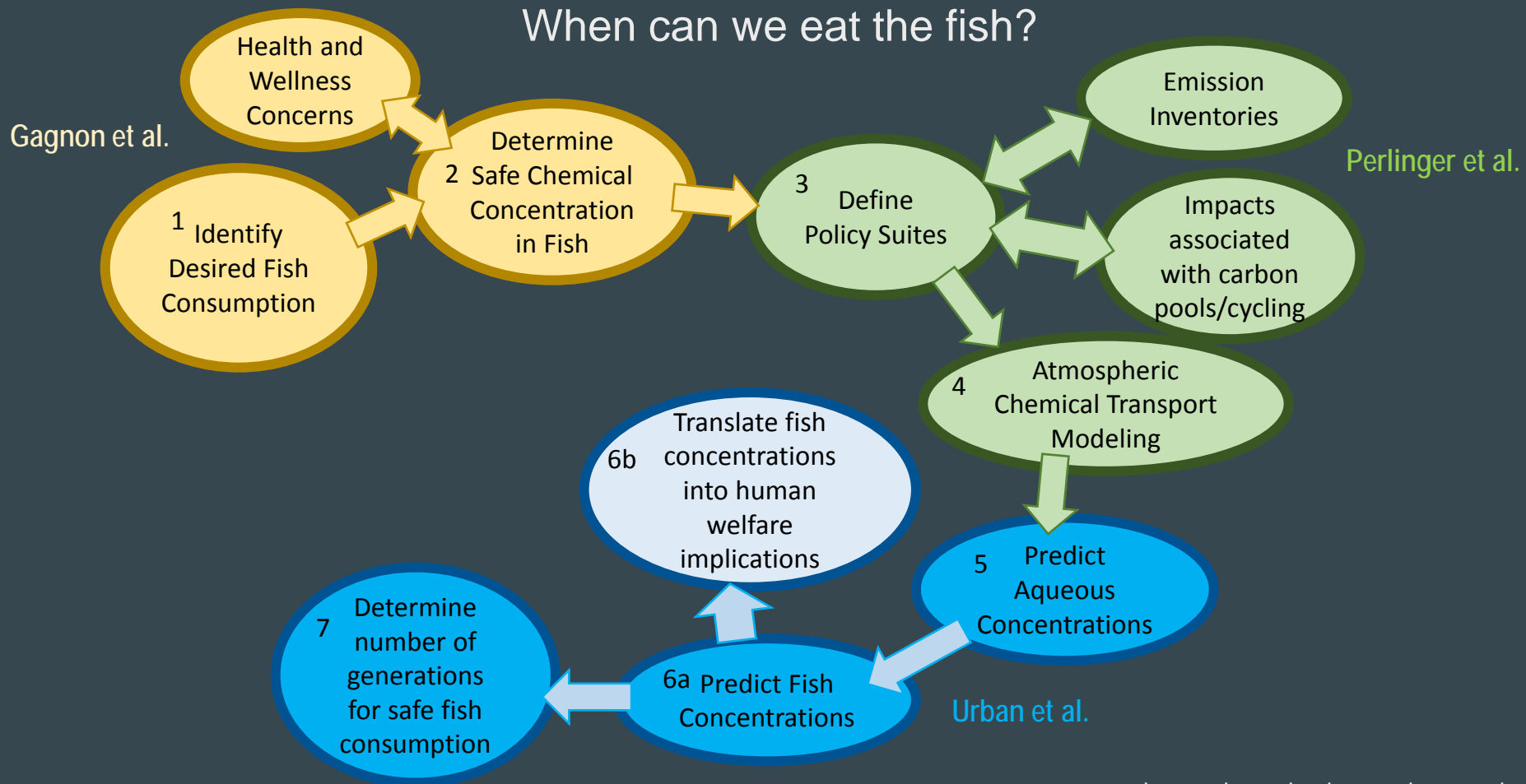
Perlinger et al.

Urban et al.

# When can we eat the fish?

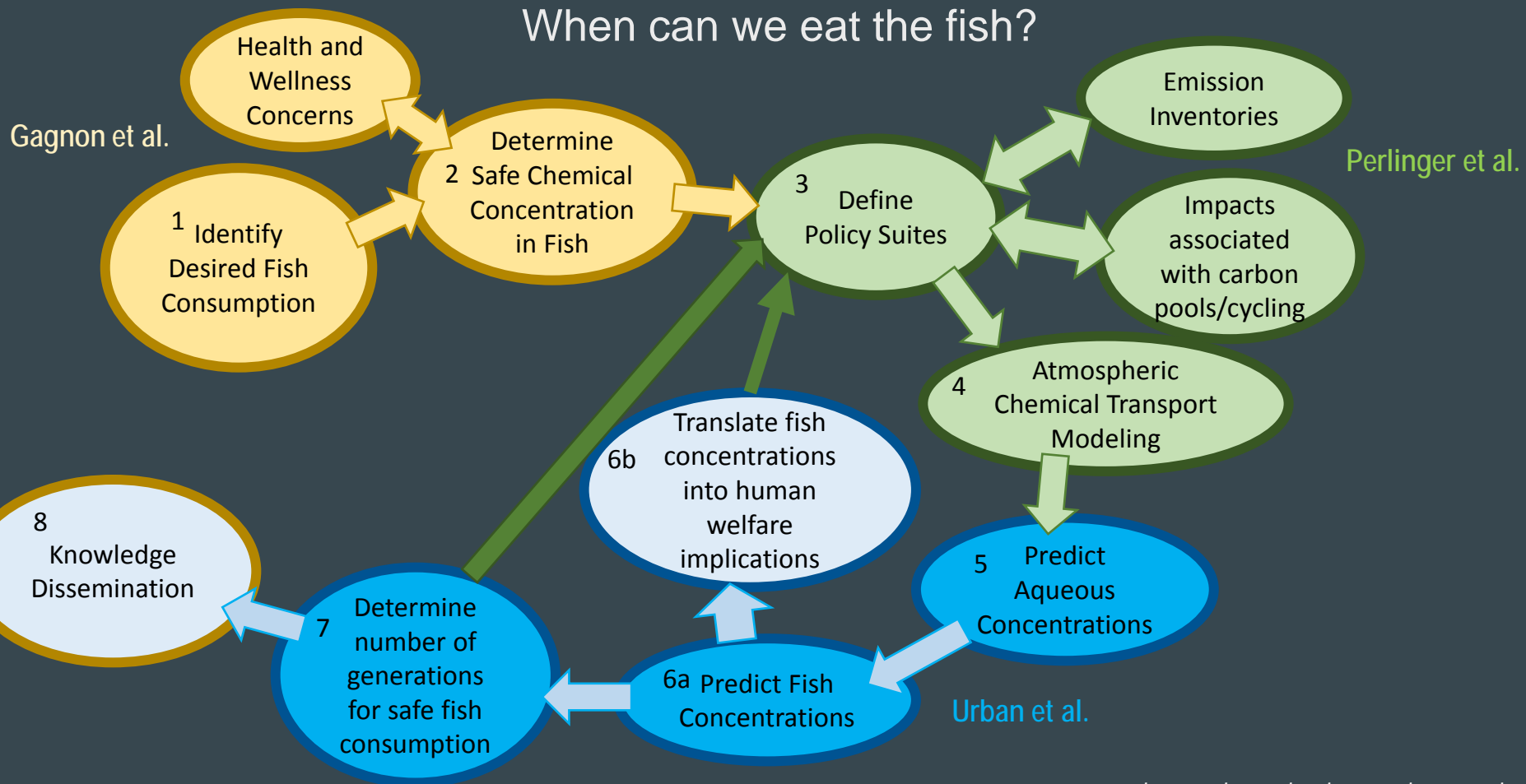


# When can we eat the fish?





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[asep.mtu.edu](http://asep.mtu.edu)

## **NENDA-NOOJIMOJIG**

“The Ones Who Seek Healing”

Source: Anishinaabe Ojibwe artist Elizabeth LaPensee, [glifwc.org](http://glifwc.org) 2016