



## 1:24,000-scale topographic maps

A Made in the mid-20 Aceptury from aerial photograph

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260

Stream

streom

220

Sheepscot River watersheet, Maine (field of view, 9-3 km wide)

Flore

ond

## 10-m USGS DEM: shaded relief image

Sheepscot River watershed, Maine (field of view is ~3 km wide)









(a)

*Earth: Portrait of a Planet,* 2nd Edition Copyright (c) W.W. Norton & Company







## Eroding glacial deposits

Sheepscot River at Palermo (Aug. 2006)



Merrimack Village Dam, Souhegan River, NH (August 6, 2008)

Walter and Merritts (2008): Legacy sediment storage in Colonial-era millponds in U.S. Mid-Atlantic Piedmont.





(a)

*Earth: Portrait of a Planet,* 2nd Edition Copyright (c) W.W. Norton & Company



Collins 2009; Armstrong et al., 2012, *JAWRA*): Analysis of flood series

22 of 23 gages
show ↑ annual flood
counts (number of
floods per year)

• 10 (45%) significant at p<0.1

## SENSITIVE

#### BE A GOOD SPORT Set the Young Salmon Free

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## GIS Based Atlantic Salmon Habitat Model (Wright et al., 2008)





#### Process-based models to predict the location of habitat



- not armored (too coarse)
- pool and riffle morphology
  - overhead over (large woody debris, LWD)
  - deep, cool pools

## Threshold single-thread, gravel-bed rivers

River channel in which the limit of competence for bed material transport is characteristically exceeded by only a modest amount (Church, 2006, Annual Reviews).

## Models to predict bed grain size

- Inputs: For our shear-stress-based model we measure slope (S) and channel width (w) from lidar DEMs; drainage area (A) from DEMs; use Q<sub>RI=2yr</sub> from USGS (Hodgkins, 1999); assume constants for roughness and Shields stress
  - test two similar models:
    - Buffington et al. (2004): based on Shields stress
    - Gorman et al. (2011): based on stream power
- Compare to field-measured bed grain size

metric for success: D<sub>pred</sub> within ±2x of D<sub>50</sub>

• Explore geomorphic controls on model success

#### Basin-scale availability of salmonid spawning gravel as influenced by channel type and hydraulic roughness in mountain catchments

John M. Buffington, David R. Montgomery, and Harvey M. Greenberg

#### 2092

Fig. 7. Maps showing the predicted extent and distribution of salmonid spawning gravels for (*a*) Scenario 1, (*b*) Scenario 2, and (*c*) Scenario 3 in the Finney Creek basin. PR, pool–riffle, PB, plane-bed; wfPR, wood-forced pool–riffle; SP, step–pool; CA, cascade.



Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci. Vol. 61, 2004

Fig. 8. Maps showing the predicted extent and distribution of salmonid spawning gravels for (*a*) Scenario 1, (*b*) Scenario 2, and (*c*) Scenario 3 in the Willapa River basin. PR, pool–riffle, PB, plane-bed; wfPR, wood-forced pool–riffle; SP, step–pool; CA, cascade.





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#### Channel substrate prediction from GIS for habitat estimation in Lake Erie tributaries

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**Fig. 4.** GIS stream power ( $\Omega_G$  (kg m/s<sup>3</sup>)), a function of stream slope and drainage area both quantified in a GIS, can be used to predict median particle size (D<sub>50</sub>) in stream reaches (p = 0.0013).



Snyder, 2009, Eos

Measure channel width (w) using lidar imagery

12.1.10



100	
	Meters

## Field measurements of bed grain size (D<sub>50</sub>)

Wolman pebble counts, Narraguagus River, Maine (June 2007)

# Results: all three models have similar predictive ability (70-80%)

![](_page_26_Figure_1.jpeg)

(Snyder et al., 2013, GSA Bulletin)

Ratio of predicted to observed

NT EAST

grain size (WB Pleasant River)

![](_page_27_Figure_2.jpeg)

1504

15287

Kilometers

WITT WE

Columbus Dolam

Ratio of predicted to observed

grain size (WB Pleasant River)

1504

![](_page_28_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Figure_1.jpeg)

Ecology of Freshwater Fish 2011: 20: 144–156 Printed in Malaysia · All rights reserved © 2010 John Wiley & Sons A/S

ECOLOGY OF FRESHWATER FISH

# Regional variability in Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) riverscapes: a simple landscape ecology model explaining the large variability in size of salmon runs across Gaspé watersheds, Canada

Kim M, Lapointe M. Regional variability in Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) riverscapes: a simple landscape ecology model explaining the large variability in size of salmon runs across Gaspé watersheds, Canada. Ecology of Freshwater Fish 2011: 20: 144–156. © 2010 John Wiley & Sons A/S

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![](_page_31_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Figure_0.jpeg)

RIPPLE is a powerful, analytical tool to help inform habitat restoration and salmon recovery planning. RIPPLE uses an ecological process-based approach to model the distribution of fish habitat conditions in the watershed and simulate lifestage-specific population dynamics.

## Summary

- GIS data can predict geomorphology at the reach scale reasonably well
  - Empirical or process-based approaches
- This can be correlated to habitat mapping
- New studies link GIS-based measures of fluvial geomorphology with fish habitat usage data

## Questions

- We can do OK for salmon and lamprey, but are there key geomorphic characteristics of habitat for other diadromous fish that can be used for predictions?
- How do we use "top-down" GIS approaches to measure dynamics and responses?

### Watershed processes and salmon habitat

![](_page_37_Figure_1.jpeg)