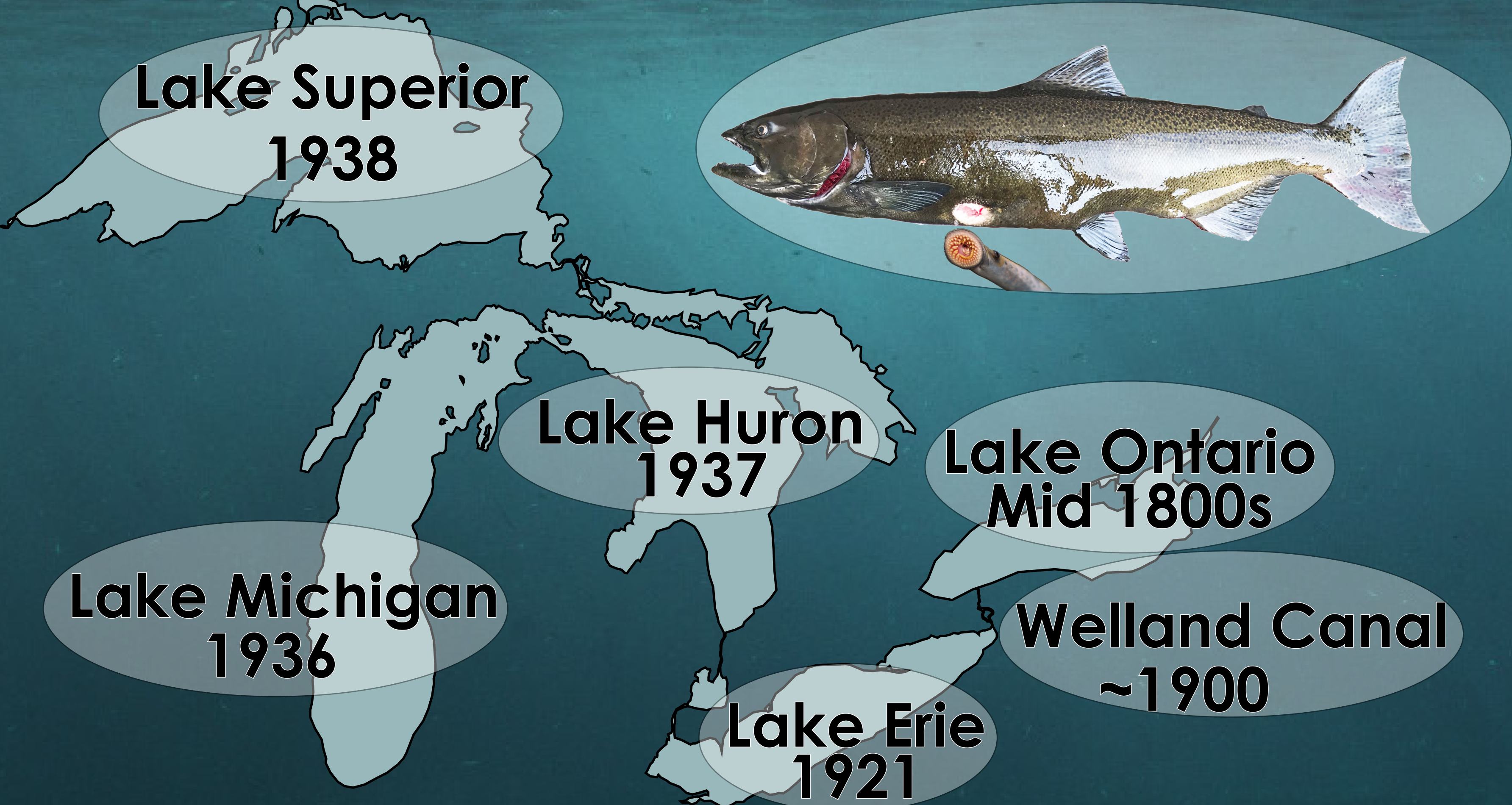


Great Lakes Invaders: Sea Lamprey



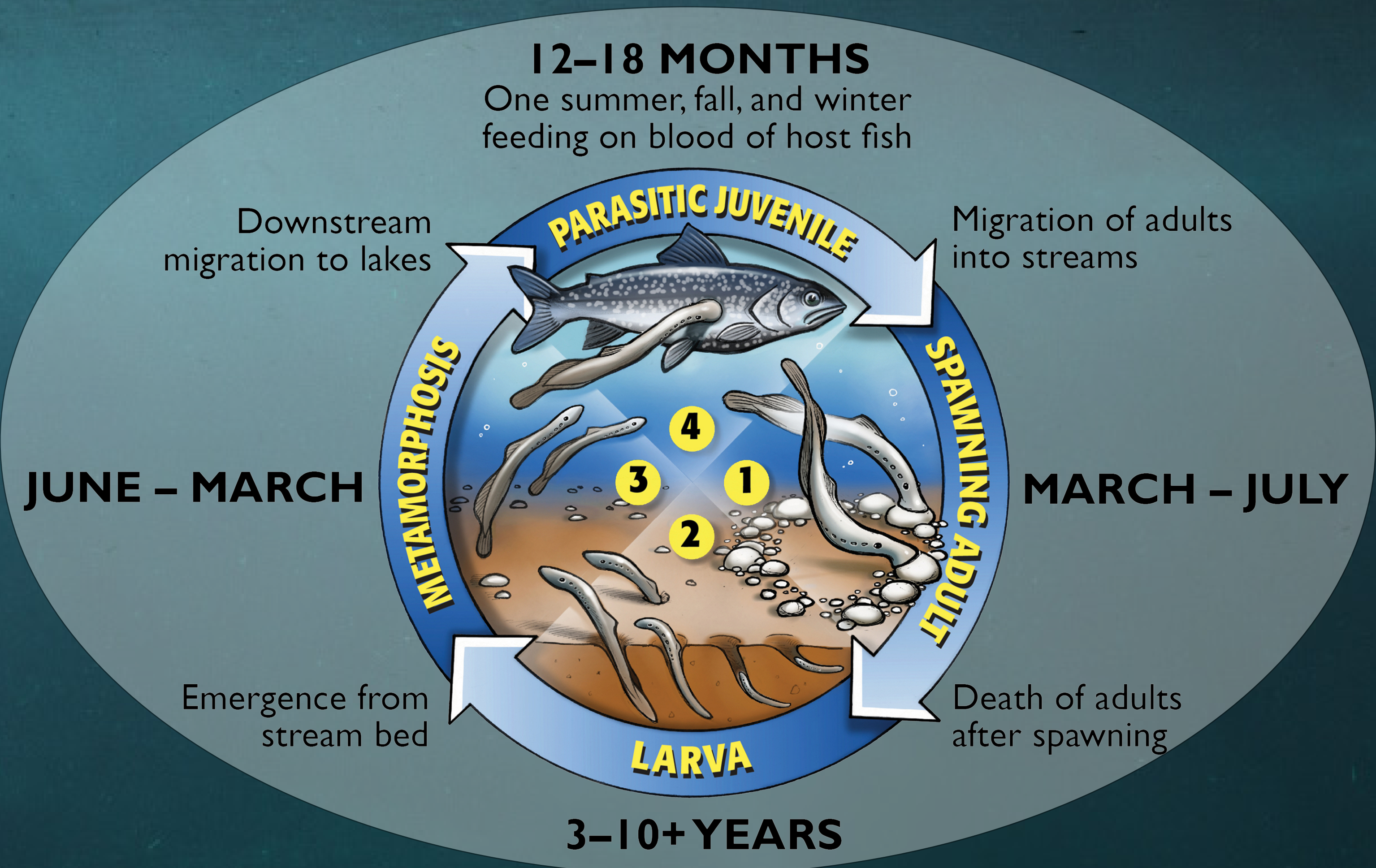
Sea lamprey are native to the Atlantic Ocean, and spawn in freshwater streams. As parasites they latch onto fish and dine on body fluids. Invasive in the Great Lakes, they harm our native fish and the ecosystem.

The Invasion



Before controls, sea lamprey killed 100 million pounds of fish per year in the Great Lakes. Each year, sea lamprey control cost \$20-25 million, but these efforts protect our \$7 billion a year fishery.

Sea Lamprey Lifecycle



Graphic courtesy of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission

The Defense

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission coordinates the sea lamprey control program. The commission uses lampricides - pesticides selective to lamprey - to target the larval stage while they live in tributaries.

Barriers and traps are used in rivers to prevent upstream migration and reproduction of adult sea lamprey. The two pronged approach of lampricides and barriers has dropped sea lamprey populations to historic lows.