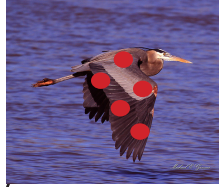


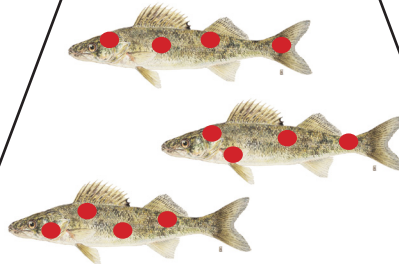


What is Bioaccumulation?

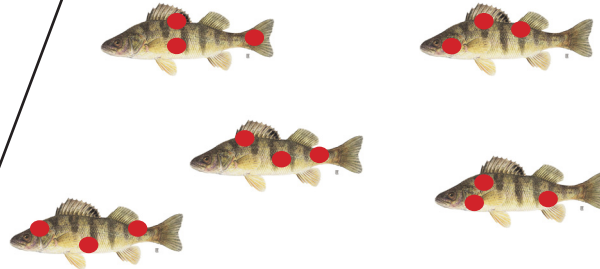
Great Blue Heron



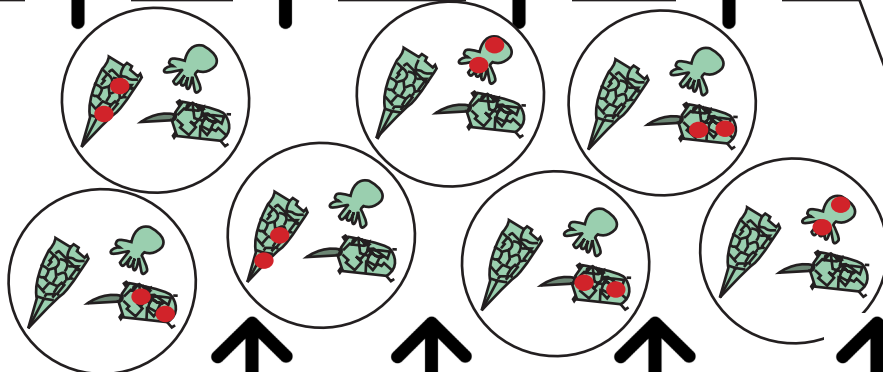
Walleye



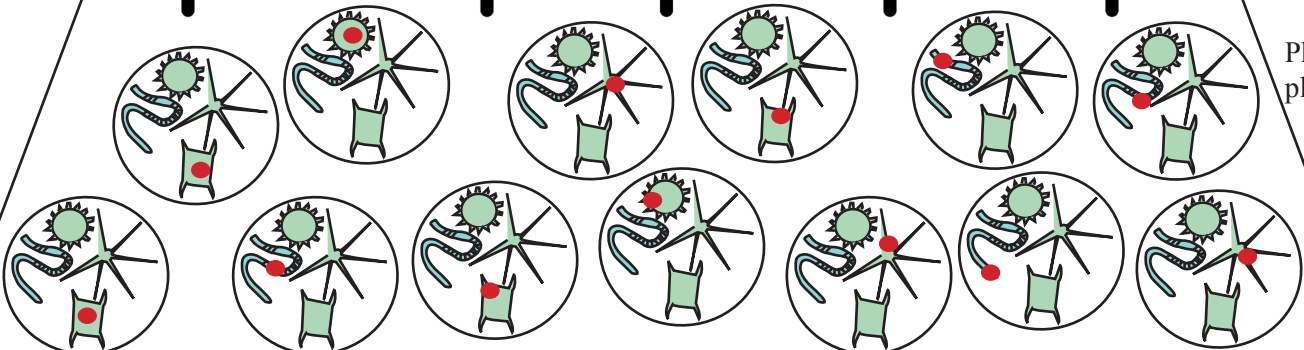
Young Yellow Perch



Zooplankton



Phyto-plankton



In this diagram, each red dot represents a small amount of a toxin. At each level of the food chain, the toxins in the organisms increase. This is because organisms that are higher in the food chain usually eat more prey organisms. Predators gain more and more toxins with each meal. This is called bioaccumulation.

*Flickr photo: Michael Grooms.
Illustrations: Ellen Edmonson
courtesy of NY State Dept of
Environmental Conservation (fish),
Julia Renn (plankton).*