

About the Michigan Rivers Inventory (MRI) Project

The Michigan Rivers Inventory (MRI) Project is a research partnership, begun in 1987, between the Institute for Fisheries Research--Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the School of Natural Resources and Environment--University of Michigan. Our initial goals were:

- 1) To assemble selected data on aspects of Michigan's watershed landscapes, river channels, and associated fishes.
- 2) To describe the broad-scale spatial variation and patterns observed in river ecosystems and fish assemblages.
- 3) To develop statistical models and a classification system that both suggest theoretical mechanisms behind the organization of river ecosystems, and provide predictive capabilities to river managers.

This brief report outlines the conceptual perspectives that underlie the MRI Project, and also can serve as a primer for students and professionals interested in understanding and managing rivers.