

## Environmental Flow Policy in Michigan - Part 2

How does this stuff actually become Law?

(you to can have an Environmental Flows Law)

The Nature Conservancy Southeast Regional Aquatic  
Conference  
June 26 & 27, 2008

The Nature  
Conservancy



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™



The Five Rules to understand if you want to get your state to consider regulation based upon environmental flows.





## Rule 1

No one but you understands what you are talking about when you say “Environmental Flows,” and most of them don’t care



## Rule 2

You can't talk about policy if the  
scientists are still arguing about  
the science

*\*handy tip: Hopefully is not an  
appropriate answer to a yes or no question*



## Rule 3

The science doesn't actually  
matter anyway

(Before you get mad, see rule 4)



## Rule 4

Policy is the process of balancing values. The application of scientific understanding (not the process of gaining scientific understanding) is one of those values.



## Rule 5

If you are successful, when you are done, everyone involved will think it was their idea to start with



# Get agreement on Principles

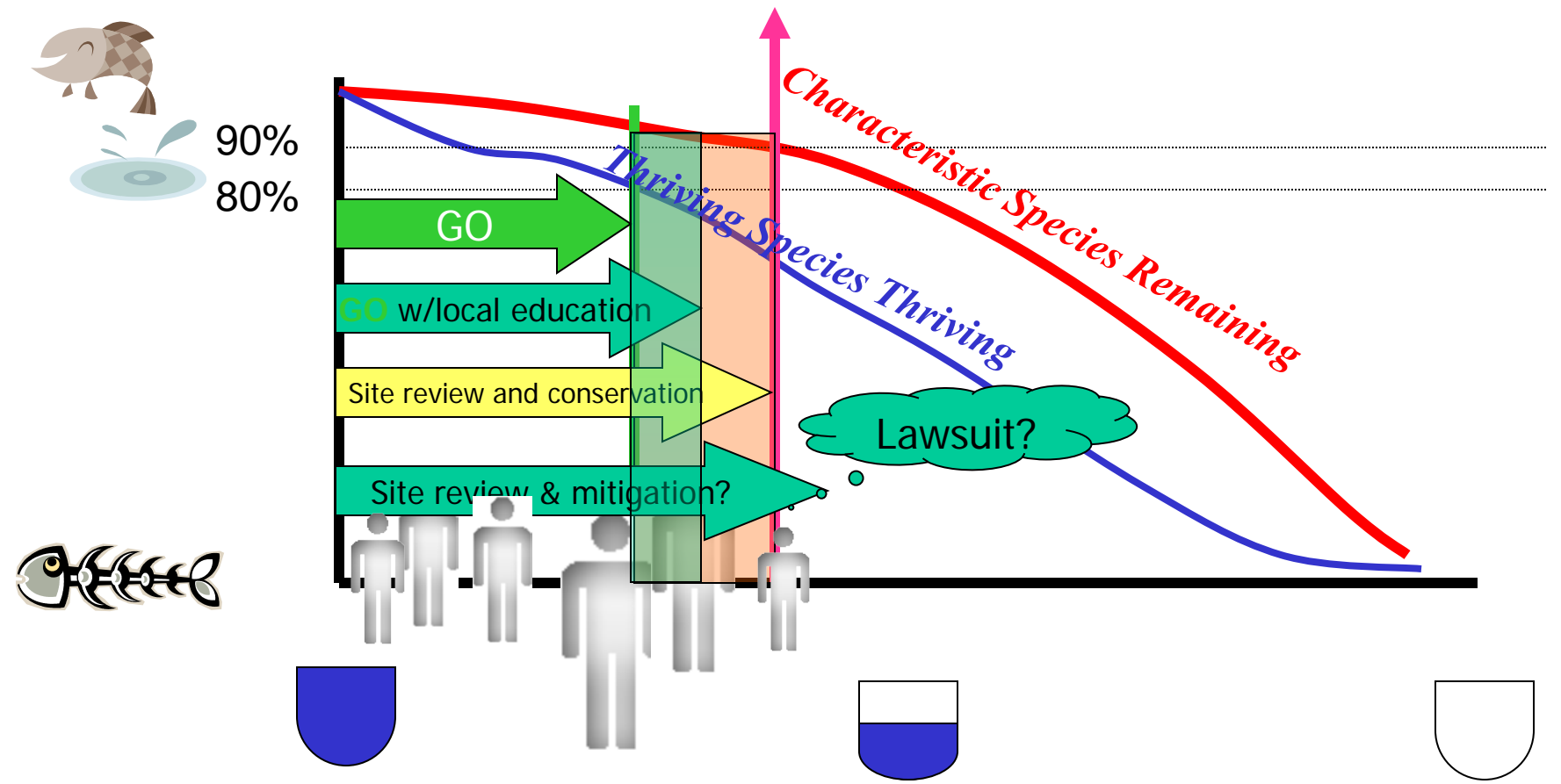
In order to protect basic ecological function, adequate stream base flow must be maintained. Water use by type of user or by purpose of use is not prioritized.

Michigan Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council  
July 7, 2007



# Determining Impact For New & Expanding Uses

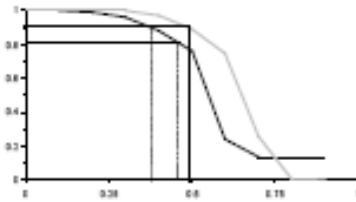
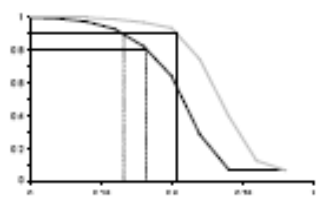
**Adverse Resource Impact**



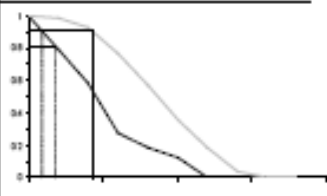
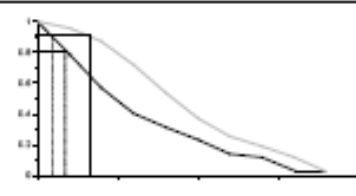
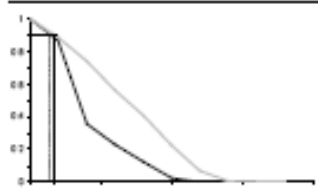


Proportion of initial fish population metric

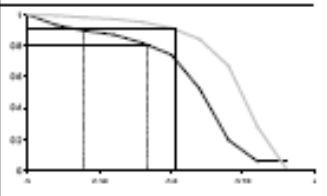
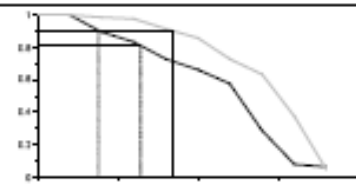
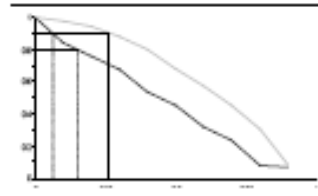
Cold



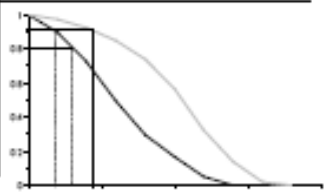
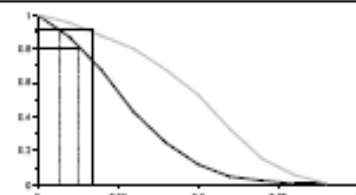
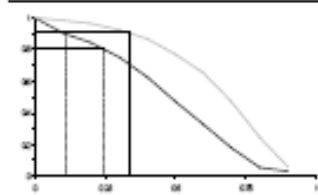
Cold Trans.



Cool



Warm



Streams

Small Rivers

Large Rivers

Proportion of index flow removed



**No person or entity shall make a  
high capacity withdrawal which  
causes an adverse resource  
impact.**

Michigan Public Act 34 of 2006