Discussion questions

1. In the space below, list all of the samples that are downstream of the suspected source site. There are a total of downstream samples.
2. In the space below, list all of the samples that are upstream of the suspected source site. There are a total of upstream samples.
3. The results show that out of downstream samples were contaminated. This also means that % of downstream samples were contaminated.
4. The results show that out of upstream samples were contaminated. This also means that % of upstream samples were contaminated.
5. Do the results suggest the suspected source site is contaminating the watershed? Explain.
6. Based on the results of this study, what actions would you recommend?
7. Does contamination appear to be species-dependent? For each species, explain if the results are conclusive or inconclusive, and why.

**Bass**

The results show that out of downstream bass samples were contaminated. This also means that % of downstream bass samples were contaminated.

The results show that out of upstream bass samples were contaminated. This also means that % of upstream bass samples were contaminated.

Conclusive or Inconclusive Explain:

**Catfish**

The results show that out of downstream catfish samples were contaminated. This also means that % of downstream catfish samples were contaminated.

The results show that out of upstream catfish samples were contaminated. This also means that % of upstream catfish samples were contaminated.

Conclusive or Inconclusive Explain:

**Carp**

The results show that out of downstream carp samples were contaminated. This also means that % of downstream carp samples were contaminated.

The results show that out of upstream carp samples were contaminated. This also means that % of upstream carp samples were contaminated.

Conclusive or Inconclusive Explain:

**Sunfish**

The results show that out of downstream sunfish samples were contaminated. This also means that % of downstream sunfish samples were contaminated.

The results show that out of upstream sunfish samples were contaminated. This also means that % of upstream sunfish samples were contaminated.

Conclusive or Inconclusive Explain:

Figure 5. Connecting to the NGSS and Common Core State Standards

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| --- | --- |
| Dimension | Classroom Connections |
| Science and Engineering Practices |
| Analyzing and Interpreting Data | Students must analyze the results of the entire sample set and interpret upstream/downstream and species comparisons |
| Engaging in Argument from Evidence | Students must draw conclusions based on evidence, with emphasis on both positive and negative test results |
| Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information | Students must collect, share, and critically analyze the results of the entire sample set. Instructors have ample opportunities for allowing students to communicate their conclusions.  |
| Disciplinary Core Ideas |
| Natural Resources (ESS3A) | Students consider watersheds and aquatic species as natural resources |
| Human Impacts on Earth Systems (ESS3C) | PCBs are man made chemicals—students consider the impact of these chemicals on the health of a watershed |
| Crosscutting Concepts |
| Cause and Effect* Empirical evidence is required to differentiate between cause and correlation and make claims about specific causes and effects. (HS-ESS3-1; HS-ESS3-4)
 | Students consider the importance of positive and negative results when reaching conclusions about cause and effect—in the presence of a cause, an effect must be observed, and in the absence of the cause, the effect must no longer be observed. This reasoning is why experimental design incorporates the usage of controlled variables and why both sets of results—positive and negative—are critical in deriving conclusive determinations. |