

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Magnetic force

Re: Magnetic force

Author: : pcray1231

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I think the method of fish "sensing" the home waters has largely been solved, though questions still remain.

Smell. We've shown, for instance, if you plug a salmon's scent receptors, it becomes disoriented and struggles to find its home stream. And this has also been shown to be the reason that a portion of every population gets "lost" and returns to the wrong stream. Those "lost" fish, for various reasons, have been shown to have worse senses of smell than the ones that made it to the "right" place. Sometimes it's disease, genetic anomalies, injury, exposure to contaminants, etc.

All waters have a unique chemical makeup, and obviously, fish are sensing this and seeking out their "home" waters. The open questions are about what specific chemicals matter for each species? Is it natural water chemistry stuff, like calcium, phosphorus, etc.? Or is it pheromones? Fish respond VERY strongly to things like amino acids.