The Asian Jumping Worm *(Amynthas spp.)*

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Contributions from Samuel Chan, Rick Cooper, Tania Siemens, Oregon Sea Grant, Joshua Vlach, Oregon Department of Agriculture. Designed by Kimberley Preston

Species Profile: Why these Worms Matter

Amynthas spp. (also known as Asian jumping worms) originate from Asia and have been introduced to North America. They are identified by their violent thrashing motions and a pale-colored clitellum that completely encircles the body.

Asian jumping worms can cause ecosystem-scale changes. They impact soil and water quality by depleting the leaf litter layer, exposing soil to erosion, altering healthy soil chemistry, accelerating sediment runoff and leaching of nutrients and mineral (including mercury) contaminants into water.

Asian jumping worms reproduce quickly and spread easily. Implementing invasive species-focused public outreach and education will help slow the spread of these non-native worms.

Vectors: How these Worms Spread

Asian jumping worms are popular fish bait; however, escaped worms and unused bait can spread the invader and cause long-term damage to fisheries.

Asian jumping worms consume massive amounts of leaf litter and degrade the soft, spongy forest floor. The jumping worm can be spread by forest-goers.

Asian jumping worms can be spread to new territory in North America via cargo/goods transported (air, land, or sea) from abroad or other contaminated regions.

Asian jumping worms can be spread by moving or importing plants, exchanging potting soil, and composting (including worm composting kits).

The Asian jumping worm is identified by the violent thrashing motions it makes when threatened. Watch this worm wriggle here.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrGnUFDXuyQ

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Invasion from Asian Jumping Worm *(Amynthas spp.)* May Increase Toxic Mercury in Water

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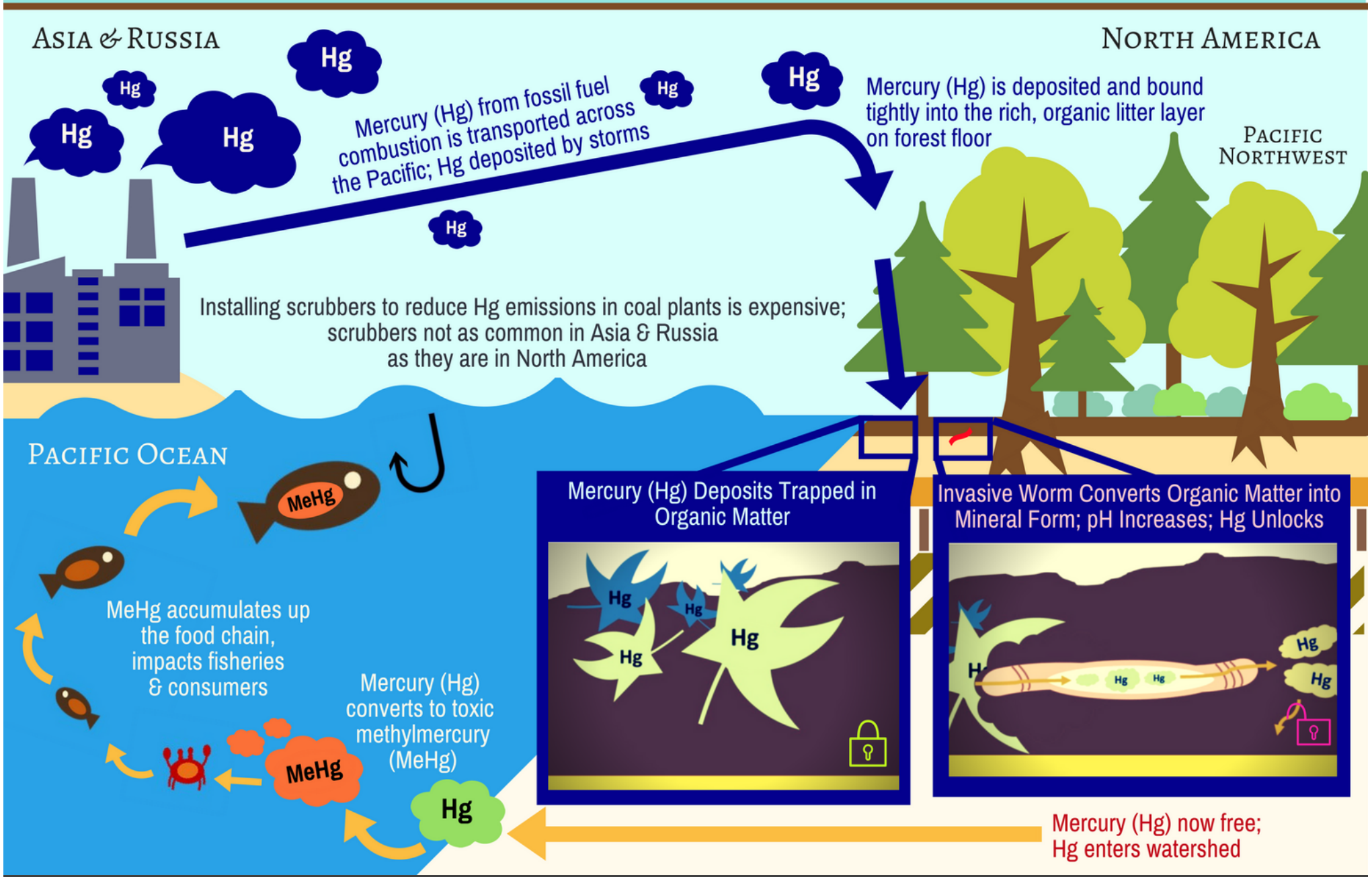

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Comparison of Potential Ecosystem Impacts: Absence & Presence of the Asian Jumping Worm (*Amynthas spp.*)

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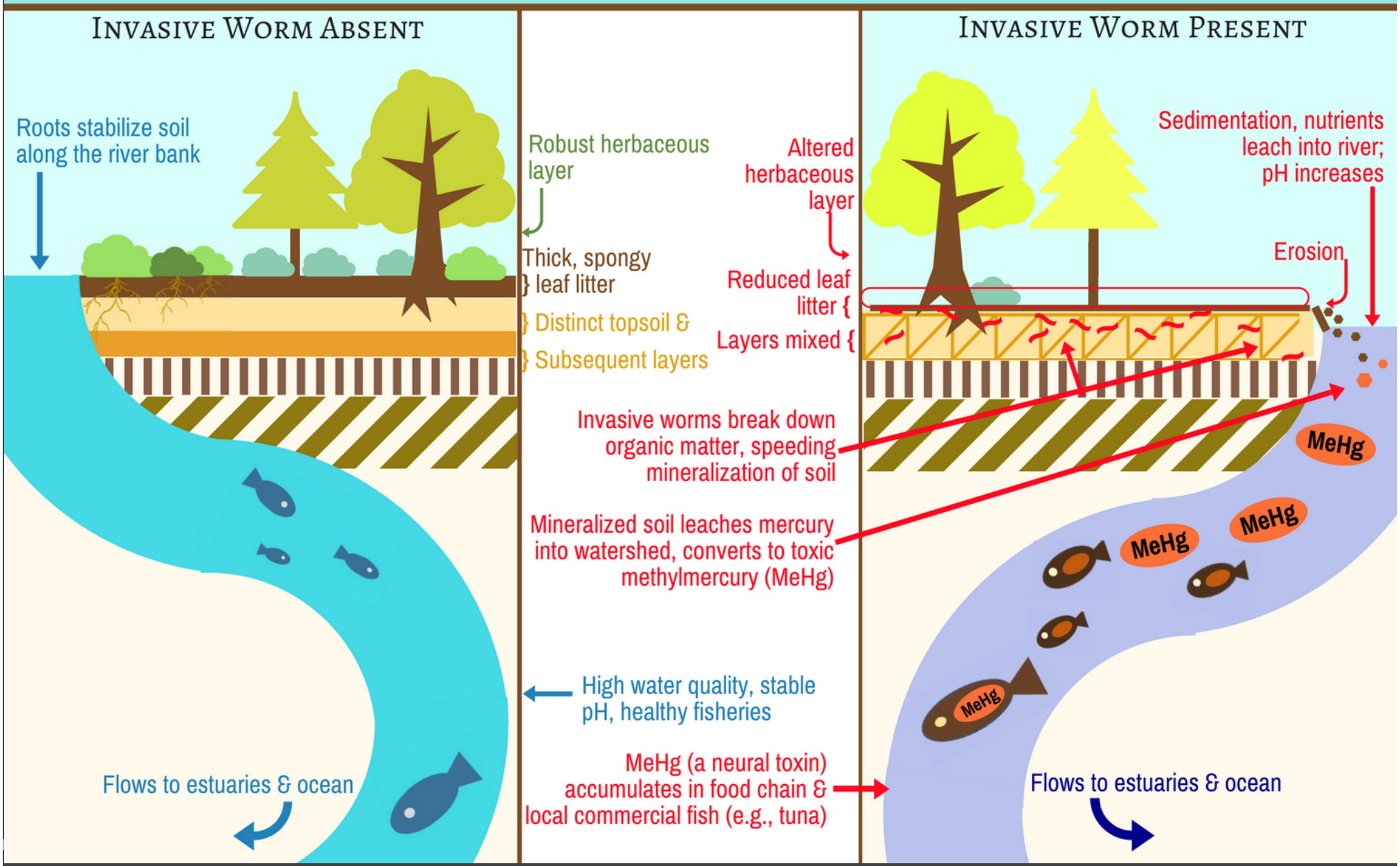

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