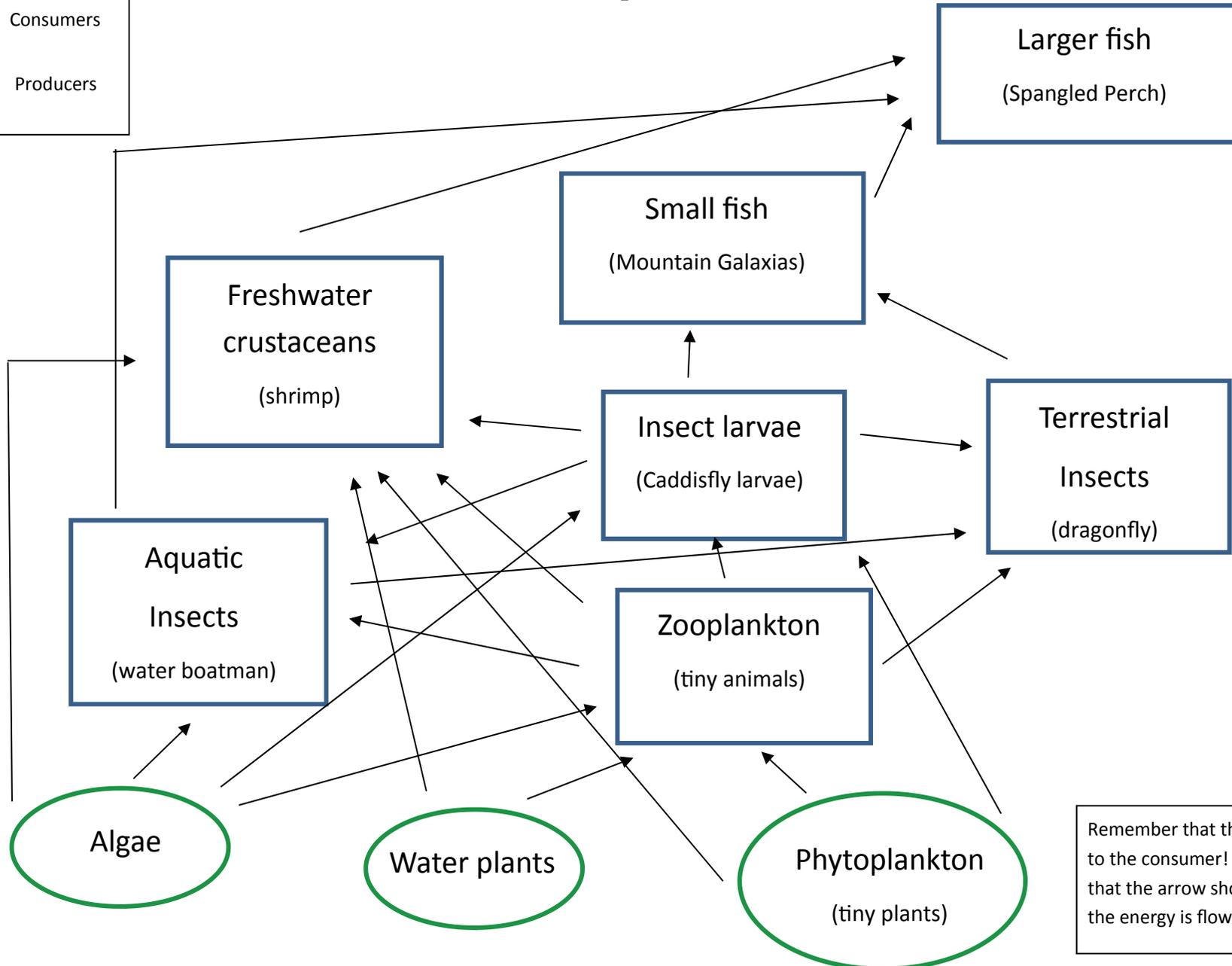
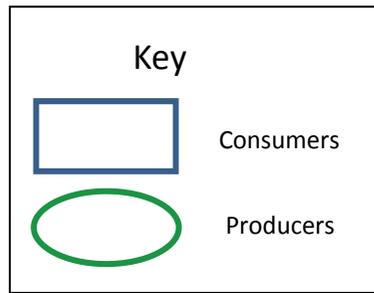
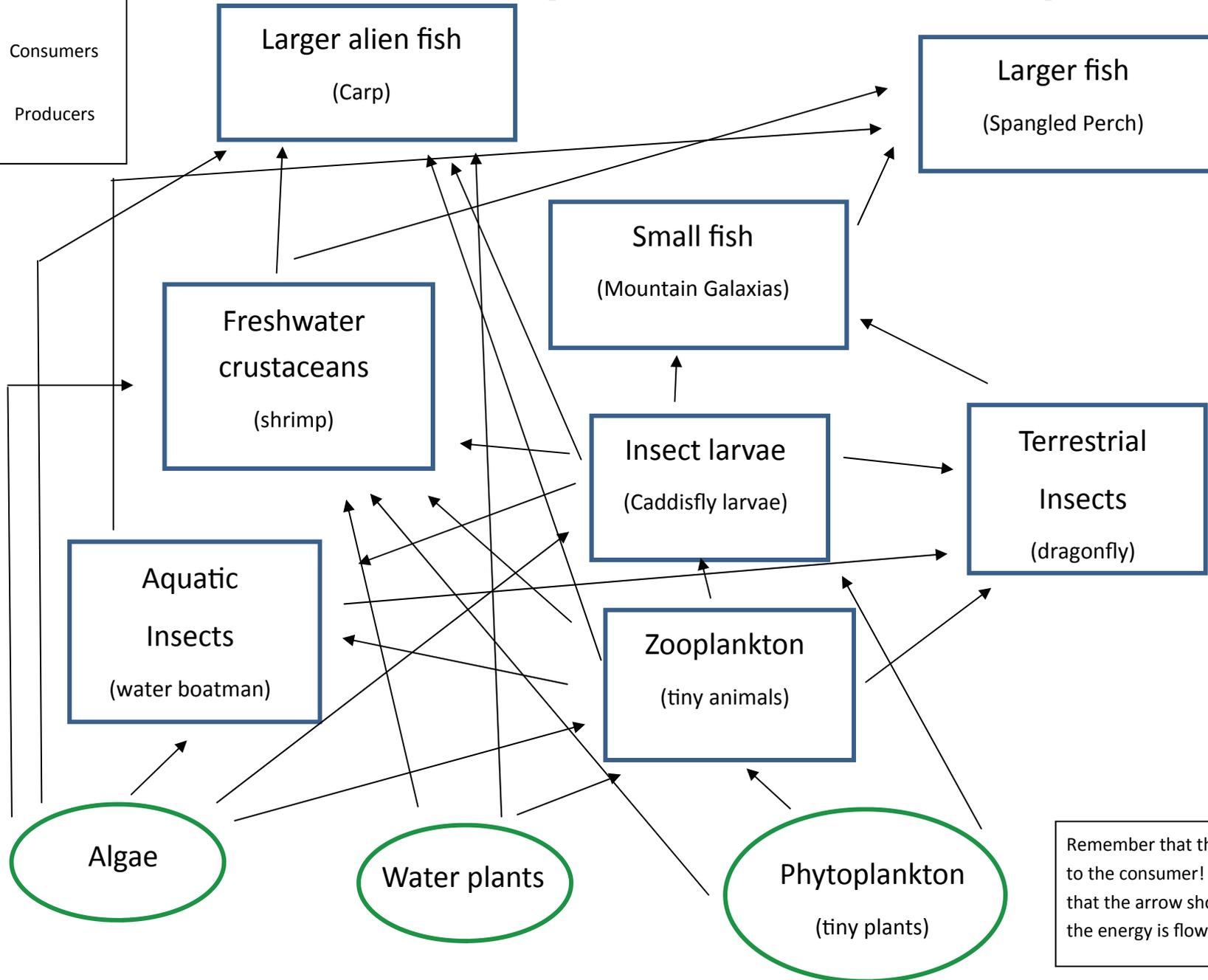
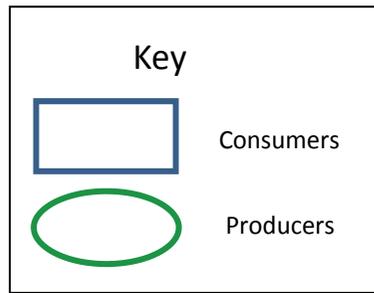


Queensland River Systems Food Web



Remember that the arrow points to the consumer! It helps to think that the arrow shows you where the energy is flowing to.

Queensland River Systems Food Web with Carp



How the introduction of carp has affected aquatic ecosystems in Queensland water ways

Human Impacts—Humans have impacted upon these ecosystems by introducing carp. This pest was introduced both deliberately to replicate the European environment, and accidentally through the escape of aquaculture and ornamental fish stocks.

Competition - As you can see in the food web, carp eats many of the same species that the native organisms do. More food will not necessarily be produced and so the carp may in fact cause other organisms to go hungry.

Decreased Water Quality - When carp feed they churn up all the sediment (mud or sand) making the water very murky. When water is too murky light cannot make its way down to the plants and so photosynthesis cannot occur!

Rabbits of the Waterways - Carp lay many eggs when they reproduce and so it is possible for them to produce many offspring. A large number of these fish in rivers and creeks can cause the health of the ecosystems to decline.

They are tolerant - These pest fish are very tolerant to poor conditions including low amounts of oxygen in the water. Sadly, native fish and other organisms are not so tolerant and sometimes cannot survive in rivers and creeks that have poor water quality.

How the introduction of carp has affected aquatic ecosystems in Queensland water ways

Pest Management - Carp numbers are being managed through variety of methods including community involvement. The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee has set up a 'Carp Busters' fishing competition to help educate communities about pest fish and also to remove some of the huge numbers of these carp.



For more information, maps and pictures head to the following websites where this information has been sourced:

The Department of Primary Industries NSW—<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/pests-diseases/freshwater-pests/species/carp/general-information>

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee—<http://www.qmdc.org.au/module/documents/download/1600>

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority—<http://www.mdba.gov.au/sites/default/files/pubs/MDBA-Fish-species-book.pdf>