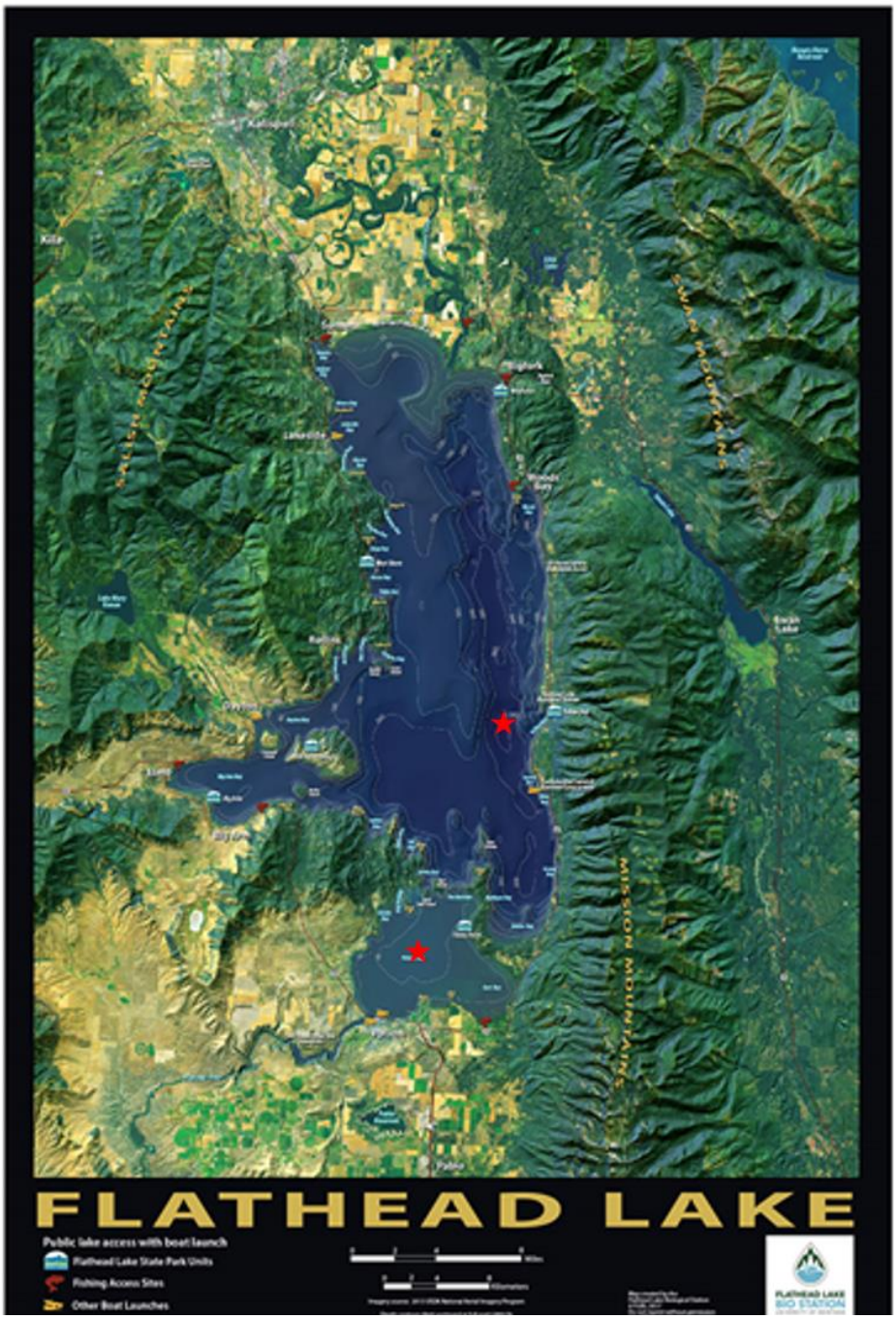
Why are scientists studying Flathead Lake?

Have you ever wondered what's in your water? Well this very question drove scientists to start studying the waters of Flathead Lake over 100 years ago. Since 1977, the Flathead Lake Biological Station has been collecting water quality data through the Flathead Lake Monitoring Program (FMP). This data is used to track the health of the lake.

Our Virtual Research Cruise will provide you with a snapshot of some of the things we are monitoring. To collect lake data, researchers use the Bio Station's research vessel, the *Jessie B*. The *Jessie B.* is equipped with a variety of sensors and equipment used by our scientists to sample the lake.

The *Jessie B.*, the research vessel used to monitor Flathead Lake. PC: Flathead Lake Biological Station

The Flathead Lake Biological Station collects samples at the Mid-Lake Deep site off of Yellow Bay in the northern half of the lake, and at Polson Bay in the southern half of the lake, shown on the map.



The Mid-Lake Deep and Polson Bay research sites in Flathead Lake. PC: Flathead Lake Biological Station

Virtual Research Cruise: Introduction

To learn more about the Flathead Lake Biological Station's sampling efforts, watch the Virtual Research Cruise videos in chronological order. Many of the videos have information, data-based lessons, and activities that correspond to them, located below the video. These lessons are geared toward 6th through 9th grade students, but many of the activities are suitable for all ages. Take a look at these documents after watching each video to learn more about the science of Flathead Lake. A glossary of vocabulary words is available at the top of the page. The definitions for bolded words throughout these documents can be found in the glossary.

The *Jessie B.* docked at Yellow Bay on a sunny, fall day. PC: Flathead Lake Biological Station

We invite you to "hop aboard" the *Jessie B.* to learn about how scientists monitor Flathead Lake.