

DIP?

LUKE VOILAND | JAMIE HUNT

TEST

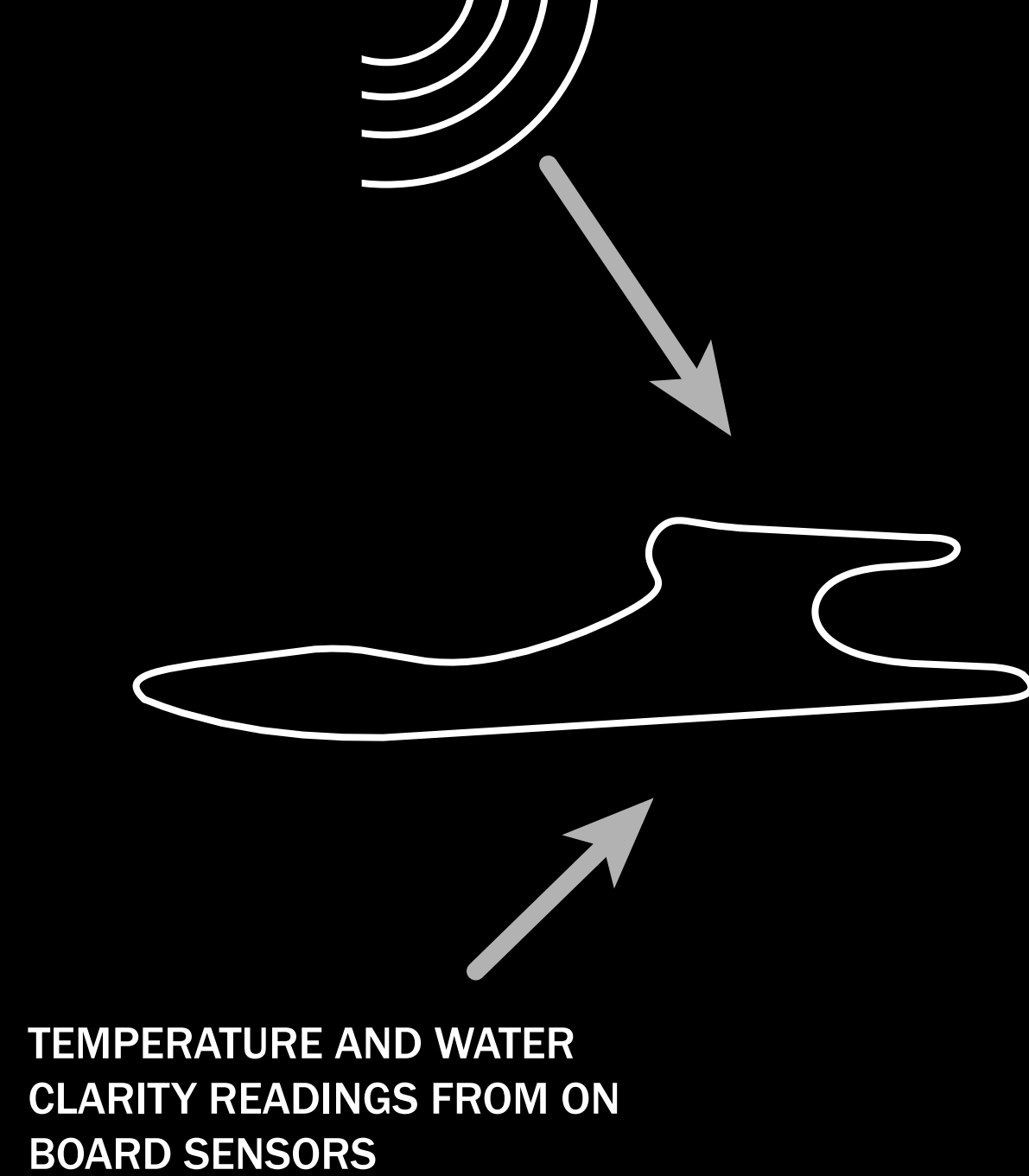
WOULD YOU SWIM?

Bostonians love the Charles. Apartments framing views of the cityscape are highly sought after; lunchtime strolls and evening jogs characterize the riverside lifestyle. Yet few of us would test the water with our toes, let alone even consider a dip.

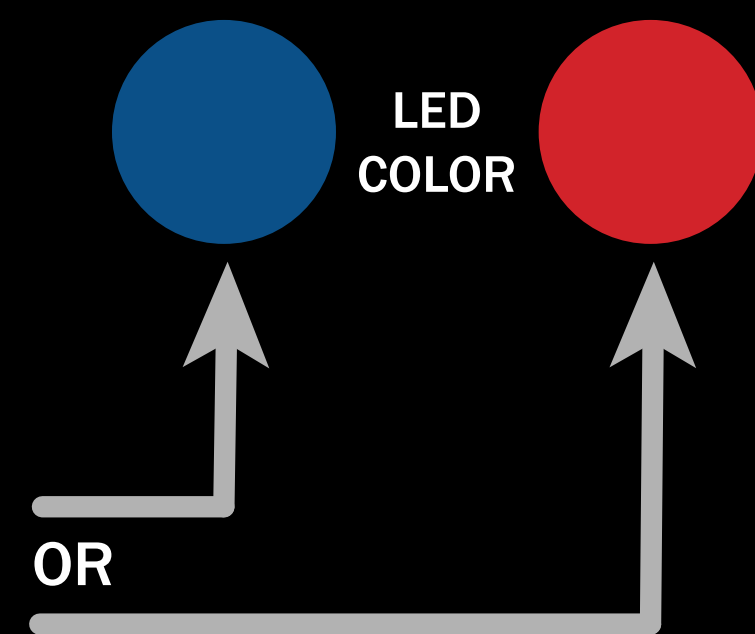
DipTest seeks to render the Charles a swimmer friendly river.

TESTING...

BACTERIA COUNT FROM C.R.W.A.
VIA WIRELESS LINK



SWIM! WAIT...



The devices feature a small logic board that gathers data from several sources. The primary data (bacteria levels) come from the Charles River Watershed Association water monitoring program. Additional data (temperature and water quality) is gathered with onboard sensors. If all data indicates swimming is safe, then the LEDs glow blue inviting swimmers out to lounge on the "fleet". If water quality is not suitable then the LEDs will glow red. The self contained units would be powered by a small solar panel and battery embedded in the device.

THE "FLEET"

A fleet of DipTest devices could be towed to various points in the basin to check local conditions. Particular areas of interest include beaches, boathouses, bridges and storm drain outwash sites.

DEFINED AND DEFILED

Boston is defined by the Charles and Boston has defiled the Charles. We have dammed the river to regulate tidal flow, filled in sections to increase habitable space, and used it as a refuse for industrial waste. Since 1965 the Charles River Watershed Association has been instrumental in raising awareness regarding the condition of the waterway. They have instigated major clean-ups and watershed protection efforts, and continue to work with the government to improve the quality of water in the watershed. The ability to swim in the Charles has become a benchmark of environmental sustainability and health. The First Charles River One Mile Swim was scheduled last year. Yet, despite low bacteria levels, the event was cancelled due to an "unusually intensive toxic algal bloom."

CASTING PROCESS INVOLVES COMMUNITY

In an effort to revitalize the riverside and recycle waste, historical beaches will be combed by members of the community for suitable aggregate. Using low-density recycled material, supplemented with Perlite, the correct density of the overall aggregate is ensured. The swim "buoy" is cast in three pieces. Each element is first shaped in foam to create a positive "blank". The blank is cast in plaster to create a mold. The plaster mold then is treated with a release agent and the concrete is cast.

