

# Greater Toronto and Area Waterfront: An Urban Recreational Fisheries Plan

- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority
- Credit Valley Conservation
- Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority
- Toronto and Region Conservation
- Halton Region Conservation Authority





# Study Area

- The plan area will span from the western border of the City of Burlington extending to the eastern border of Durham Region.
- It will approximately cover over 200 km of waterfront, river, estuary and sheltered embayment habitats along Lake Ontario.

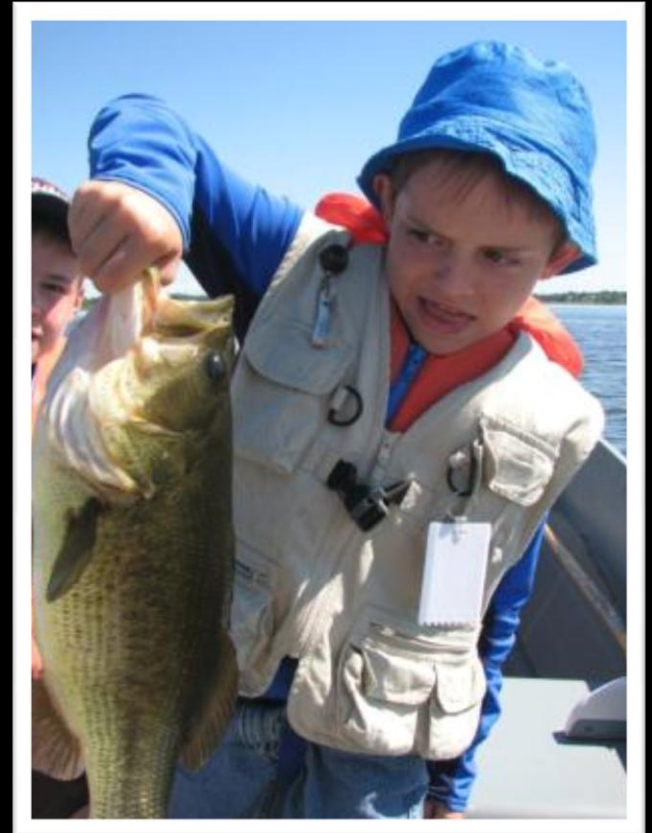


- The focus of the plan will be on the nearshore fishery and may include offshore fisheries especially where interests overlap.
- The inland boundary is the distance upstream that lake waters influence tributaries and estuaries.
- Plan incorporates the interests of various stakeholders and agencies.
- Requires support and involvement from local municipalities, the general public and anglers.



# Vision

*'Present and future societies value not only healthy fish communities and habitats, but also the recreational value of fishing'*

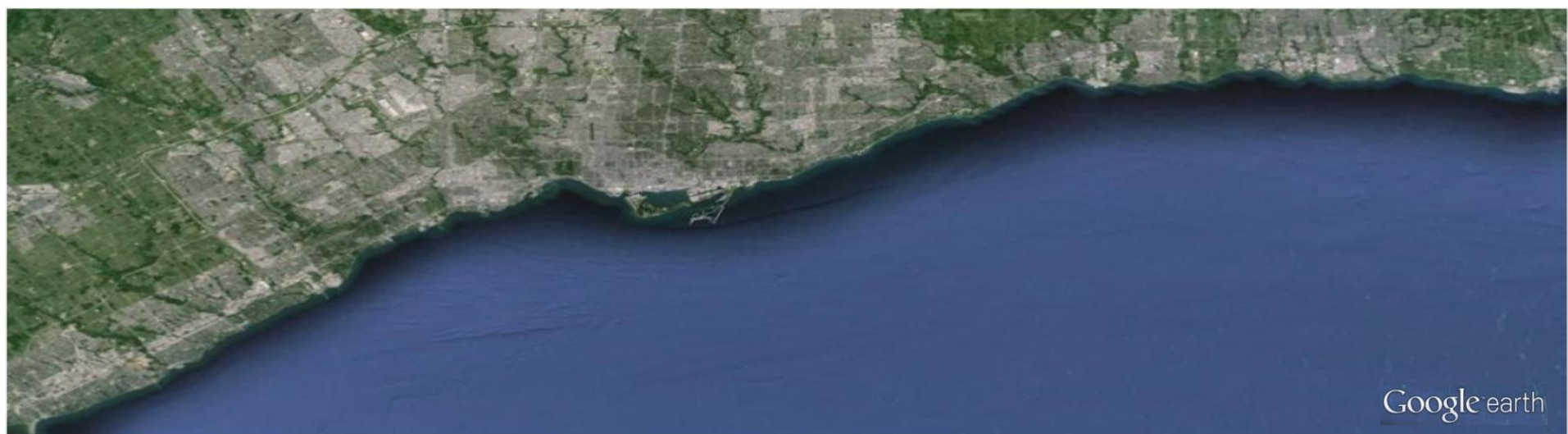






# Mission

- Build upon existing fisheries knowledge of the plan area.
- Integrate complementary information from adjacent regions.





- Identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities associated with current recreational fisheries.
- Recommend strategies for improving public access and establishing clear direction among municipalities to enhance and maintain that public access.







- Recommend strategies to promote the recreational fishery by means of social marketing, signage, family fishing events, programming (camps, etc.) and building synergies between key stakeholders.



# Objectives

1. The Urban Recreational Fisheries Plan will help to guide local, regional, provincial and national stakeholders with vested and localized interests.





# Objectives

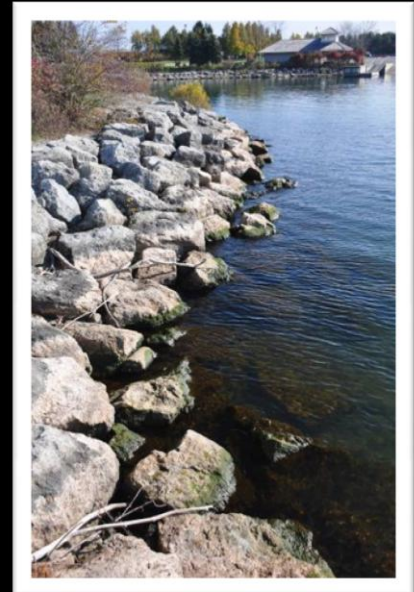
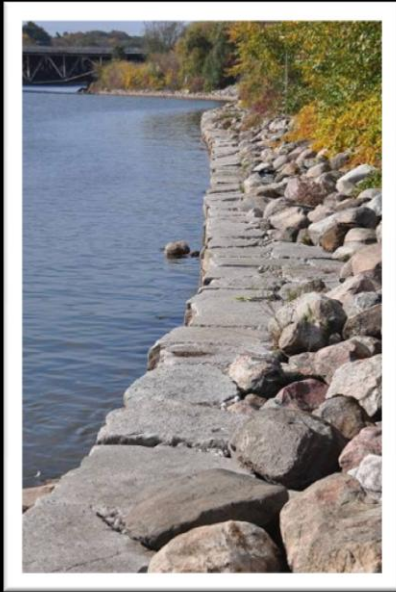
2. Identify the state and health of the fish communities and provide guidance for managing urban recreational fishing.





# Objectives

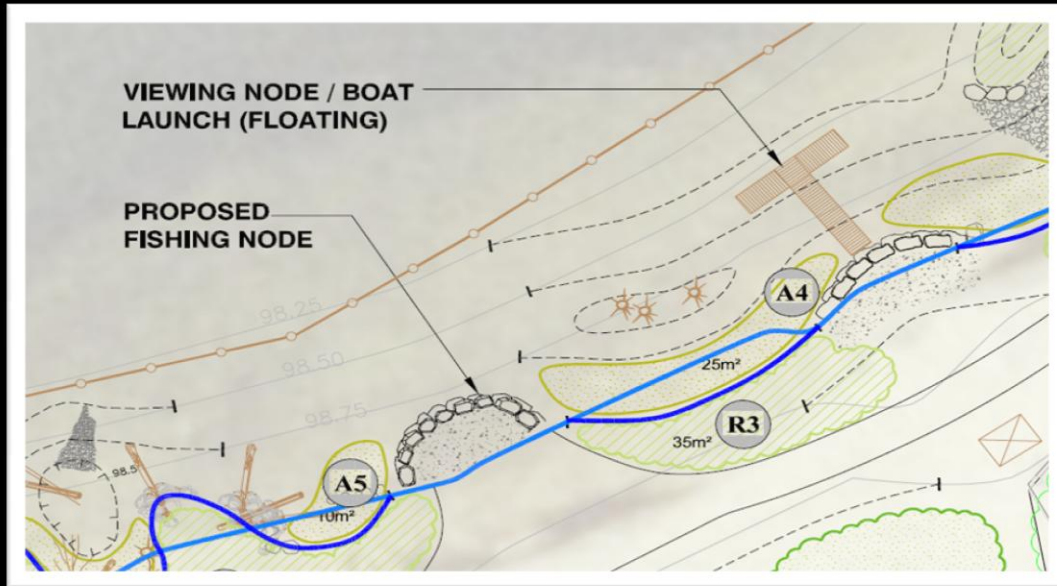
3. Identify waterfront areas where urban recreational fisheries can be promoted.





# Objectives

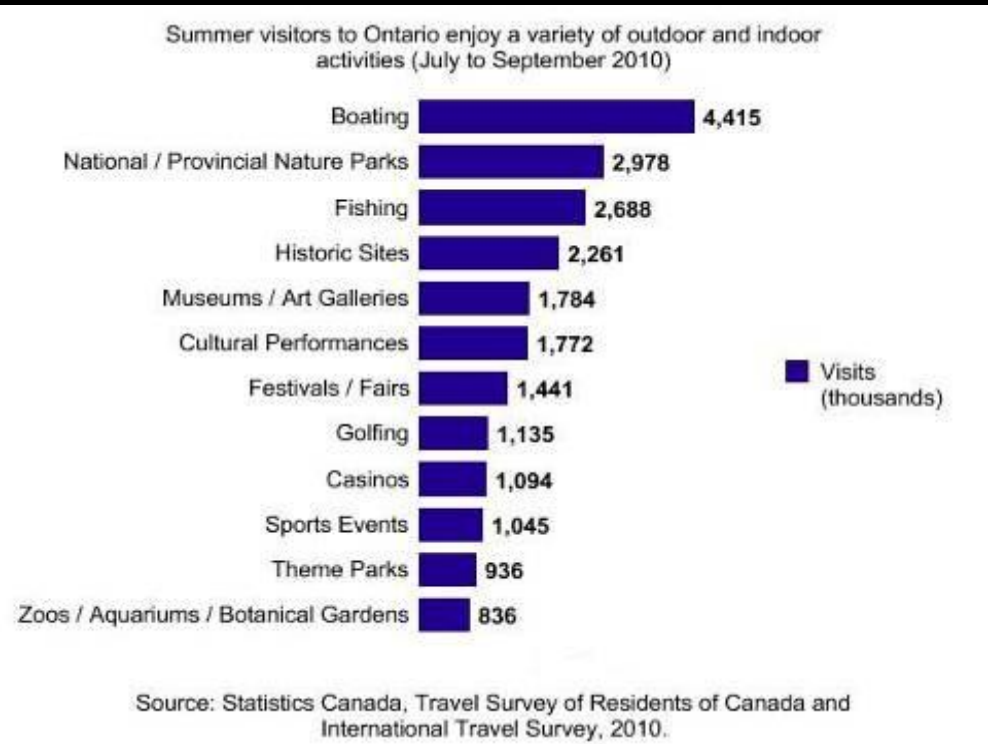
4. Identify areas where recreational fisheries can be improved through opening access and/or aquatic habitat rehabilitation and promote recreational fishing in their communities.





# Objectives

5. Identify opportunities to work with local tourism and recreation stakeholders in promoting public fishing opportunities.



# Objectives

6. Identify and use a variety of media channels as a means of promoting urban recreational fishing and awareness of the fisheries resource to the public and diverse ethnic communities.

## Lake **ONTARIO EVENINGS**

### **Bottoms Up! Food Web Edition**

All are welcome.  
Doors open at 6:00 pm;  
The evening's presentations  
will begin at 6:30 pm

**Monday  
March 18, 2013**

### **Gladstone Hotel, Toronto**

1214 Queen Street West (Queen St. W. & Gladstone Ave.)  
TTC directions: take the 501 streetcar to Gladstone Avenue or  
the 29 Dufferin bus to Queen Street.



#### **BOTTOMS UP! FOOD WEB EDITION WILL FEATURE:**

**MC: Gord MacPherson**, Toronto and Region Conservation

#### **Lake Ontario Offshore Food Web: It's a Jungle Out There!**

Tom Stewart, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

#### **Messages from the Mud – what sediment contaminant monitoring data are telling us about conditions at the bottom of the lake over the past few decades**

Tanya Labencki, Ontario Ministry of the Environment

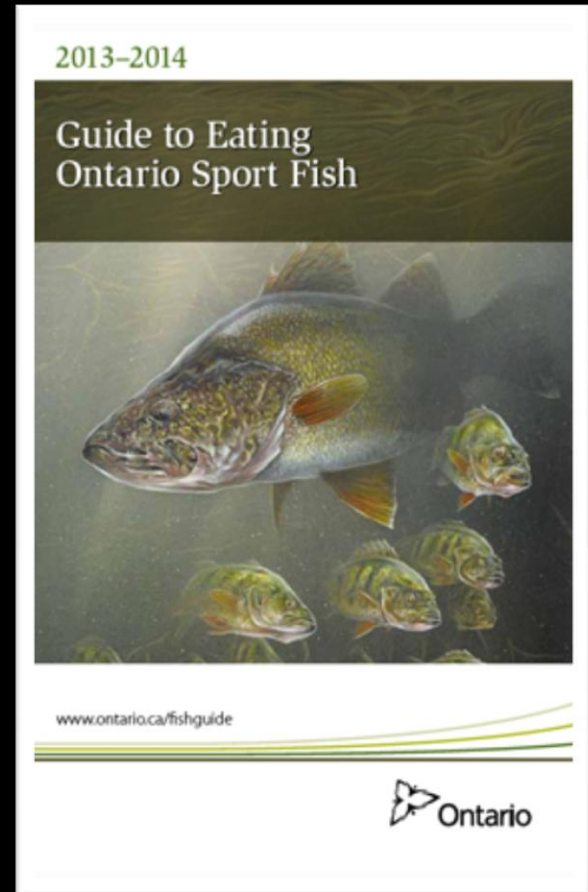
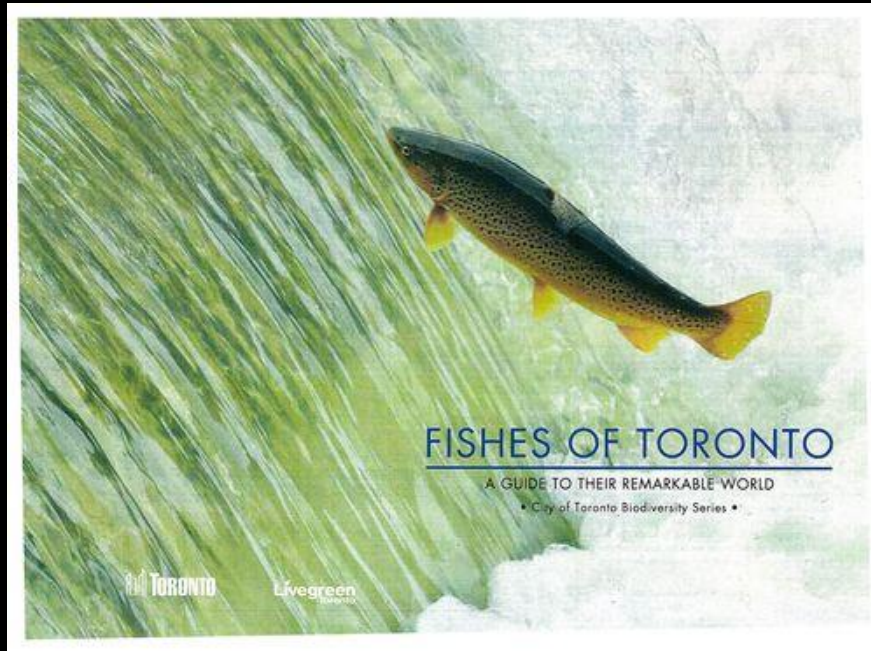
#### **Bye Diporeia, and Thanks For All The fish**

Ron Dermott, Retired from Great Lakes Laboratory for Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

#### **Audience Q&A**



# Publications Available





# Objectives

## 7. Support efforts to increase the number of licensed anglers within the Greater Toronto Area.



In 2010, there were over 3 ½ million adult licensed anglers in Canada

Almost 1½ million anglers were from Ontario –more than any other province

Ontario continues to be the destination of choice for the majority of non resident anglers, accounting for 76% of all non resident anglers in 2010.

# Objectives

8. Identify and recommend methods to promote the message about Lake Ontario, fishing and the benefits of restoring and protecting habitat. Methods should focus on engaging children and youth.



# Process

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>When</b>
<b>Inaugural Technical Team Workshop #1</b>	March 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2013 Black Creek Pioneer Village
<b>Project Approval</b>	April
<b>Technical Team Workshop #2 (Fish Communities)</b>	April 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2013 Black Creek Pioneer Village
<b>Technical Team Workshop #3 (Aquatic Habitat)</b>	May 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2013 Black Creek Pioneer Village
<b>Technical Team Workshop #4 (Angling)</b>	June 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2013 Black Creek Pioneer Village
<b>Technical Team Meeting #5</b>	TBD
<b>Stakeholders/Public Meeting #1</b>	October/November, 2013
<b>Technical Team Meeting #6 (optional)</b>	January, 2014
<b>Stakeholders/Public Meeting #2</b>	March, 2014
<b>Ontario Environmental Registry (EBR)</b>	60 days
<b>Plan Release</b>	Spring 2014



# Final Product

## Final Plan

- Municipal guiding document
- Focused on fish community, fish habitat, and angling
- Within the current fisheries regulations
- Easy to read
- Provide advice on tangible improvements to the Greater Toronto Area and Lake Ontario Waterfront

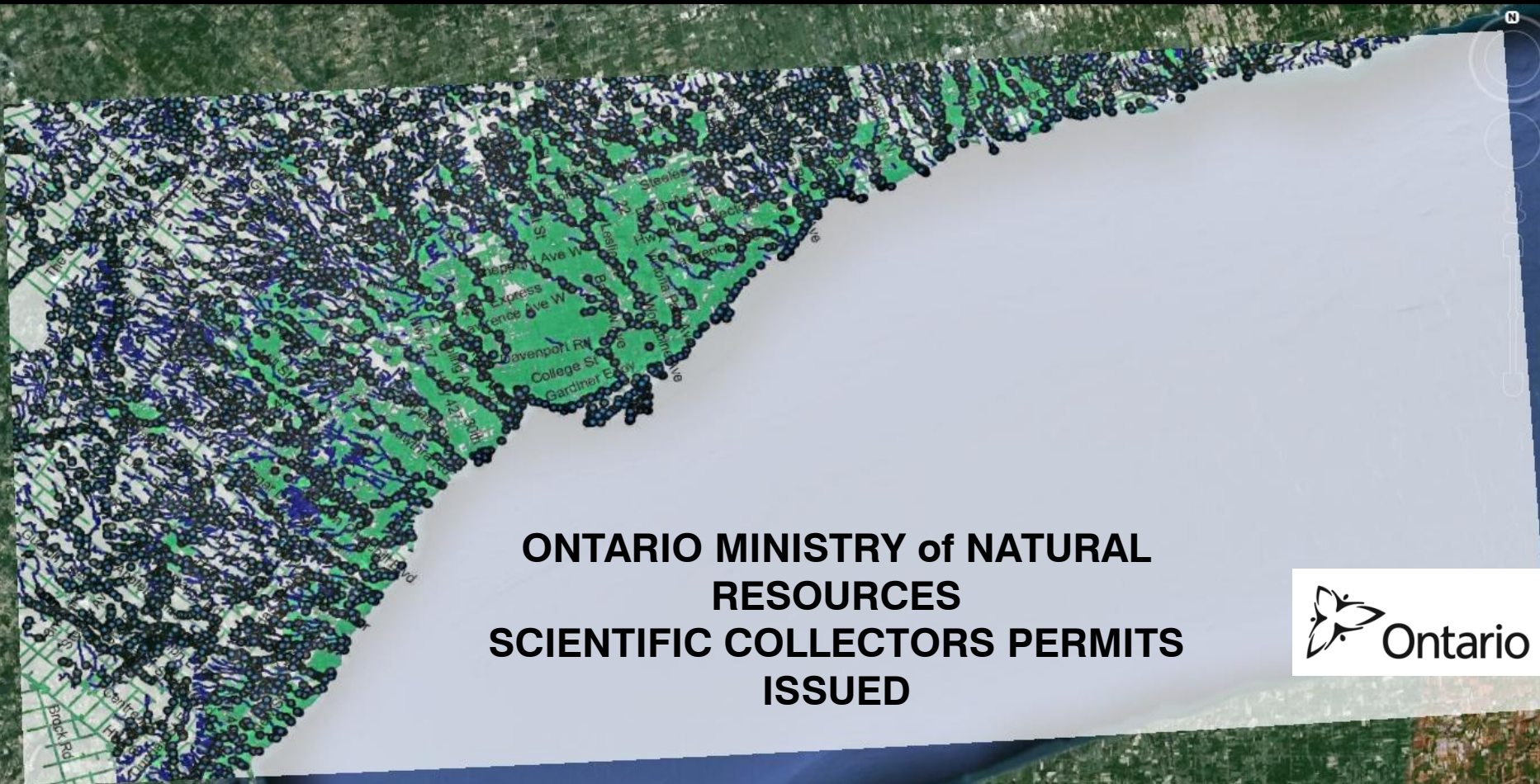


# Fish Community: Trends of the North Shore of Lake Ontario





# The waterfront is well monitored



**ONTARIO MINISTRY of NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
SCIENTIFIC COLLECTORS PERMITS  
ISSUED**



30 km

Image © 2013 TerraMetrics

Image NOAA  
© 2013 Cnes/Spot Image

Google earth





# Habitat Classification

## Estuaries

Don River



Duffins Creek



## Embayments

Spadina Quay



Embayment B TTP



## Open Coast

Western Beaches



Sylvan Ave/ South Marine Drive



# Selected Fisheries Results

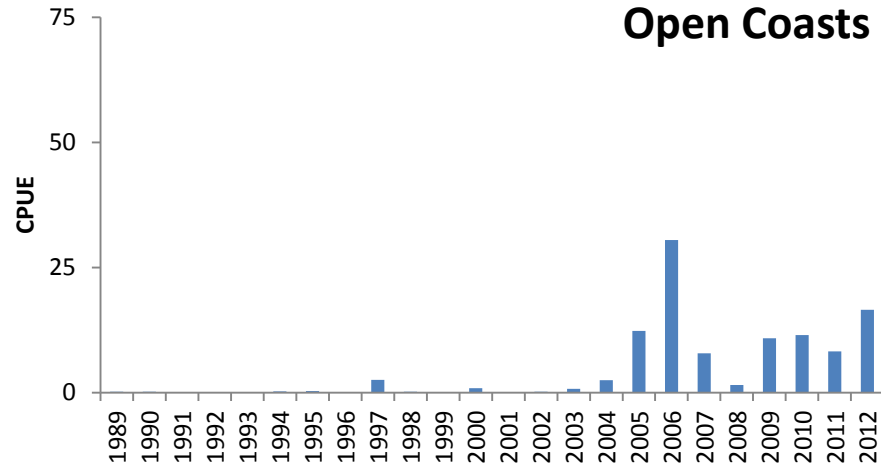
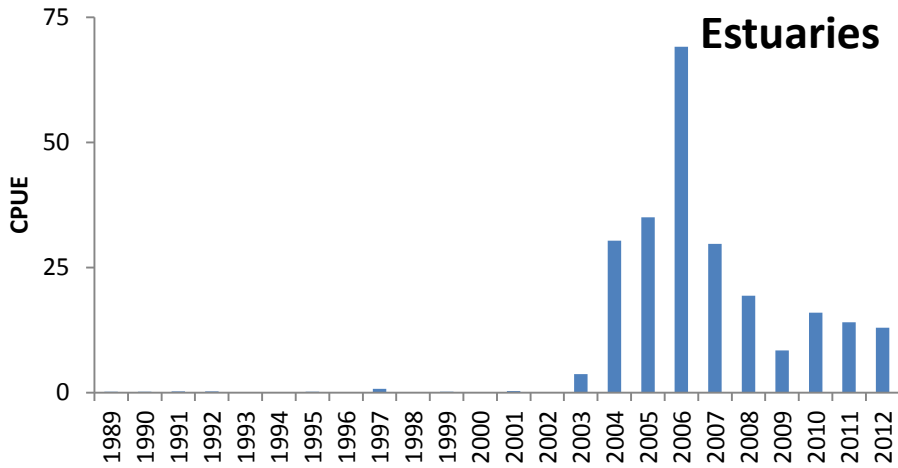
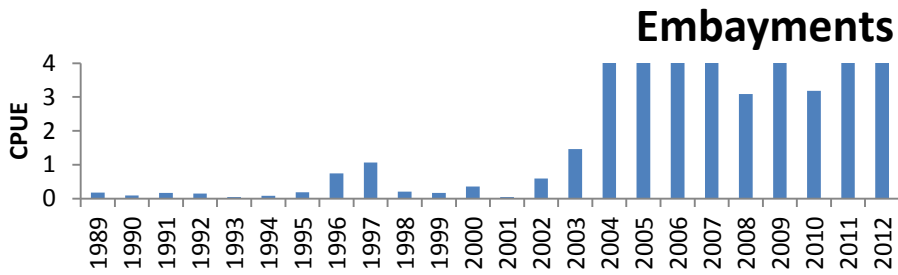
- Used TRCA's long-running electrofishing and seine program from 3 season sampling.
- RAP and Project sites throughout the waterfront (Etobicoke Creek to Caruthers Creek) 9 Estuaries.
- Fish Community data displayed by habitat type (i.e. open coast vs. embayment vs. estuary/river mouth).
- Sampling effort standardized.





## Selected Fisheries Results

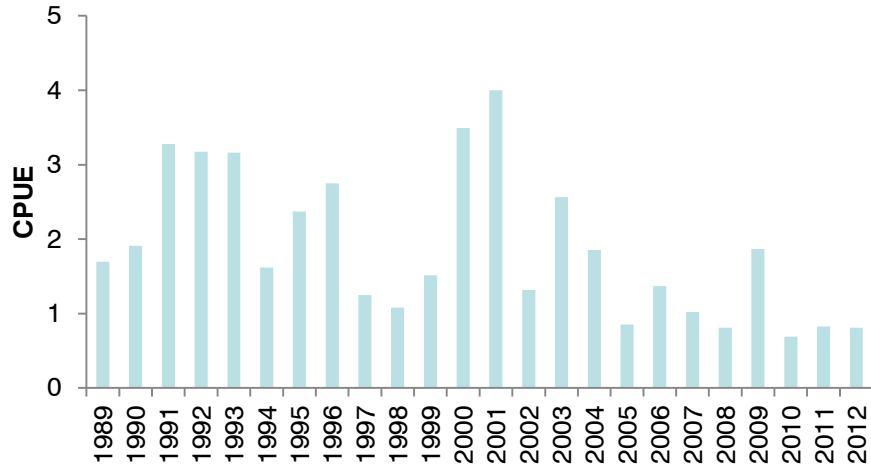
# Emerald shiner



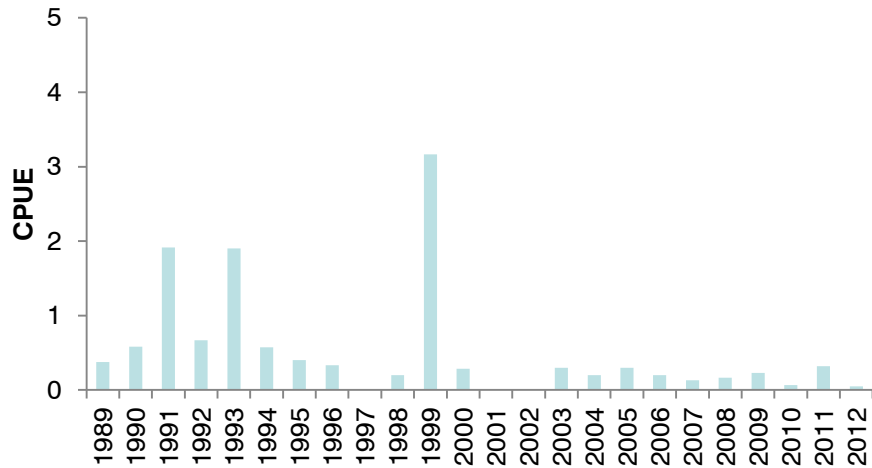




## Embayments



## Estuaries



## Selected Fisheries Results

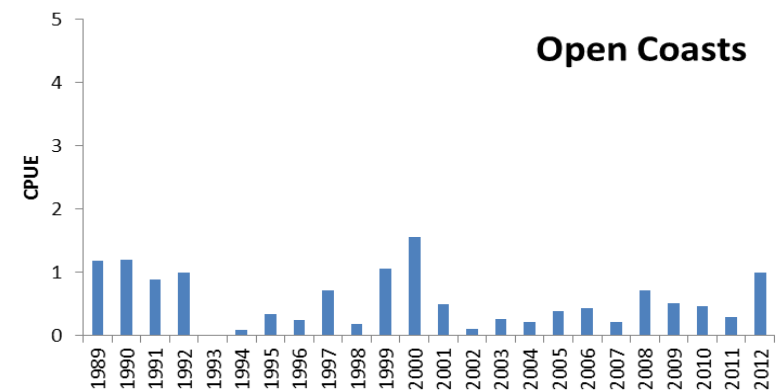
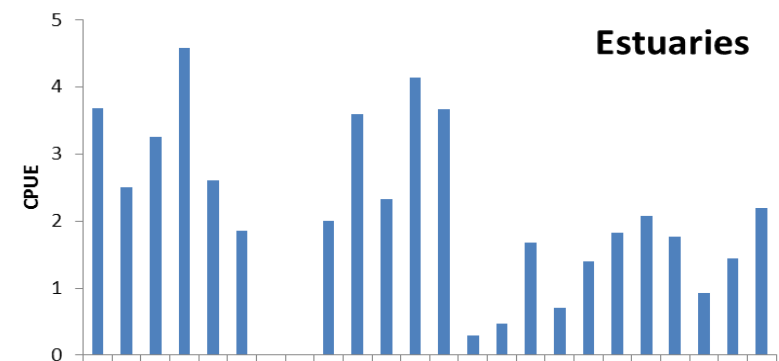
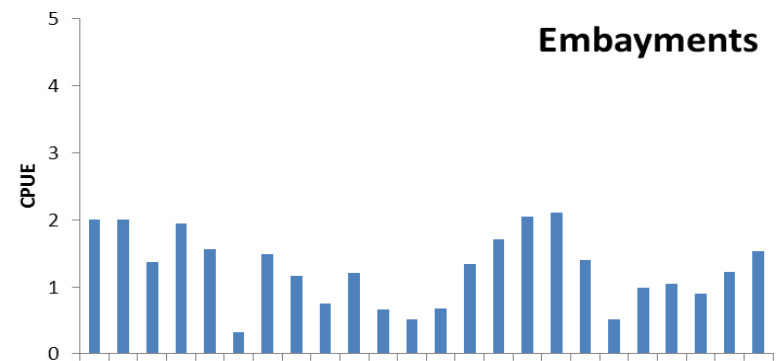
# Northern Pike





## Selected Fisheries Results

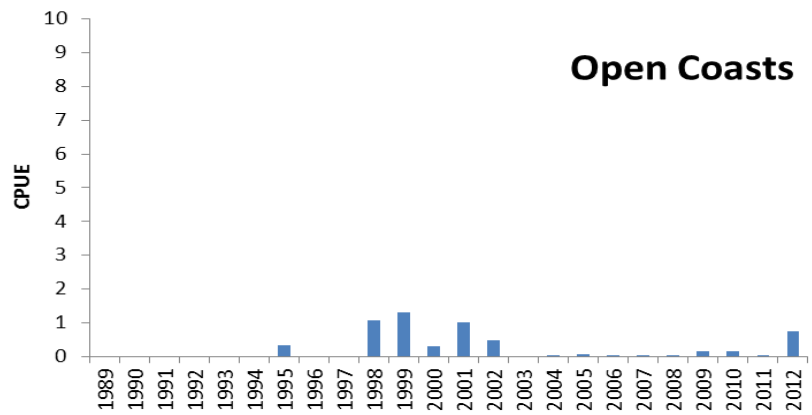
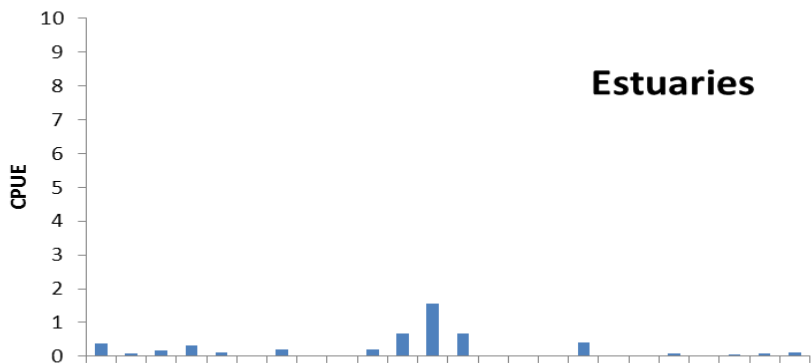
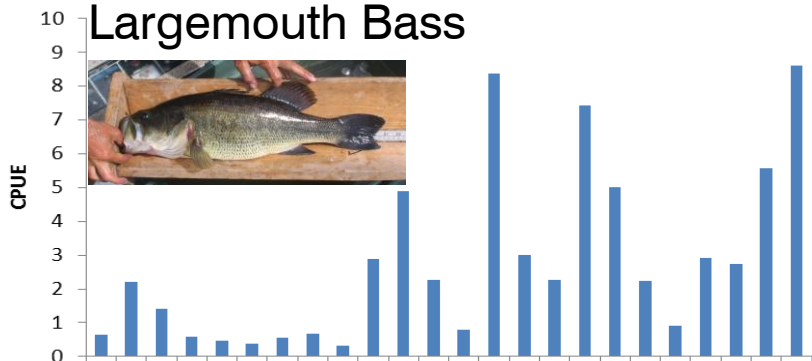
# Common Carp





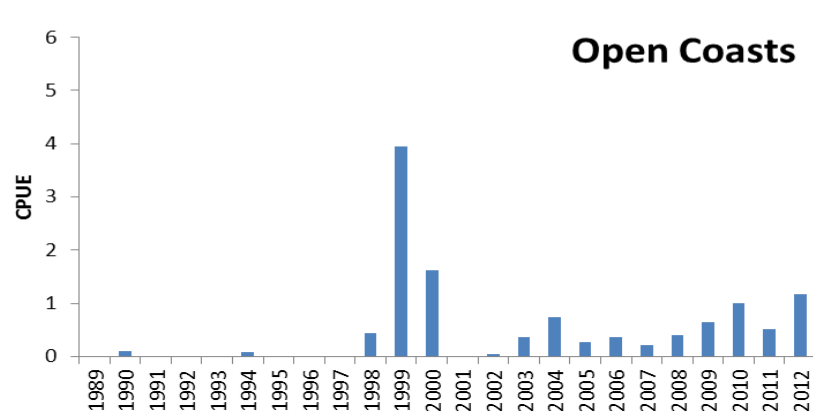
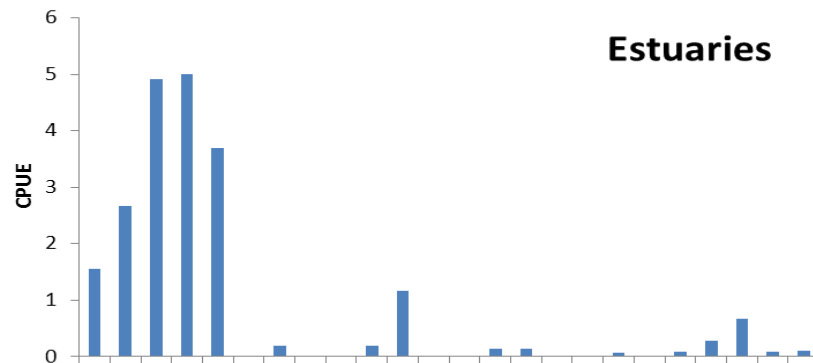
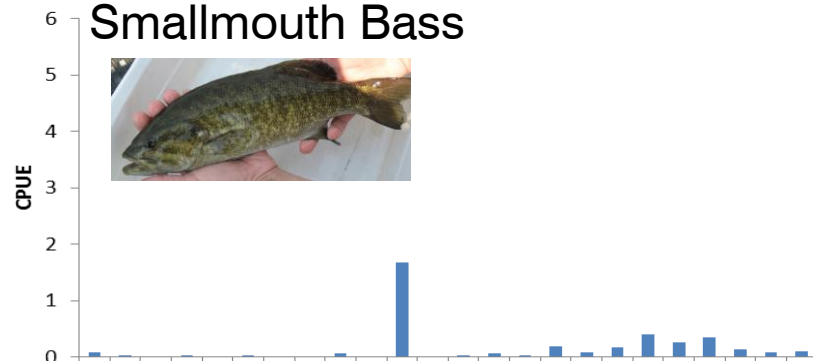
### Selected Fisheries Results Embayments

## Largemouth Bass



### Selected Fisheries Results Embayments

## Smallmouth Bass





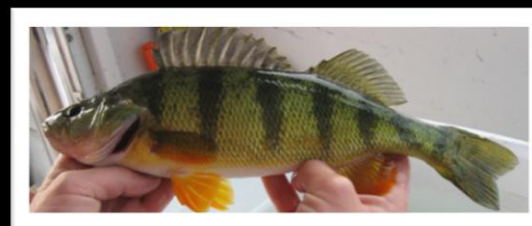
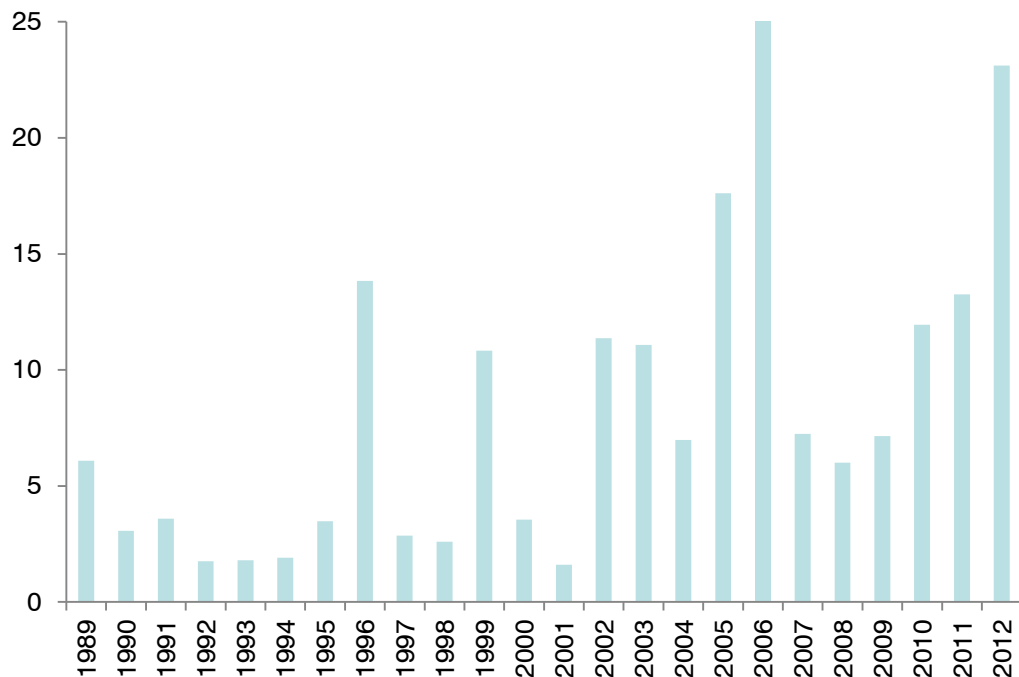


## Selected Fisheries Results

# Panfish

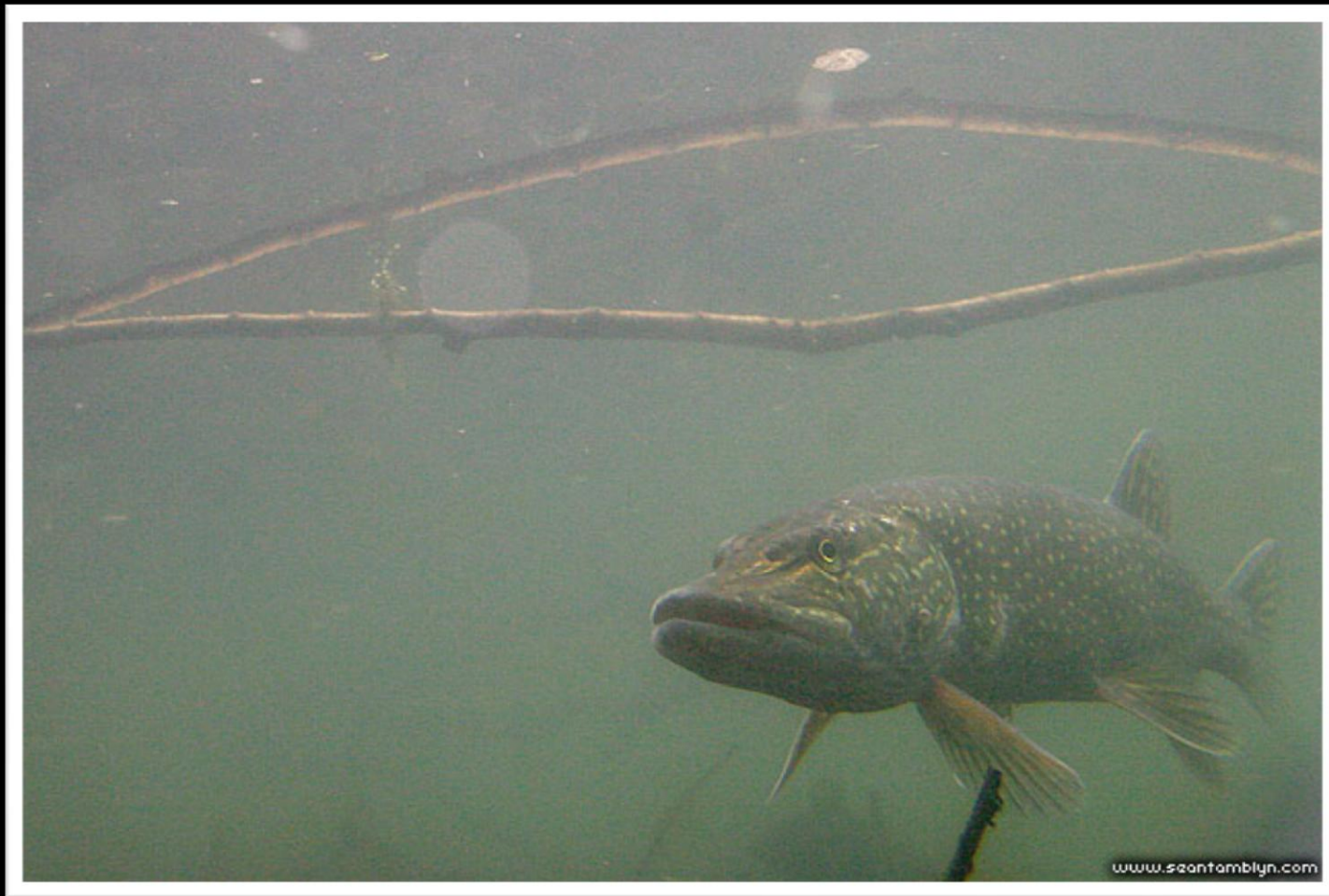
Including Yellow Perch

### Embayments



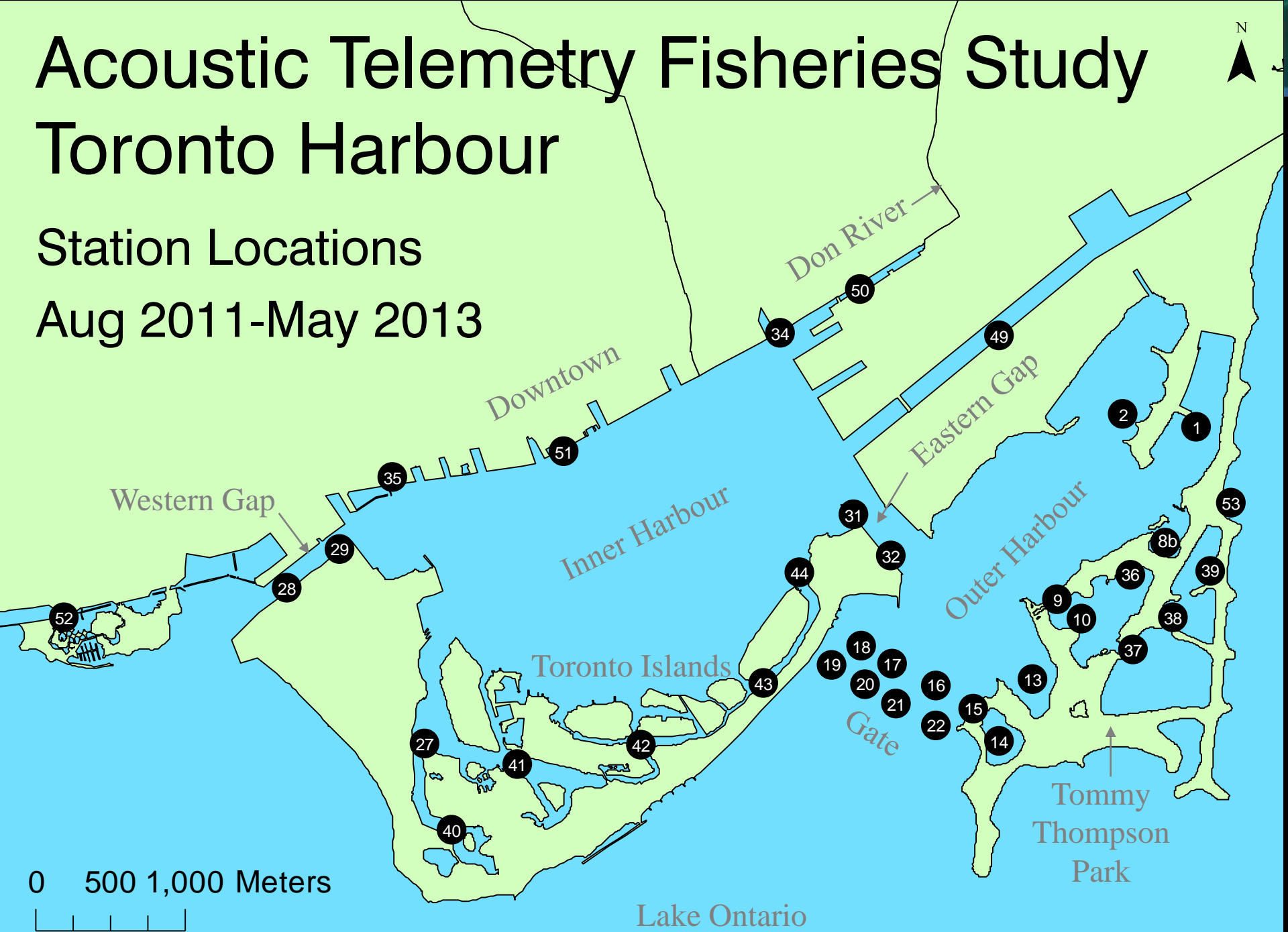


# Fisheries Research and Partnerships



# Acoustic Telemetry Fisheries Study Toronto Harbour

Station Locations  
Aug 2011-May 2013





# 261 Fishes Tagged So Far...

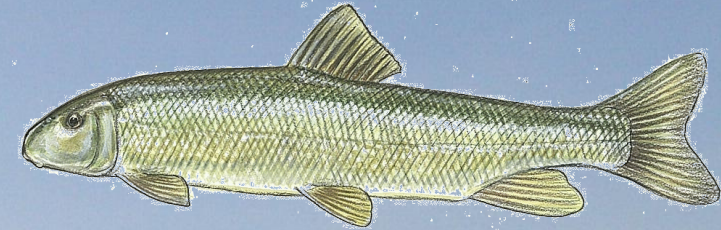
74 Northern Pike

83 Largemouth Bass

49 Common Carp

12 Walleye

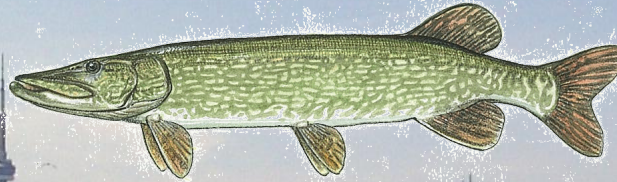
10 Yellow Perch



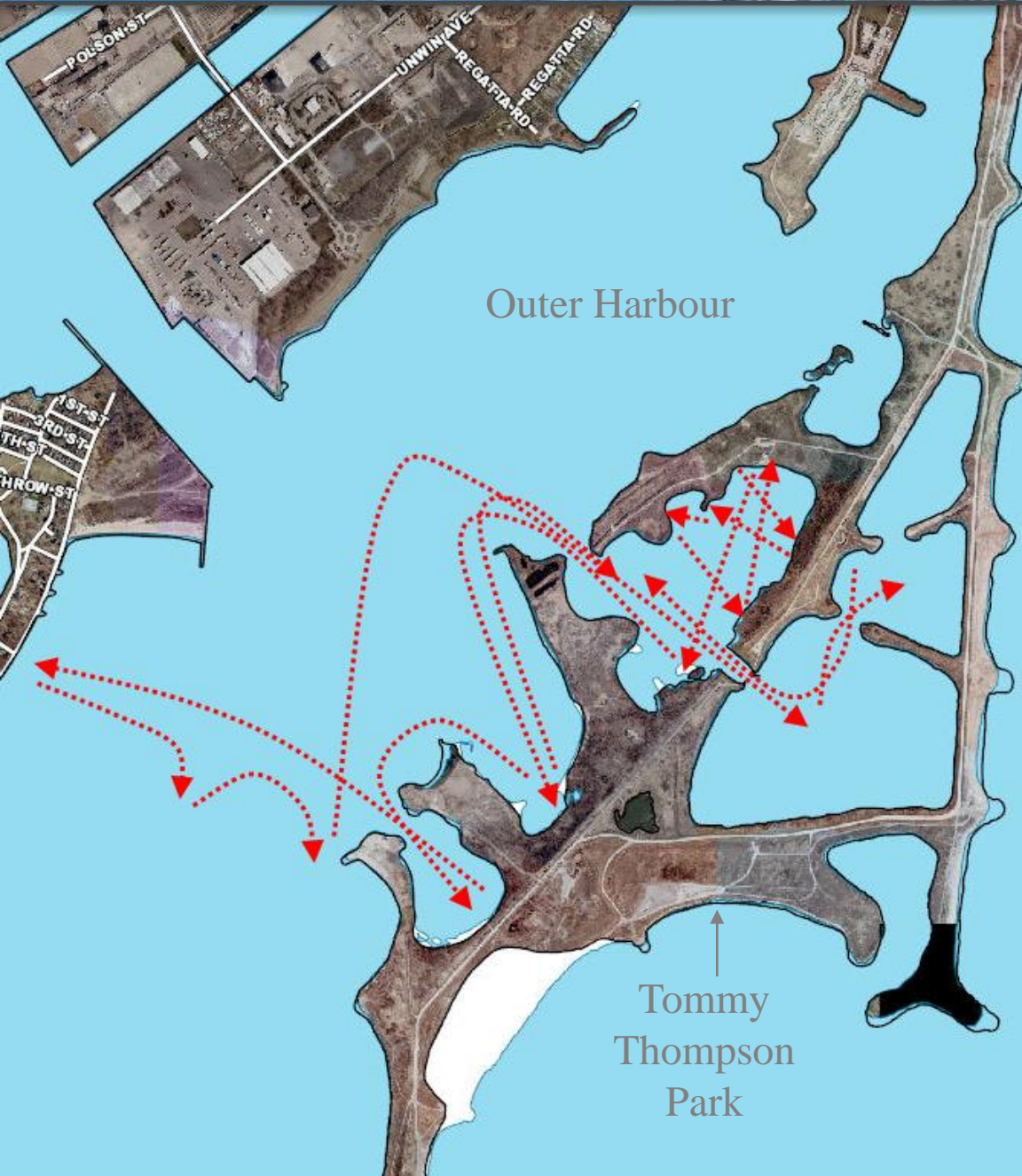
14 Brown Bullhead

9 Bowfin

10 White Sucker







More... Base Map Aerial Hybrid

# Northern Pike 961 mm

Pike Can Move Constantly  
Throughout Tommy  
Thompson Park and the Outer  
Harbour  
Over A One Month Period  
(June 4 to July 2 2011)





More... Base Map Aerial Hybrid

Largemouth Bass  
391 mm

One Individual Large Mouth Bass Movement  
(June 16 to August 15 2011)

Found in Bronte Harbour, Oakville  
by TRCA Electrofishing Crews  
Working With Halton Region CA .  
Oct 06  
Traveled Approximately 35km







More... Base Map Aerial Hybrid

# Carp Can Really Move!

Movements of one individual Common Carp (775 mm) over a 12-day period

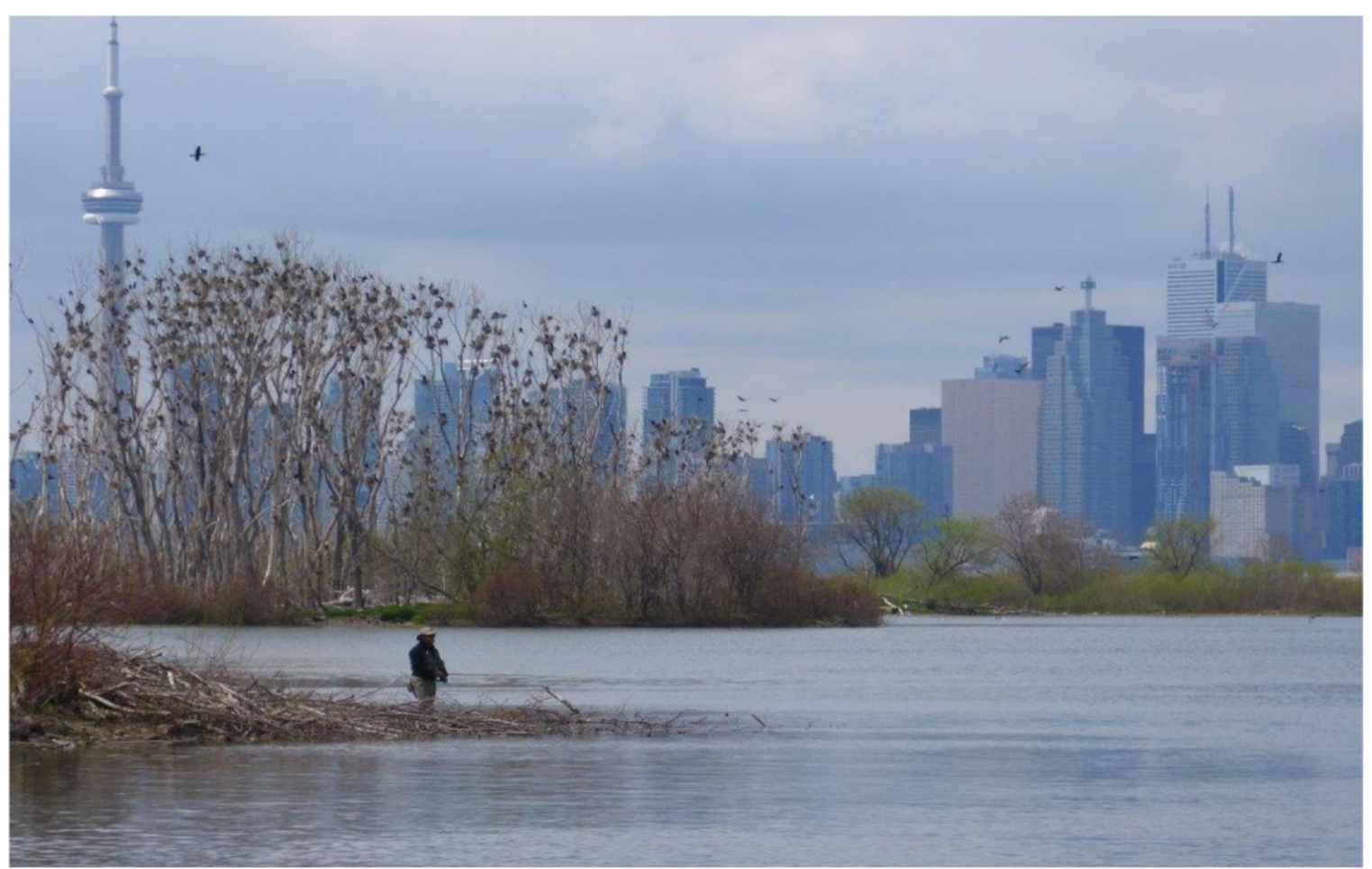




**Walleye**  
March 23-April 26, 2013



# How to improve and promote regional recreational fishing



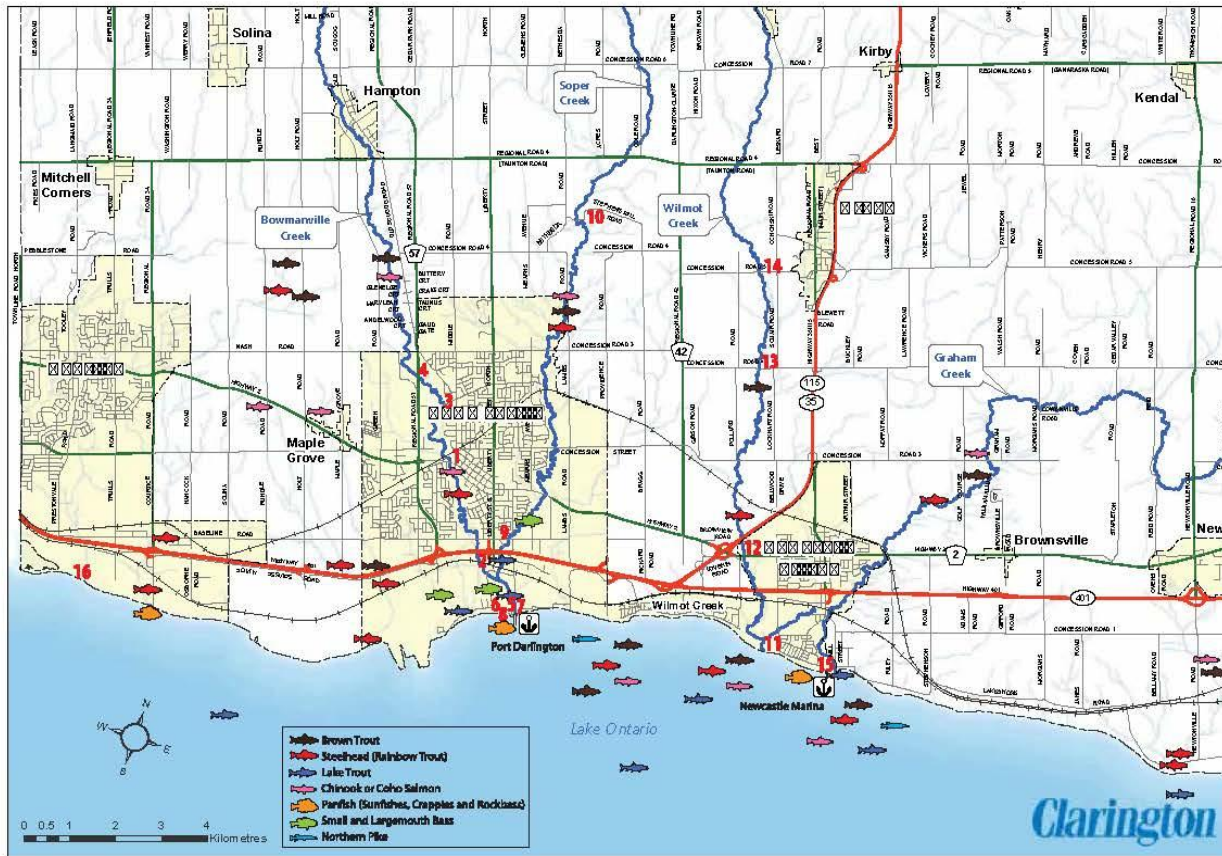
# Improving Communication and Signage

- Designation
- Consumption
- Fishing Behaviour





# Fishing in Clarington



## Access Locations

### Bowmanville Creek

- Bowmanville Creek Valley**
  - Located off Rowleigh Street and Hwy #2, above the Goodyear Dam
  - Parking for approximately 35 vehicles
  - Proved walking path
- Valleys 2000 South Parking Lot** Eastmain Road
  - On the North side of Eastmain Road just West of Liberty Street
  - Parking for approximately 20 vehicles
  - Proved walking path
- Langsforth Avenue**
  - Located on Longworth Avenue just East of Regional Rd 57
  - Parking for 8 vehicles
- Highway 57** About 2 Km North of Highway #2
  - Must park on the side of the road by bridge
  - Please be careful of traffic going by
- Bowmanville Port Darlington Boat Ramp**
  - West Beach Road
  - Parking for approximately 40 vehicles and boat trailers
  - Double boat ramp for access to Lake Ontario
  - Access to Soper and Bowmanville Creek
- Bowmanville West Shore Beach Conservation Area**
  - On West Beach Road passed the boat ramp
  - Paid parking coin machines: \$2.00 Min/\$5.00 Max
  - Parking for approximately 15 vehicles
- West Beach Parking Lot**
  - At the end of Port Darlington Rd
  - Parking for approx 12 vehicles
  - Access to East Pier on Lake Ontario and mouth of Bowmanville Creek
- Port Darlington West Beach Parking Lot**
  - At the end of West Beach Rd
  - Parking for 40 vehicles
  - Access to West Pier on Lake Ontario and mouth of Bowmanville Creek

### Soper Creek

- Soper Creek Park**
  - Off Simpson Avenue. Can park at the Visual Arts Centre or at the Park parking lot
  - Parking for 30 vehicles at the park and approximately 6 at the Visual Arts Centre
  - Out-house at the Park parking lot
- Stephens's Gulch Conservation Area**
  - Off Redcliffe Road and Stephens's Mill Road
  - Parking for approximately 20 vehicles
  - Watch for dog walkers

### Wilmot Creek

- Summit Wilmot Wetlands Area Parking Lot**
  - Off Toronto Street down by the Lake
  - Access to the mouth of Wilmot Creek
  - Parking for approximately 12 vehicles
- Highway Turnoff Parking Lot**
  - On the North side of Highway #2
  - Parking for approximately 10 vehicles
- 4th Concession Parking Lot**
  - On the South side on the 4th Concession before the bridge
  - Parking for approximately 10 vehicles
- 5th Concession**
  - Park on the road by the bridge on the 5th Concession
  - Paved for approximately 4 vehicles on the side of the road

### Graham Creek

- Wood Mill Boat Ramp**
  - At the end of Mill Street in Newcastle
  - Has best ramp for launching to access Lake Ontario
  - Parking for approximately 5 boat trailers and 10 vehicles
  - Access to mouth of Graham Creek, the East Pier for Lake Ontario and East beach
  - Out-house on location

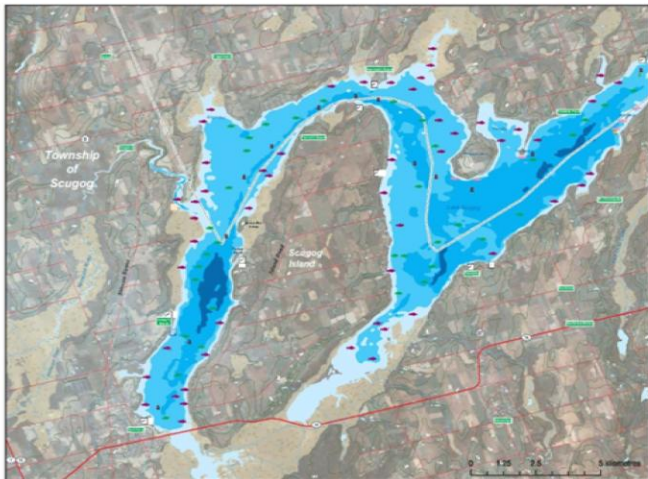
### Darlington Provincial Park

- Park Boat Ramp** (Fees may apply)





# Fishing Atlas



- Warm-Water Fish and their Habitats**
- Walleye (Yellow Perch)**
    - Identification: Two-pronged dorsal fin, large caudal peduncle, white tip on bottom of tail
    - Habitat: Lake Ontario - summer; Simcoe - spring and fall; St. Lawrence - year-round
  - Yellow Perch**
    - Identification: Two prominent dorsal fins, yellow with black vertical bars
    - Habitat: Lake Ontario - spring and summer; Lake Ontario - throughout Bay and all parts
  - Smallmouth Bass**
    - Identification: Two dorsal fins on side; mouth wide forward of eye line
    - Habitat: Lake Simcoe and Simcoe Lake Ontario - throughout Bay and mouth of Rouge River late summer and early fall
  - Logperch**
    - Identification: Prominent dorsal fin; jaw line behind eye line
    - Habitat: Lake Simcoe and Simcoe Lake Ontario - throughout Bay and mouth of Rouge River late summer and early fall
  - Pike** (Cottidae, Dogfish and Rockfish)
    - Identification: Turbidity borne mottled; two dorsal fins and anal fin
    - Habitat: Lake Ontario, Simcoe and Simcoe Rivers and Bay - throughout Bay, Simcoe River and Rouge River
  - Northern Pike**
    - Identification: Caudal fin with a light crown; yellow brown dorsal mottled; long body with long jaws
    - Habitat: Lake Ontario - throughout Bay and mouth of Rouge River late summer and early fall
  - Rock Bass**
    - Identification: Small dorsal fin; larger scales, mouth on underside of head like a sucker
    - Habitat: Lake Simcoe - early summer; fall and winter ice fishing
  - Whitefish**
    - Identification: Small dorsal fin; larger scales, mouth on underside of head like a sucker
    - Habitat: Lake Simcoe - early summer; fall and winter ice fishing
  - Striped Bass**
    - Identification: Small dorsal fin; larger scales, mouth on back; underbelly like a sucker
    - Habitat: Lake Simcoe - year-round; Simcoe River late summer and early fall
  - Carp**
    - Identification: Broad head; heavily scaled and vertical in whorl at mouth
    - Habitat: Lake Simcoe and Ontario - throughout Bay and throughout Bay - during early summer



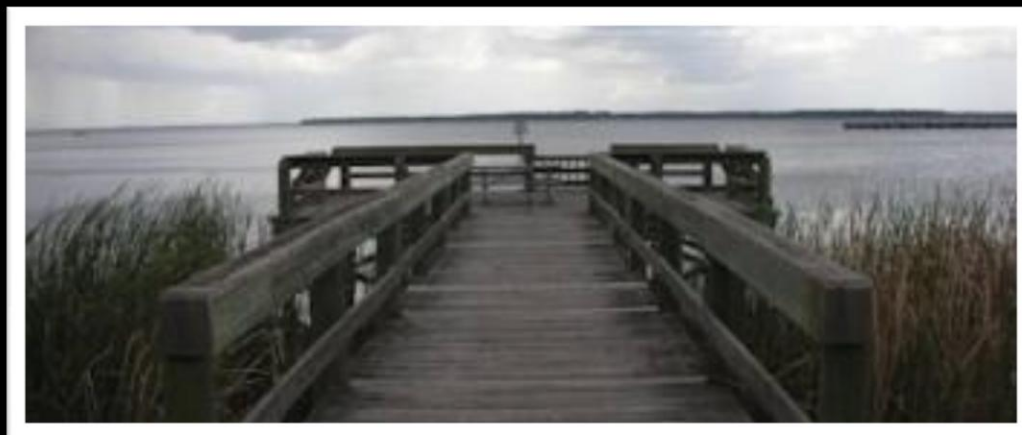
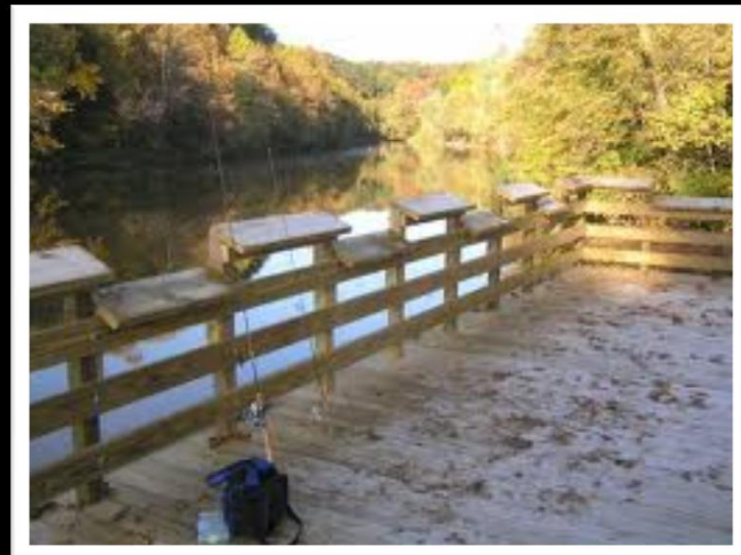
- Information**
- Boat Launching Ramp
  - Water
  - Tourist Information
  - Airport
  - GO Train
  - 416 Toll
  - Regional 24/7 Emergency
  - Conservation Area
  - Boat
  - New Boat Lights & Lighted Buoy
  - Public
  - Provincial Highway
  - Regional Highway
  - Regional Road
  - Traffic
  - Distance Chart to Durham Region in km
- |                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Toronto        | 26  |
| Hamilton       | 42  |
| Niagara        | 62  |
| Barrie         | 126 |
| Orillia        | 136 |
| Buffalo, USA   | 138 |
| Chesapeake Bay | 150 |
| Kingston       | 150 |
| North Bay      | 200 |
| Ontario        | 270 |
| Winnipeg       | 480 |

- Cold-Water Fish and their Habitats**
- Atlantic Salmon**
    - Identification: Mouth with 12 black spots, upper body and gill plates; scales fall in spots
    - Habitat: Lake Ontario - two seasonal subspecies in fall
  - Chesapeake Salmon**
    - Identification: Mouth and gills black; black spots on back, tail and dorsal fin
    - Habitat: Lake Ontario - shallow in spring and fall and deep during the summer; Simcoe in fall during spawning
  - Coho Salmon**
    - Identification: Mouth tinged back with grey spots; black spots on the upper portion of the tail and above the dorsal fin
    - Habitat: Lake Ontario - summer; Row results and catches - fall during spawning
  - Pink Salmon**
    - Identification: Mouth and gills dark; black spots on back; Oregon along black marks on entire tail
    - Habitat: Lake Ontario - Stream Results - fall
  - Brown Trout**
    - Identification: Mouth tinged white; black spots on back, head and orange spots on side
    - Habitat: Lake Ontario - summer; Simcoe - spring and fall; Stream results - year-round
  - Lake Trout**
    - Identification: Mouth tinged white; serrated top edge; white markings on body; dorsal fin tall
    - Habitat: Lake Ontario - close to shoreline during winter
  - Brook Trout**
    - Identification: Mouth tinged white; black spots on tail; dorsal fin on the back and below ventral fin
    - Habitat: Simcoe - trout season; Simcoe in mouth - year-round
  - Speckled Trout**
    - Identification: Serrated markings on top; white and red spots on side; head of lower fin white
    - Habitat: Simcoe - headwaters of mid-water streams





# Fishing Access: Docks







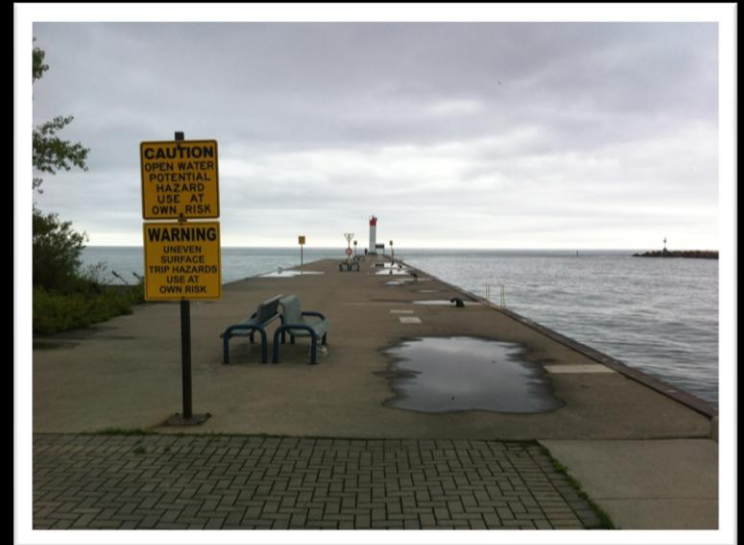
# Fishing Access: Shoreline Nodes







# Fishing Access: Shoreline Piers

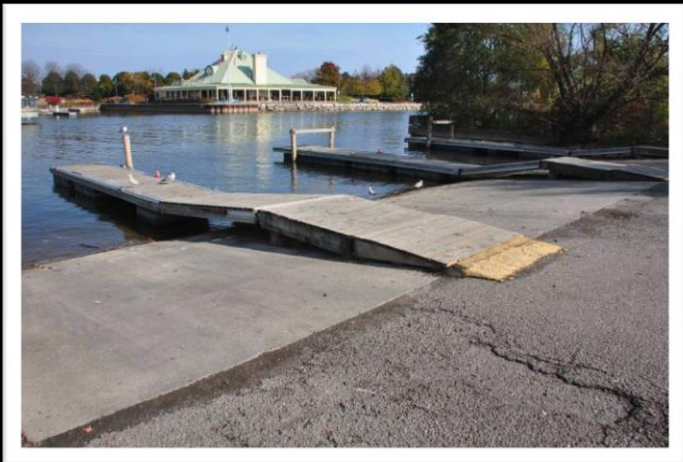




# Fishing Access: Boat Ramps



Canoe Access



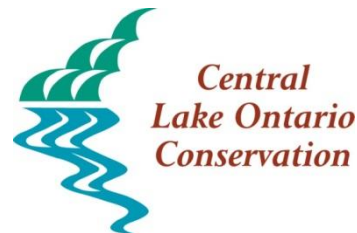
Power Boat Access





# Thank you for participating!

## Questions?





# Questions

- Do you support the Recreational Fisheries Plan as presented?
- Do you agree with the draft Vision Statement as presented?
- Do you agree with the draft Mission Statement as presented?
- Do you agree with the draft objectives as presented?
  - Are there any others we should consider?