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.
Publications Available

[Fishes of Toronto: A Guide to Their Remarkable World]

[Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish]
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

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

Embeyments

CPUE


Estuaries

Open Coasts

CPUE

Selected Fisheries Results

Northern Pike

Embayments

Estuaries
Selected Fisheries Results

Common Carp

![Image of a person holding a large fish]
Selected Fisheries Results

Largemouth Bass

Embayments

Estuaries

Open Coasts

Smallmouth Bass

Embayments

Estuaries

Open Coasts
Selected Fisheries Results

Panfish
Including Yellow Perch

Embayments
Fisheries Research and Partnerships
Acoustic Telemetry Fisheries Study
Toronto Harbour
Station Locations
Aug 2011-May 2013

0 500 1,000 Meters
Lake Ontario

Downtown
Western Gap
Inner Harbour
Toronto Islands
Gate
Outer Harbour
Don River
Eastern Gap
Tommy Thompson Park
Lake Ontario

Station Locations
Aug 2011-May 2013

Toronto Harbour
Lake Ontario
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
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)
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

Largemouth Bass 391 mm

One Individual Large Mouth Bass Movement (June 16 to August 15 2011)
Carp Can Really Move!

Movements of one individual Common Carp (775 mm) over a 12-day period
How to improve and promote regional recreational fishing
Improving Communication and Signage

- Designation
- Consumption
- Fishing Behaviour
Fishing in Clarington
Fishing Atlas
Fishing Access: Docks
Fishing Access: Shoreline Nodes
Fishing Access: Shoreline Piers
Fishing Access: Boat Ramps

Power Boat Access

Canoe 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?