

Let's Protect Fish and their Habitat in the Lower Trent Watershed

Fish need healthy places to live, feed and reproduce. For most fish species, these activities usually occur in nearshore areas along the water's edge. Safeguard the fish in your lake or river and protect fish habitat by carefully planning any work projects. Enjoy your shoreline and waterfront as nature intended... keep it on the wild side.



Lower Trent Conservation Watershed



- 1 **Longnose Gar** Prefer quiet, shallow water. Spawn in shallow, warm water in early summer. Distinctive long nose used to slash sideways at prey. Large numbers may be seen in shallow waters in early summer.
- 2 **Smallmouth Bass** Prefer open water, rocky habitat. Spawn in gravel/sandy bottom in protected bay or rivers in late spring to early summer.
- 3 **Muskellunge** Habitat is shallow, warm, clear water with abundant vegetation. It is the top predator in this area. The majority of their diet is fish, but can include muskrats and ducks.
- 4 **Pumpkinseed** Colourful, plentiful. Also called Sunfish. An easy catch for youngsters learning to fish. Like warm, weedy habitat. Nests often clustered in large groups. Spawn in late spring, early summer.
- 5 **Largemouth Bass** Prefer shallow warm water with abundant plant growth. Spawn in gravel/sand/silty bottom with plants and cover. The vegetation, clear water and warm temperatures of the Bay of Quinte provide optimal largemouth habitat.
- 6 **Black Crappie** Prefer shallow, warm, clear water with abundant vegetation. Highly prized game and commercial fish because of quality filets.
- 7 **Lake Trout** Cold water species. Were once very abundant in Lake Ontario. Dioxin pollution was key factor to their decline. Spawn in rocky lake and river bottoms.
- 8 **Bluegill** Very abundant in Quinte area. Excellent eating. Excellent sport. Spawn in sand, gravel or mud in late spring to early summer.
- 9 **Whitefish** Prefer cold, deep, bottom waters. Spawn in rivers and lake margins in fall. Feed on small bottom dwelling creatures.
- 10 **Walleye** Prefer open water with abundant vegetation. Adults prefer cooler water. Spawn in spring on shoals or in rivers with rock/rubble bottoms. Seek shade via cover or depth due to light sensitive eyes.
- 11 **Freshwater Drum** Spawn in open water in wetlands, river mouths, open lake in late spring or summer. Will feed on snails and clams including zebra mussels. Makes a drumming sound when disturbed.
- 12 **Yellow Perch** Found in a variety of habitats. Like clear, open water and moderate vegetation. A cool water species. Spawn in spring after the ice has melted.
- 13 **Brook Trout** Extremely sensitive to habitat changes. Require clean, cold water streams with natural cover like fallen trees, underwater ledges, eddies and boulders. Presence indicates exceptional water quality.
- 14 **Northern Pike** Young require shallow weedy habitat. Adults are found in cooler, deeper water. Spawn in very early spring in creeks and rivers. Well known predator, nicknamed Water Wolf.
- 15 **Rainbow Trout** Migrate up streams from Lake Ontario in spring to spawn. Young will live in a stream for a few years, then migrate back out to Lake to grow into an adult.
- 16 **Brown Bullhead** Also called Mudcat, Bullhead or Catfish. A warm water fish that can tolerate oxygen-depleted water. Spawn in sands and silty sediments in late spring, summer.
- 17 **Rock Bass** Prefer rocky water of lakes and rivers. Excellent table fish. Spawn in shallow, warm water in late spring and summer.
- 18 **Bowfin** Pre-historic fish with primitive lung – allows it to gulp air. Lives in warm, shallow, vegetated water. Like the longnose gar, will tolerate warmer water than other local fishes.
- 19 **Channel Catfish** Warm water fish that prefer clear waters of moderate depth with sand, gravel and rubble bottoms. Prefer cover during the day. Also called Channel Cat or Catfish.
- 20 **Chinook Salmon** Originally stocked in the Great Lakes to control alewife numbers. Spawn in swift flowing sections of streams and rivers in fall.
- 21 **Lake Sturgeon** Largest freshwater fish in Canada. A coolwater species. Pre-historic with bony body plating. Bottom dweller that spawns in rocky rapids in spring. Rare. There is no legal fishery for Sturgeon. If you catch a sturgeon, release it and report it to MNR – Glenora Fisheries (613) 476-3255.



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