



# ANNUAL REPORT

The Voice of Anglers and Hunters



2015

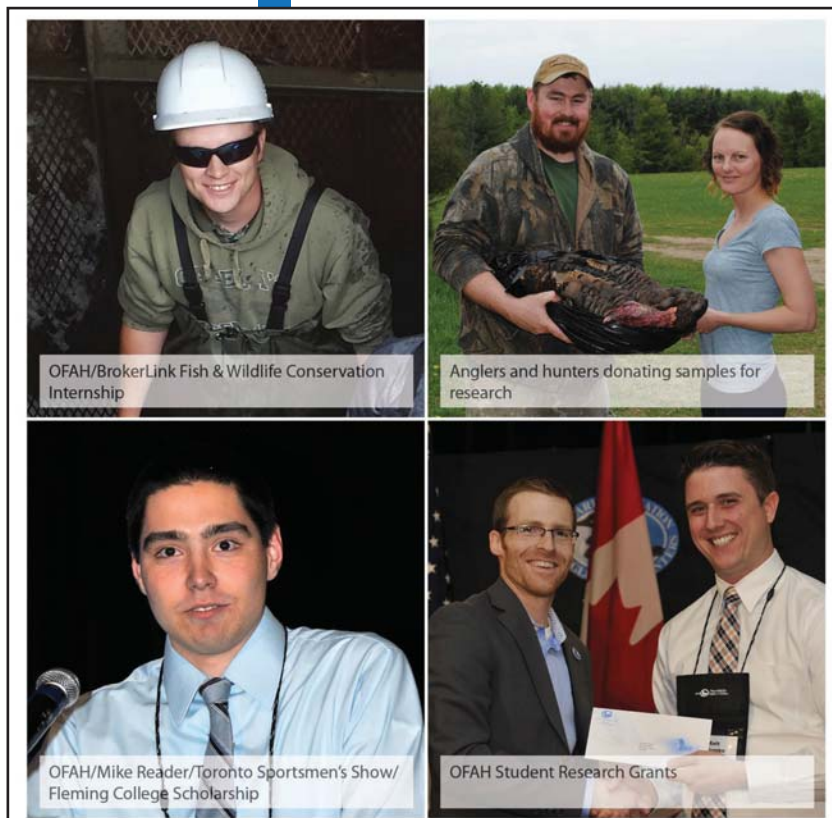


# SCIENCE AND SOUND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**WHAT WE DO:** The OFAH takes pride in our science-based approach to fish and wildlife management. Using a team of staff biologists and the advice of various professionals throughout North America, the OFAH advocates for enhanced science-based resource management. Our goal is to improve the understanding and application of fish and wildlife management in Ontario to optimize resource conservation -- to always put the resource first and provide as many sustainable fishing and hunting opportunities as possible.

**HOW WE DO IT:** The OFAH pushes for government investment in the science, assessment and monitoring that is required to optimize fish and wildlife conservation management in Ontario. The OFAH also supports relevant science and research to the greatest extent possible through direct financial investment, in-kind contributions, and critical review. In 2015, there were a number of examples where science-guided OFAH positions led to positive outcomes.

## INVESTING IN SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND THE NEXT GENERATION



Sound science is at the root of all OFAH policy and advocacy. Why? Because we represent over 100,000 members, subscribers and supporters and 725 clubs that rely on our voice to be effective and defensible to hold governments accountable in making sound, science-based fish and wildlife management decisions.

# A VOICE THROUGH REPRESENTATION



The OFAH has representation on more than 50 different committees and groups at the bi-national, national, provincial and municipal levels. These groups discuss issues that are relevant to anglers and hunters, and provide advice to governments and other decision makers.

This level of professional representation allows the OFAH to be vigilant and influence important fishing, hunting and other conservation issues.

Many of these groups would not have perspectives from the fishing and hunting community if not for the OFAH.

From biodiversity to big game management, and Lyme disease to urban fishing, OFAH's professional representation provides a strong voice for anglers and hunters wherever it is needed in Ontario.

## HOLDING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE



### LEADING THE CONVERSATION:

The OFAH doesn't simply wait for government proposals on issues that are important to anglers, hunters and trappers. The OFAH works hard to identify and recommend practical solutions to real conservation issues.

### RESPONDING TO PROPOSALS:

The OFAH invests significant time scrutinizing and responding to government proposals and decisions that have a potential to impact anglers, hunters and trappers. On behalf of our membership, the OFAH responded to over 25 proposals in 2015. Moose management was one of the most discussed topics in 2015. The OFAH continued to actively participate in MNR's Moose Project, urging the government to manage more than just moose hunters. This prompted the MNR to make a commitment to address other factors like predation and habitat.

### ***ACTION IN 2015:***

- SPRING BEAR HUNT
- ANGLER USE OF BAIT
- FOREST MANAGEMENT
- LAKE TROUT MANAGEMENT
- INVASIVE SPECIES ACT
- FISH STOCKING
- GREAT LAKES ISSUES
- MINING EFFLUENT AND REMEDIATION
- SPECIES AT RISK
- WETLANDS
- RELAXING CABLE RESTRAINTS

### ***ACTION IN 2015:***

- SMALL GAME REGULATIONS REVIEW
- ENHANCING YOUTH HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES
- EXPANDING HUNTING IN PROVINCIAL PARKS
- CALL FOR BETTER SURPLUS MOOSE TAG ALLOCATIONS
- WILD TURKEY HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES