

# ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS & HUNTERS



*Ontario Conservation Centre*

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OFAH File: 420S  
July 13, 2015

Thomas Sciscione  
Coordinator, Aquatic Habitat Toronto  
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority  
5 Shoreham Drive  
Downsview, Ontario  
M3N 1S4

Dear Thomas:

**Subject:** Lake Ontario North Shore: An Urban Recreational Fisheries Strategy

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), its 100,000 members, subscribers and supporters, and 725 member clubs, I am writing to express our strong support for the Lake Ontario North Shore Urban Recreational Fisheries Strategy.

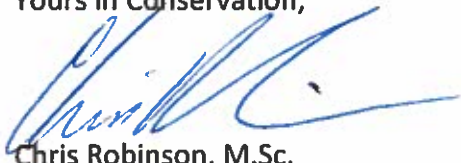
I have provided additional comments below on the draft:

- We would suggest making significant mention of Brown Trout, an introduced species stocked for fishing opportunities in the nearshore area of Lake Ontario and a species the recent draft Lake Ontario Stocking Plan is re-purposing specifically to support this Urban Recreational Fisheries Strategy.
- We recommend ensuring through this strategy (e.g. p.13) the development of consistent signage throughout the municipalities in terms of where and when fishing is/isn't permitted. This consistent messaging should also be reflected in online descriptions on the official websites of municipalities, conservation authorities, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF).
- As a publication intended for the general public and agency staff not necessarily familiar with fisheries terminology, there is some jargon (e.g. hypolimnetic upwellings, p.5) that could be re-worded. There are also some other grammatical issues in the text and orphaned lines at the end of pages (e.g. p.2) that should be reviewed and corrected.
- There remains some debate as to whether Sea Lamprey are invasive in Lake Ontario (p.6), although they still had a significant impact on the Lake Ontario fish community in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Section 9.3 Shoreline Piers repeats the text of 9.2 Shoreline Nodes.
- Under Angler Behaviour (p.24-25), we have a few comments:
  - Point 7 – it should be stated it is illegal to use gobies as bait.

- Point 7 – it should be clear that it is larval Zebra Mussels that are the likely hitchhikers on boats and trailers (i.e. the public may think if they don't see adult mussels, their boat is clean).
- Point 9 – there is some redundancy in the text of the first paragraph and the opening of the second paragraph. Also, it should be clear that photographing fish technically counts as possession, even if the fish is released (important when it relates to out-of-season, sub-legal, or closed fisheries).
- Point 10 – this would be stronger if it let anglers know there are volunteer opportunities outside of joining an organization.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide further comment on this important document, and the OFAH remains very interested in working with the lead agencies in the implementation of the Lake Ontario North Shore Urban Recreational Fisheries Strategy. In particular, we are willing to work with agencies to ensure municipalities and their staff are aware of the recommendations and seek to implement them.

Yours in Conservation,



Chris Robinson, M.Sc.

OFAH Atlantic Salmon Program Coordinator

/cjr

cc: OFAH Board of Directors  
OFAH Fisheries Advisory Committee  
Angelo Lombardo, OFAH Executive Director  
Matt DeMille, OFAH Manager, Fish and Wildlife Services  
Tom Brooke, OFAH Fisheries Biologist  
OFAH Fish and Wildlife Staff