

Fisheries

Protecting and Promoting Fish and Their Habitat



Fisheries Committee Members

Bill Steiss (Chair) – McGregor Bay

Andy Metelka – Blackstone Lake

Claudette Young – South Channel

Suzanne Brown - Sans Souci & Copperhead

Fisheries Committee Objectives

- **Promote recreational fisheries in Northern Lake Huron and Georgian Bay.**
- **Report on controls for invasive species and protection for species at risk and their habitat.**
- **Monitor changes to legislation affecting our local fisheries.**
- **Provide updates on commercial catch and harvest statistics for Northern Lake Huron and Georgian Bay.**
- **Develop relationships with public and private partners.**



2018-19 Activities

1. Recreational Fishing Promotion with updates on GBA web site, including:

- Ontario's 2019 Fishing Regulations
- Ontario Family Fishing Opportunities
- Learn to Fish Outreach Programs
- Travelling Tackle Share Program
- Reporting fishing infractions



2. Invasive Species and Species at Risk

- Asian Carp - US Army Corps of Engineers will soon release a report to Congress - Estimated \$700 million for structural work on Brandon Road and Dam to prevent Asian Carp entering Lake Michigan.
- GBA's Fisheries Committee will monitor and report on progress of structural work and Asian Carp sightings and emerging methods for their control.

2018-19 Activities (continued)

GBA's Fisheries and Forestry's submission (March, 2019): *Ontario's 10 Year Review of Ontario's Endangered Species at Risk Act.*

Submission recommendations include:

- **Species at Risk listing decisions should be based on scientific data not political expediency.**
- **Exceptions for forestry, hydro, mining and commercial projects should include plans for species and habitat protection.**
- **Rather than paying into a conservation fund for projects deemed harmful, proponents should be obligated to mitigate harmful impacts.**
- **Provide clarity for those who implement the Act, and give authority to enforcement officers to inspect exempted projects to ensure compliance.**

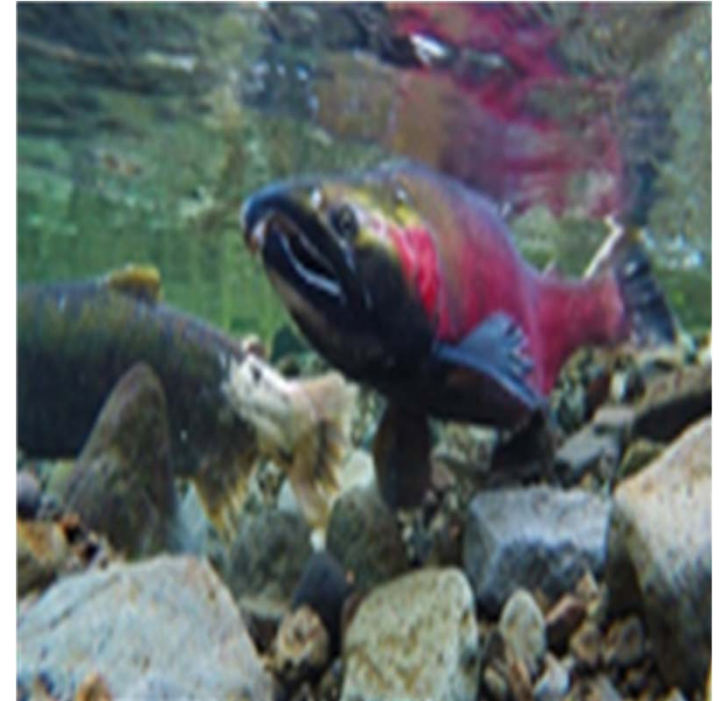


2018-19 Activities (continued)

Modernizing the *Canadian Fisheries Act Bill C-68*:

Key improvements to the Act include:

- Prohibiting alteration or destruction of fish habitat.
- Monitoring rivers and streams for sustaining fisheries.
- Maintaining marine biodiversity.
- Using traditional knowledge.
- Rebuilding depleted fish stocks.
- Adding a \$284 million investment to implement and enforce the Act - shows a commitment to back up the changes proposed.



2018-19 Activities (continued)

GBA Fisheries report: *State of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay's Commercial Fisheries*

Preliminary findings include:

- Over 60 local commercial and 5 aboriginal fisheries.
- 2017 commercial catch totaled 1.6 million kilos with a market retail value of more than \$50 million mostly for export.
- While today's catch is less than a century ago, freshwater fisheries, if carefully managed, should remain viable.
- Introduction of Asian Carp may be a threat in the future.
- Competition from foreign operators, as well as domestic aquaculture with lower operating costs, represent other threats to the industry.



Support Local Commercial Fisheries!

- Encourage local eateries, markets and fish stores to include selections of locally caught fish.
- Consume more locally-caught fish as recommended in Canada's 2019 Food Guide.
- Great Lakes fresh water caught fish is “green” food – harvests require little fossil fuel and no antibiotics.
- Urge local newspapers, politicians at all levels to support and promote their fisheries as important local employers and providers of superlative products.
- Report violations of Ontario's Fishing Regulations e.g. fishing out of season, exceeding catch limits, disturbing fish habitats, using prohibited live baits, fishing in designated fish sanctuaries and improper cleaning of trailered boats.

