

# A/OFRC PROJECT SUMMARY CHIPPEWAS OF GEORGINA ISLAND

August, 2019

## BASELINE FISHERIES ASSESSMENT ON THE HOLLAND RIVER

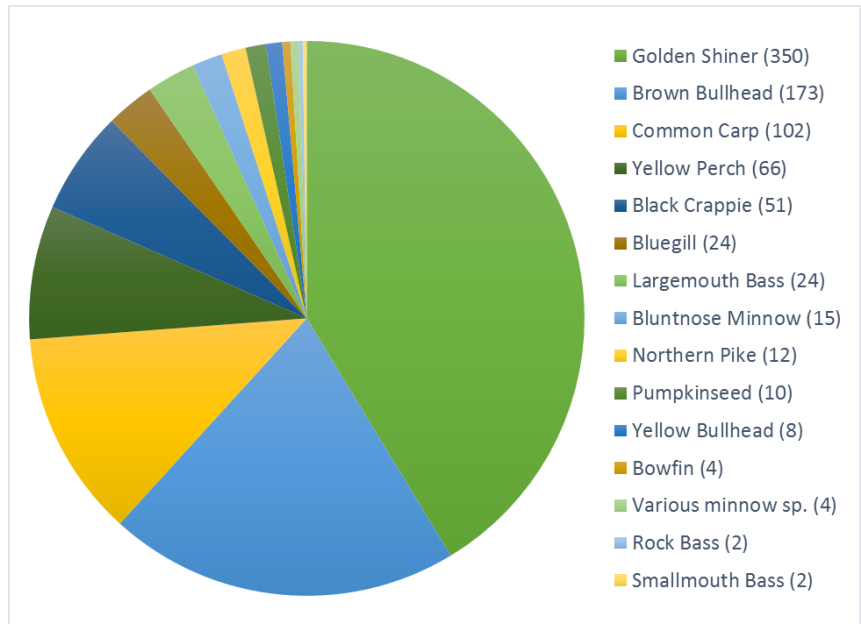
### INTRODUCTION

The Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre (A/OFRC), in partnership with Chippewas of Georgina Island, conducted a baseline fisheries assessment on the East Holland River in advance of the construction of the Upper York Sewage Solutions water reclamation centre. The abundance and diversity of fish caught during this assessment can provide insight into the current health of the river system.

### METHODS

From 6–11 August, 2019, a total of 26 multi-mesh gill nets and 15 baited minnow traps were deployed overnight in the East Holland River. A Riverine Index Netting (RIN) protocol was followed.

Full biological sampling was completed on all recreationally, commercially and culturally important fish, as well as a subset of small bodied fish. Other species of fish were length tallied and released.



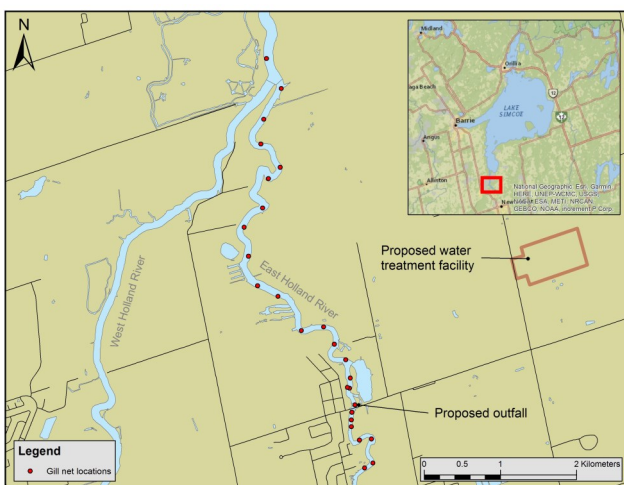
*Proportion of fish species caught in the RIN nets. Numbers in parentheses are the actual number of individuals caught.*

### RESULTS

The most abundant species caught in the RIN nets was Golden Shiner, followed by Brown Bullhead and Common Carp. Fish captured in the minnow traps included young-of-the-year Bluegill (25) and Largemouth Bass (1), as well as the invasive Round Goby (2).

### CONCLUSION

The composition of fish captured in the RIN nets is indicative of a degraded system. The most abundant species caught (Common Carp, Golden Shiner and Brown Bullhead) are tolerant of pollution, turbidity and low oxygen. The water in the Holland River was extremely turbid at the time of sampling. A full technical report describing the results of this assessment will be available in Winter 2020.



*Location of RIN sets in the East Holland River.*



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