

Working With Partners to Rehabilitate Native Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Species



Atlantic salmon fingerling.

The Ministry of Natural Resources works with many people and organizations to help protect and restore the rich biological diversity of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem. One of the ways the ministry accomplishes this is by participating in the 2007 *Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem 2007 (COA)*.

Under COA, the ministry is currently working with more than 240 partners on 200 projects across the Great Lakes Basin. More than 50 of

these projects focus on helping to rehabilitate native fish and wildlife species and their populations.

Projects include:

- Releasing nearly four million young American eels caught in the Atlantic Ocean in the eastern basin of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River to increase what used to be a thriving population of this historically important fish species.

The Great Lakes Basin is a unique ecosystem that is home to an incredible diversity of plant, fish and wildlife species.



Bald eagle.

- Partnering with international conservation interests to pinpoint suitable habitat and build nesting platforms for the bald eagle, absent from southern Ontario since the 1950s, so it will return to the Canadian shores of Lake Ontario.
- Improving habitat and stocking more than 2.5 million young hatchery-reared Atlantic salmon in three Lake Ontario coldwater streams to help Ontario's only native salmon make a comeback.



Photo: Jason Mortlock

Close up of American eels.

- Working with local fish and game clubs to help rehabilitate populations of walleye that migrate from Lake Erie into the Grand River to spawn.
- Locating quality spawning and nursery habitat in the eastern basin of Lake Erie suitable for use by naturally-reproducing populations of lake trout.
- Teaming up with international partners to determine if Lake Huron's lake trout populations are improving due to spawning by wild, naturally-reproducing fish or as a result of stocking hatchery-reared fish.
- Radio-tagging more than 1,000 coaster brook trout, walleye and lake sturgeon to study fish movements, the condition of spawning areas and the health of fish populations in five Lake Superior basin rivers.

Other fact sheets in this series:

- Working with Partners to Protect and Restore Great Lakes Habitats
- Working with Partners to Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species
- Working with Partners to Research and Monitor Changes to Great Lakes Ecosystems and Species
- Working with Partners to Improve the Health of Great Lakes Areas of Concern

Learn More

Visit ontario.ca/greatlakes for more information about the ministry's partnerships and its efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem through COA.

ontario.ca/mnr

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