

Working with Partners to Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species



The round goby, an aquatic invasive species.

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 (COA)*.

Under COA, the ministry is currently working with more than 240 partners on 200 projects across the Great Lakes Basin. More than 30 of these

projects focus on preventing the spread and reducing the impacts of aquatic invasive species. The projects will support delivery of *Ontario's Invasive Species Strategic Plan* which is being developed, as well as national invasive species strategies.

Projects include:

- Partnering with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters to raise awareness about invasive species and monitor their spread. More than 600,000 educational products were

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



University of Windsor researchers open a round goby trap.

distributed and over 70,000 people used the Invading Species hotline and website (www.invadingspecies.com) to learn about or report sightings of invasive species in 2010. The partnership also supports the *Lake Superior Aquatic Invasive Species Complete Prevention Plan*, aimed at preventing new invasive species from entering the lake basin.



Photo: Michigan Sea Grant

Clusters of zebra mussel shells on a sand beach.

- Actively supporting the Canadian Aquatic Invasive Species Network in studying the spread of aquatic invasive species through the ballast waters of commercial ocean-going and St. Lawrence Seaway ships, and field-testing the use of saltwater to kill stowaway species before they enter the Great Lakes.
- Supporting research by the University of Windsor to use smell and sound to attract and trap round gobies to keep them out of critical Great Lakes fish habitats.
- Training Great Lakes Basin bait fish harvesters and dealers to recognize and reduce risks in their operations that might spread aquatic invasive species.
- Helping to create *The Field Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species* and train natural resource professionals to identify, collect and report aquatic invasive fish, plants, algae and invertebrates.
- Researching the bloody red shrimp's impact on native Lake Ontario fish species.

Other fact sheets in this series:

- Working with Partners to Protect and Restore Great Lakes Habitats
- Working with Partners to Rehabilitate Native Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife 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

Disponible en français

March 2011