



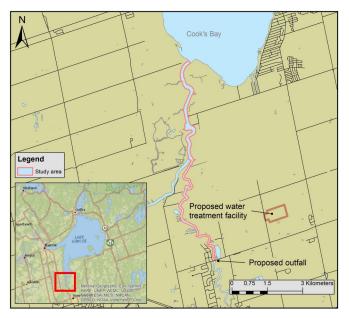
NEWS RELEASE

August 2019

Chippewas of Georgina Island

BASELINE FISHERIES ASSESSMENT ON THE HOLLAND RIVER

The Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre (A/OFRC) in partnership with Chippewas of Georgina Island, will conduct a baseline fisheries assessment on the Holland River in advance of the construction of the Upper York Sewage Solutions water reclamation centre. Treated effluent from this proposed facility will be discharged into the East Holland River. The abundance and diversity of fish caught during this assessment will provide insight into the current health of this river system. Results of future assessments can be compared to these baseline data, and potential effects of the water treatment facility on fish community health can be determined.



From August 6 to 12, 2019, large and small-mesh gill nets will be deployed throughout the Holland River, from the proposed outfall site to where the Holland River enters Lake Simcoe. A Riverine Index Netting (RIN) protocol will be followed. Full biological sampling will be completed for recreationally, commercially and culturally important fish. This will include length and weight measurements, determination of age, sex and maturity, and the collection of tissue samples for contaminant analysis. All other species captured will be measured.

Please do not fish or anchor between the floats that indicate the beginning and end of the net. A scientific collector's permit has been obtained from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to complete this work. Interfering or tampering with research nets is an offence under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.

The A/OFRC is a not-for-profit organization that serves as an independent source of information for communities within the Anishinabek Nation. The Centre provides information and recommendations for sustainable fisheries management, reports of stock status, evaluates stresses on fish populations and habitats, and offers technical support.