



Attention: Changes to Live Bait Policy

Effective April 18, 2014

Background

Due to concerns over viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) has been sourcing baitfish from a licensed supplier that has been verified VHS-free.

The recent introductions of round goby to the West Credit River in Hillsburgh, Belwood Lake in Fergus and Lake Simcoe have highlighted the need to be proactive and vigilant regarding the use of baitfish. Once a species is established it may be impossible to remove it and the fishery may be negatively changed. Transferring baitfish from one location to another can also introduce other aquatic invasive species like spiny waterflea or Eurasian water-milfoil. It can also transfer diseases such as VHS.

Policy Changes

The use of baitfish at Island Lake Conservation Area (ILCA) is a well-established angling method, especially during ice fishing season. Currently, anglers who use baitfish either bring in baitfish purchased off-site or buy baitfish at ILCA. Both live and dead baitfish are regularly used by anglers. Due to the concerns of disease transfer and invasive species establishment, as of April 18, 2014, **baitfish use in CVC conservation areas will be limited to Island Lake. Anglers wishing to use baitfish will have to purchase them at Island Lake.** Worms, where Ontario Fishing Regulations allow, will continue to be allowed as bait in CVC conservation areas such as Ken Whillans Resource Management Area and Terra Cotta Conservation Area. CVC does not allow harvesting of baitfish, frogs, leeches or crayfish in its conservation areas.

Why are these changes being implemented?

The purpose of these changes is to add further protection to valued fisheries resources, including those downstream of CVC conservation areas. Prevention of a species invasion is often the only effective means of protecting the fishery.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact:

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Additional Information

2014 Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary – General Regulations
<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@letsfish/documents/document/198219.pdf>

2014 Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary – Zone 16
http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@letsfish/documents/document/mnr_e001335.pdf

Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program
<http://www.invadingspecies.com/>

Round Goby Factsheet
http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@biodiversity/documents/document/stdprod_104406.pdf

Asian Carp Factsheet
http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@biodiversity/documents/document/stdprod_104398.pdf

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources – Aquatic Invasive Species
http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Biodiversity/2ColumnSubPage/STDPROD_068689.html