Port Severn Fish Spawning Habitat Enhancement (FiSHE) Project

Fish Significance

The waters of Georgian Bay (Mnidoo Gamii) support a diverse range of fish species, each playing a vital role in supporting the overall health of this ecosystem.

Fish are also deeply important to many communities. Walleye, for example, have long supported local fishing and recreation, while various species, such as lake sturgeon, hold cultural significance for Indigenous communities across the region.



White sucker (Nmebin)



Walleye (ogaa / gaa)

Photo Credit: Georgian Bay Mnidoo Gamii Biosphere.

Habitat Loss = Population Decline

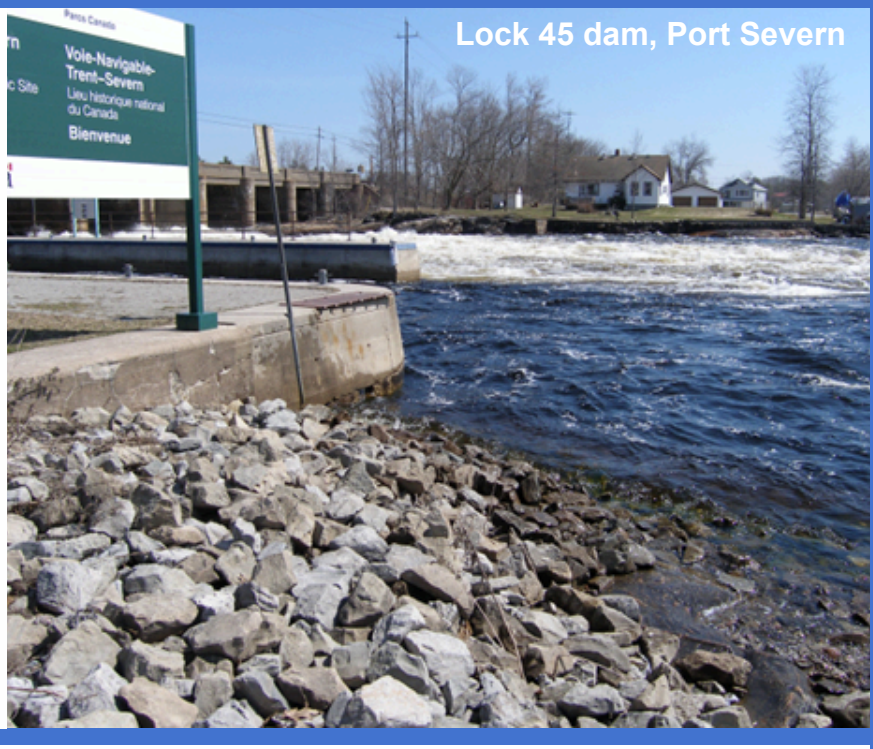
Many fish species rely on rocky, fast-flowing rivers for spawning, where their eggs can attach to the riverbed and receive the oxygen needed to develop into healthy larvae. Unfortunately, populations of these species have declined in part due to the loss of this critical spawning habitat.

Restoring and improving habitat at degraded sites has become increasingly urgent, as high-quality spawning areas are essential for ensuring stable fish populations which in turn support healthy aquatic ecosystems.

Key Spawning Ground

The area downstream of the Bayview and Lock 45 dams in Port Severn is a significant spawning site. Enhancing and restoring this habitat is an important factor in sustaining healthy fish populations in Georgian Bay.

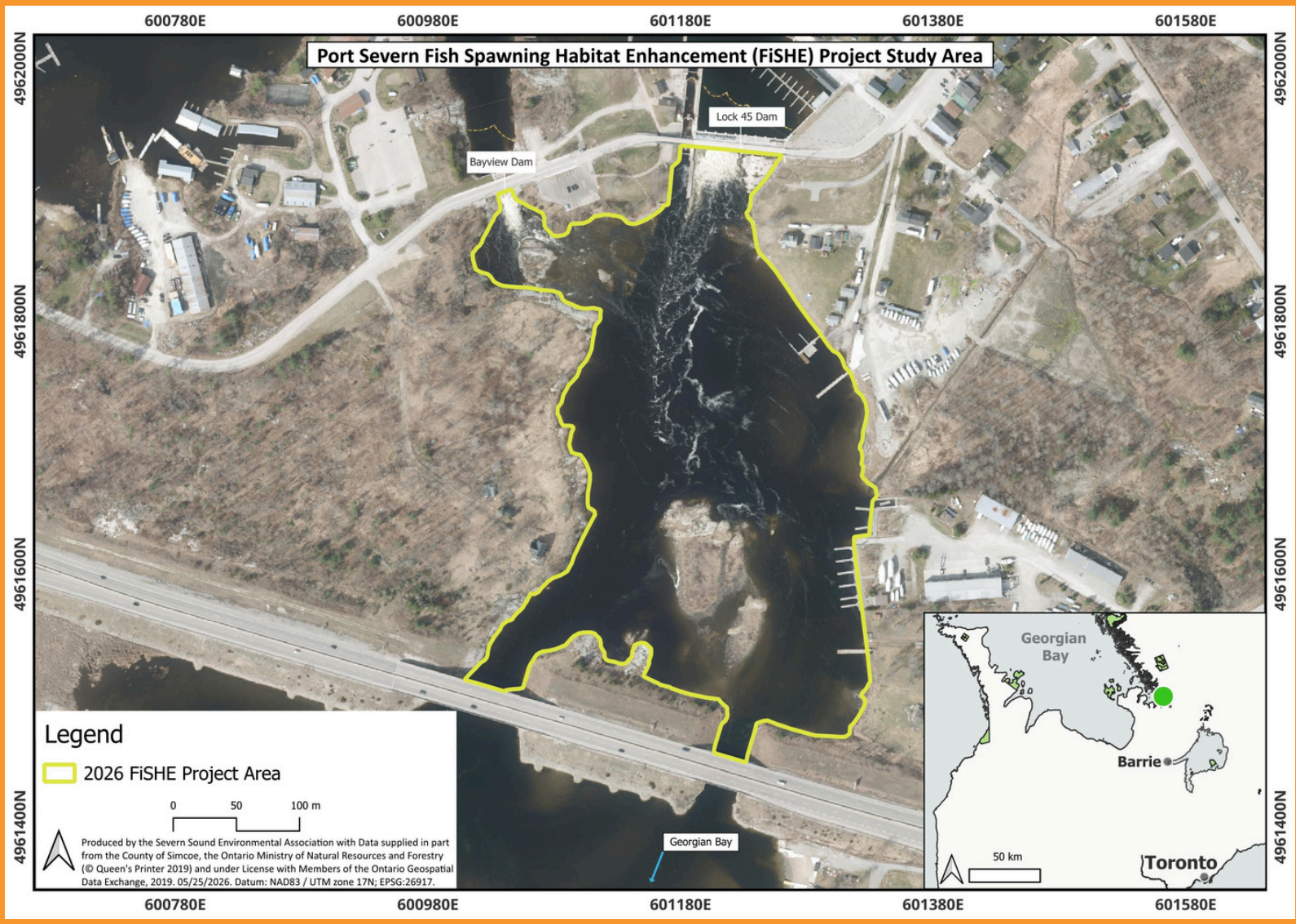
The Severn Sound Environmental Association is leading Phase 1 of the FiSHE project, a key planning step toward future on-the-ground improvements to fish spawning habitat. This stage of the project includes outreach and working with a variety of partners and stakeholders, to collect and assess data to understand current conditions and identify enhancement options for this vital area.



Lock 45 dam, Port Severn

For more information, contact Chad Apol, FiSHE Project Coordinator at capol@severnsound.ca or 705-534-7283 ext. 208

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Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) is leading and galvanizing action to protect the lands and waters of the Severn Sound area through sound science, collaboration, and partnerships. SSEA conducts environmental monitoring, supports municipal drinking water source protection, implements projects to protect or improve habitat and water quality, and advances climate change adaptation and planning, to maintain a healthy and resilient watershed. For more information, visit www.severnsound.ca.



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