

## ST. LAWRENCE RIVER FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SURVEY

Sponsored by:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and  
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR)

*Your input to managing the fisheries of the St. Lawrence River will be greatly appreciated by fisheries managers in New York State and the Province of Ontario. Please complete this questionnaire and hand it in as requested.*

1. Did you pre-register for this meeting?  Yes       No
  
2. You are a resident of (check one:)       New York State       Province of Ontario
  
3. Your interest in St. Lawrence River fisheries comes from what perspectives (check all that apply):  
 marina owner     charterboat operator or guide     restaurant, motel, or other business  
 angler               boater                                       cottage or second home owner  
 other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. What portion of the St. Lawrence is of primary interest to you? (Check one:)  
 Thousand Islands (Kingston/Cape Vincent to Chippewa Bay/Mallorytown Landing)  
 Middle Corridor (Chippewa Bay/Mallorytown Landing to Iroquois Dam/Lock)  
 Lake St. Lawrence (Iroquois Dam/Lock to Moses-Saunders Power Dam)
  
5. A. Please RANK below your 3 favorite species to fish for in the St. Lawrence (1=favorite, 2=second favorite, 3=third favorite).  
\_\_\_\_ largemouth bass    \_\_\_\_ smallmouth bass    \_\_\_\_ walleye  
\_\_\_\_ northern pike      \_\_\_\_ muskellunge      \_\_\_\_ bluegill, sunfish, or rock bass  
\_\_\_\_ crappie              \_\_\_\_ yellow perch  
\_\_\_\_ bullhead            \_\_\_\_ carp  
\_\_\_\_ other (list:) \_\_\_\_\_
  
- B. Now place an X beside any additional species in the list above that you fish the St. Lawrence River for in a typical year.

6. Please circle the number below that best indicates your degree of concern about the status of each species. A Little concern means that to the best of your knowledge, the fishery, or the status of the population, is in good shape for each of the species listed.

	<u>Little or No concern</u>	<u>Some Concern</u>	<u>Moderate Concern</u>	<u>Great Concern</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
a. largemouth bass	1	2	3	4	9
b. smallmouth bass	1	2	3	4	9
c. crappie	1	2	3	4	9
d. sunfish, rock bass	1	2	3	4	9
e. walleye	1	2	3	4	9
f. northern pike	1	2	3	4	9
g. muskellunge	1	2	3	4	9
h. yellow perch	1	2	3	4	9
i. bullhead	1	2	3	4	9
j. carp	1	2	3	4	9
k. lake sturgeon	1	2	3	4	9
l. American eel	1	2	3	4	9
m. Other (list) _____	1	2	3	4	9

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bass Management:**

**We would like your input on management direction and possible change to bass regulations. Current regulations allow anglers to keep a daily limit of six bass in Ontario and five bass in New York. Ontario waters of the St. Lawrence River have no minimum size limit for bass, whereas a 12 inch minimum size limit is in effect for New York. Bass season opens the fourth Saturday in June in Ontario, and on the third Saturday in June in New York. Please note that additional public consultation would be required prior to changing the current regulations.**

7. Would you be willing to have your bass harvest limited beyond the current regulations in order to improve the quality (increased size/abundance) of the bass fishery?

G Yes      G No      G No opinion

8. In principle, would you support a three (3) bass per day creel limit if it increased the abundance of bass of all sizes?

G Yes      G No      G No opinion

9. In principle, would you support a 14 inch minimum size limit if it increased the number of large bass available by 20%?

G Yes      G No      G No opinion

10. In principle, would you support changing the opening day of bass season in New York from the third Saturday in June to the fourth Saturday in June, so that the bass season would open on the same date on both the New York and Ontario portions of the St. Lawrence?

G Yes      G No      G No opinion

**Northern Pike Management:**

**We would like your input on management direction and possible changes to the pike regulations. Current St. Lawrence River regulations allow anglers to keep a daily limit of six northern pike in Ontario and five pike in New York. In Ontario waters there is no minimum size limit for pike, whereas a 22 inch minimum size limit is in effect in New York waters. The season for northern pike opens on the same day in New York and Ontario waters (the first Saturday in May), but closes on different dates (March 15 in New York; March 31 in Ontario). Please note that additional public consultation would be required prior to changing the regulations.**

11. Would you be willing to have your northern pike harvest limited beyond the current regulations in order to improve the quality (increased size/abundance) of the pike fishery?

G Yes      G No      G No opinion

12. In principle, would you support a two (2) pike per day creel limit if it increased the abundance of pike by 30%?

G Yes      G No      G No opinion

13. In principle, would you support a 24 inch minimum size limit if it increased the number of large pike (greater than 24 inches) available by 20%?

G Yes      G No      G No opinion

14. Would you support changing the closing day of pike season in New York from March 15 to March 31 so that the season dates would be the same for both the New York and Ontario portions of the St. Lawrence?

G Yes      G No      G No opinion

15. Changes to northern pike spawning and nursery habitats in wetlands along the river may be adversely affecting the pike population. Would you support government agency efforts to build dikes to manipulate water levels in specific wetlands to benefit northern pike and many other fish and wildlife species, knowing that this would restrict boating access to these areas?

Yes       No       No opinion

**Muskellunge Management:**

16. The St. Lawrence River has been identified as one of a few water bodies capable of producing muskellunge of world record size. In order to increase the opportunity for fish to survive to record size, a 54 inch (1372 mm) minimum size limit is being proposed for muskellunge. Please check the box that most accurately reflects your view:

I support a 54 inch minimum size limit.

I support a 48 inch minimum size limit.

I support maintaining the current 44 inch minimum size limit.

No opinion.

**Walleye Management**

17. OMNR/NYSDEC assessment data suggest that the status of the walleye population has improved in the past 20 years, and is favorable for anglers. What is your level of agreement with this statement for the portion of the St. Lawrence River emphasized at this meeting?

Agree       Unsure       Disagree       No opinion

Specific suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Yellow Perch Management:**

18. OMNR/NYSDEC assessment data suggest that the current status of the yellow perch population is favorable for anglers. What is your level of agreement with this statement?

Agree       Unsure       Disagree       No opinion

Specific suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Panfish Management:**

**New York anglers are permitted to sell anywhere in New York any hook-and-line-caught fish from the St. Lawrence River that do not have minimum length and possession limits (primarily yellow perch and panfish). Ontario anglers can not sell any hook-and-line caught fish in the St. Lawrence River upstream of the Robert H. Saunders Generating Station at Cornwall.**

19. What is your opinion regarding the sale of hook-and-line caught yellow perch or panfish?

- I support the sale of hook and line-caught fish
- I do not support the continued sale of hook and line-caught fish
- No opinion

20. What is your level of satisfaction with the current status of the bluegill and pumpkinseed sunfish, and rock bass fisheries?

- Generally satisfied
- Unsure
- Dissatisfied
- No opinion

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

21. What is your level of satisfaction with the current status of the crappie fishery?

- Generally satisfied
- Unsure
- Dissatisfied
- No opinion

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Management of Uncommon or Unique Species**

22. OMNR and NYSDEC are actively involved in programs that focus on uncommon or unique fish species that are not sportfish, such as pugnose shiner, mooneye, and sand darters. To what extent do you support St. Lawrence River fisheries management efforts for non-sportfish species?

- Strongly support
- Moderately support
- Do not support
- No opinion

23. NYSDEC and OMNR are actively involved in programs that seek to increase the abundance of lake sturgeon in the St. Lawrence River and its tributaries, including spawning habitat improvements and stocking. To what extent do you support St. Lawrence River fisheries management efforts for lake sturgeon?

- G Strongly support
- G Moderately support
- G Do not support
- G No opinion

24. American eel are a unique species that has declined dramatically in the St. Lawrence River in the past 15 years. NYSDEC and OMNR are actively cooperating with other state, provincial and federal agencies in an effort to secure the future of American eels in the St. Lawrence River. To what extent do you support St. Lawrence River fisheries management efforts for American eel?

- G Strongly support
- G Moderately support
- G Do not support
- G No opinion

**Information and Education**

25. How would you rate the quality of information provided in the discussion papers sent to those who pre-registered for today=s meeting?

- G Very informative
- G Somewhat informative
- G Not very informative
- G Did not receive or get an opportunity to read

Comments:\_\_\_\_\_

26. How would you rate the quality of information provided in the opening presentations at today=s meeting?

- G Very informative
- G Somewhat informative
- G Not very informative

Comments:\_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION. YOU MAY USE THE BACK OF THIS QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ANY REMAINING COMMENTS YOU WISH TO MAKE.**