



## STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

### Report on Fishing in the Toronto Inner Harbour

<b>Date:</b>	November 28, 2012
<b>To:</b>	Parks and Environment Committee
<b>From:</b>	Jim Hart, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 20 – Trinity-Spadina Ward 27 – Toronto Centre-Rosedale
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2012\Cluster A\PFR\PE18-012913-AFS#16786

#### **SUMMARY**

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The purpose of this staff report is to provide an update on the status of shoreline fishing opportunities in the Toronto inner harbour of Lake Ontario.

The Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division continues to work with all partners and relevant stakeholders to ensure fishing continues and thrives in City of Toronto parks.

#### **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact associated with this report

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#### **DECISION HISTORY**

At its meeting of July 11, 12 and 13, 2012, City Council directed the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report on the organizing of a Fishing Summit; removal of the no-fishing signs recently installed along the Toronto Waterfront; and on consulting with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and Waterfront Toronto on options for building a fishing pier on the central Waterfront.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.EX21.33>

## ISSUE BACKGROUND

Last summer it was identified that the public lacked clarity as to where fishing was permitted along the lake and Toronto Harbour, and safety concerns about the presence of anglers and the public in busy areas were raised. Complicating the matter is the fact that different organizations have jurisdiction over various sections of waterfront land, and different positions on whether fishing should be allowed.

## COMMENTS

Parks, Forestry and Recreation supports urban fishing and, within the Provincial regulations, fishing is allowed in the following City of Toronto park properties:

Toronto Islands: Ferry from foot of Bay St.  
Tommy Thompson Park: Foot of Leslie St.  
Ashbridges Bay Park: Coxwell Ave. S. of Lakeshore Blvd. E  
High Park Grenadier Pond: High Park Blvd. W. of Parkside Dr.  
Humber River Marsh: Mouth of Humber River upstream to Lakeshore Blvd.  
Rouge River Marsh: Lawrence Ave. E. of Port Union Rd.  
Bluffers Park: Foot of Brimley Rd.  
Upper Main Rouge River: Public Lands upstream of Hwy. 2  
Lower Humber River: Etienne Brule Park S. to Eglinton Ave.  
Eglinton Flats: Jane at Eglinton Ave.  
G. Ross Lord Park: Dufferin St. N. of Finch Ave.  
Humber Bay Park: Park Lawn Rd. S. of Lakeshore Blvd. W.  
Colonel Samuel Smith Park: Kipling Ave. S. of Lakeshore Blvd. W.  
Marie Curtis Park: Lakeshore Rd. E. of Dixie Rd.  
Centennial Park: Centennial Park Blvd. S. of Eglinton Ave.  
Summerlea Park: Albion Rd. E. of Islington Ave.

Fishing along the Toronto Waterfront is allowed with the exception of existing shipping lanes in the Eastern and Western gaps. Parks staff will continue to monitor these locations to ensure pedestrian safety.

### *Monitoring Popular Fishing sites*

Staff will continue to monitor popular fishing sites to observe that interactions between fishermen and the public are safe. Staff will review other concerns, such as discarded fishing line that becomes a safety issue for the public and wildlife, and may take necessary action to address these situations.

### *Organizing Fishing Summit:*

On June 21, 2012, Parks management staff attended the annual Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Recreational Fishing Committee meeting to address urban fishing. Following on

the success of this meeting, Parks, Forestry and Recreation agreed to convene another meeting and invite area property owners/managers, elected officials and key recreational fishing stakeholders. This meeting took place July 4, 2012 at the Harbourfront Community Centre where the City of Toronto was identified as a key partner and supporter of fishing by a diverse group of angling enthusiasts, including the Ministry of Natural Resources, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, National Sportsmen Show, Chinese Anglers Association, and the Ontario Hunter and Anglers Association. The City of Toronto will continue to support urban fishing and partner with both governmental and non-governmental organizations to advance this popular activity. The Greater Toronto Fishing Committee will meet again in early 2013 to host a GTA Recreational Fishing Summit for all interested parties.

### *OPTIONS FOR BUILDING A PIER ON CENTRAL WATERFRONT*

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority is exploring increasing access for fishing along the Central Waterfront with a proposed fishing pier and will consult with stakeholders and report out through their normal public process including through the GTA Recreational Fishing Summit in 2013.

### **CONTACT**

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### **SIGNATURE**

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