

Lake Trout

Salvelinus namaycush

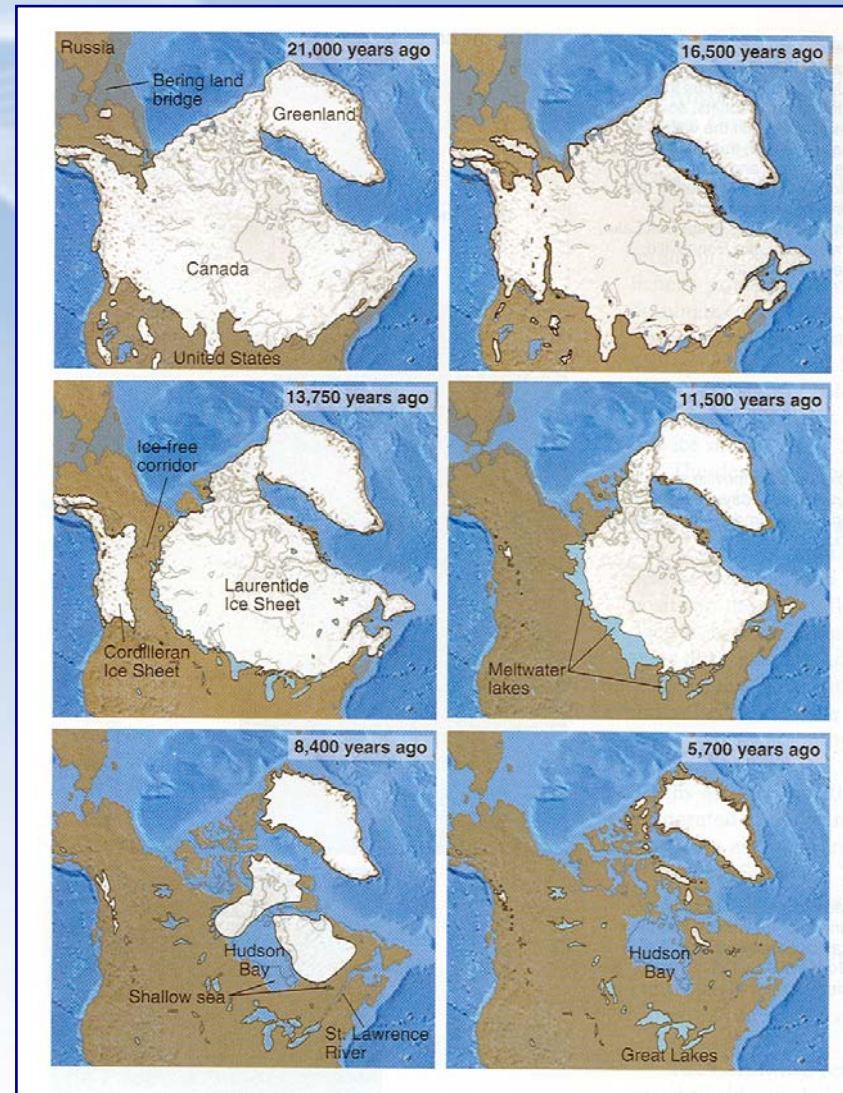
Outline

- When They Came Here
- Who They Are
- Where They Live
- What Makes Them Unique
- Why Protect Them



When: Lake Trout in Ontario

- Cold water fish moved into this area as the glaciers melted 10,000 yrs ago
- After these cold water fish moved in the large rivers left by the glaciers diminished and were further broken up by waterfalls and rapids



When: Lake Trout in Ontario

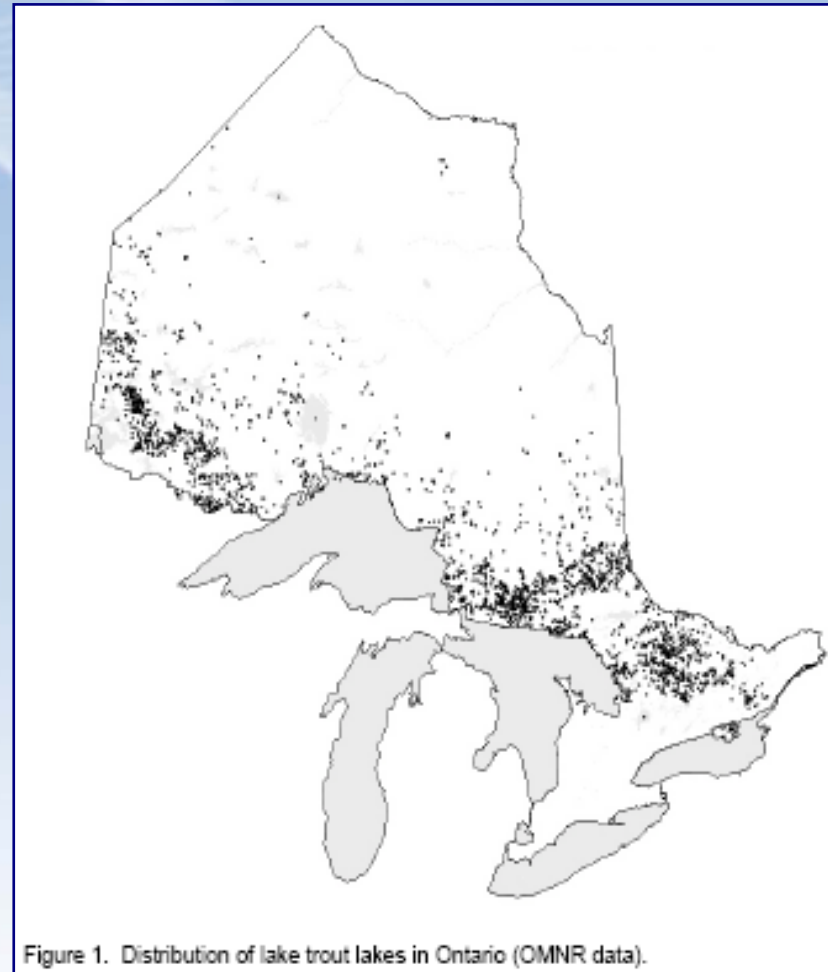
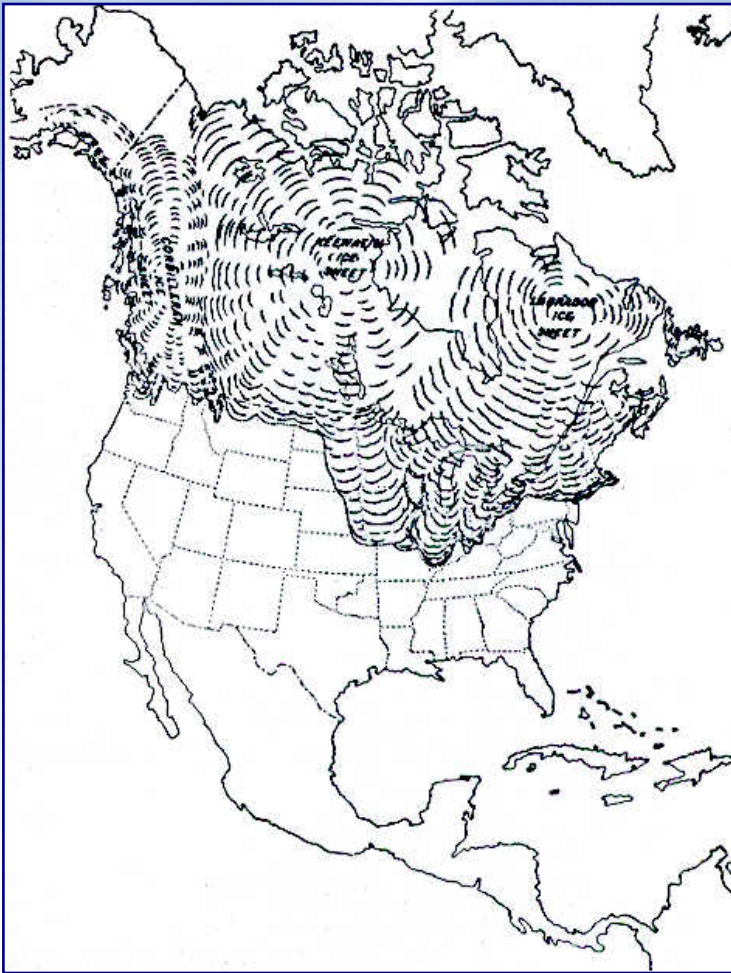
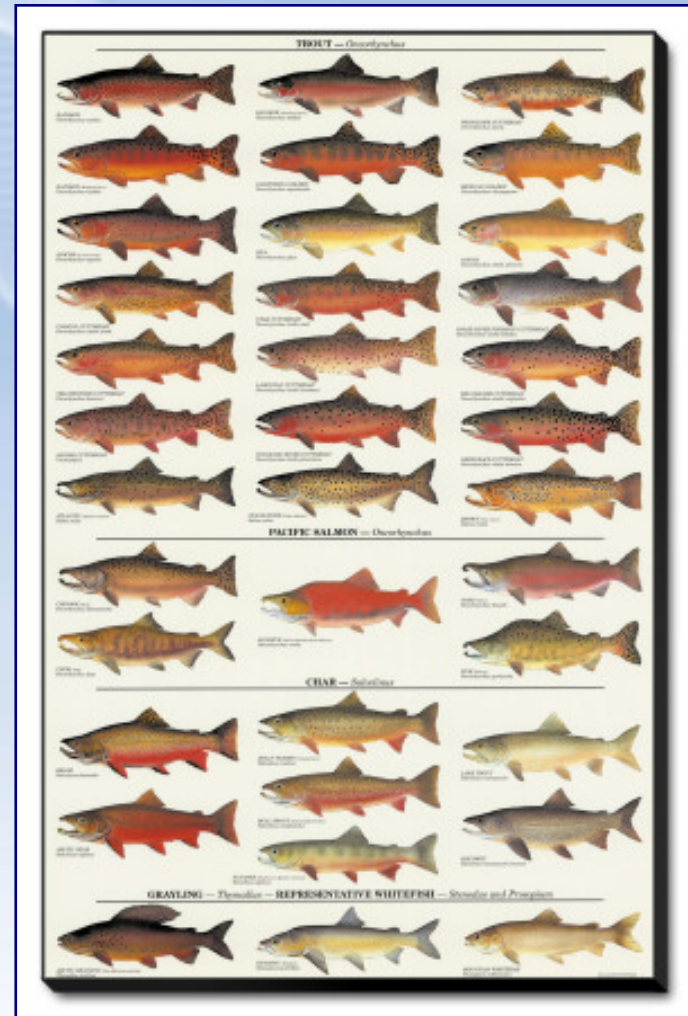


Figure 1. Distribution of lake trout lakes in Ontario (OMNR data).

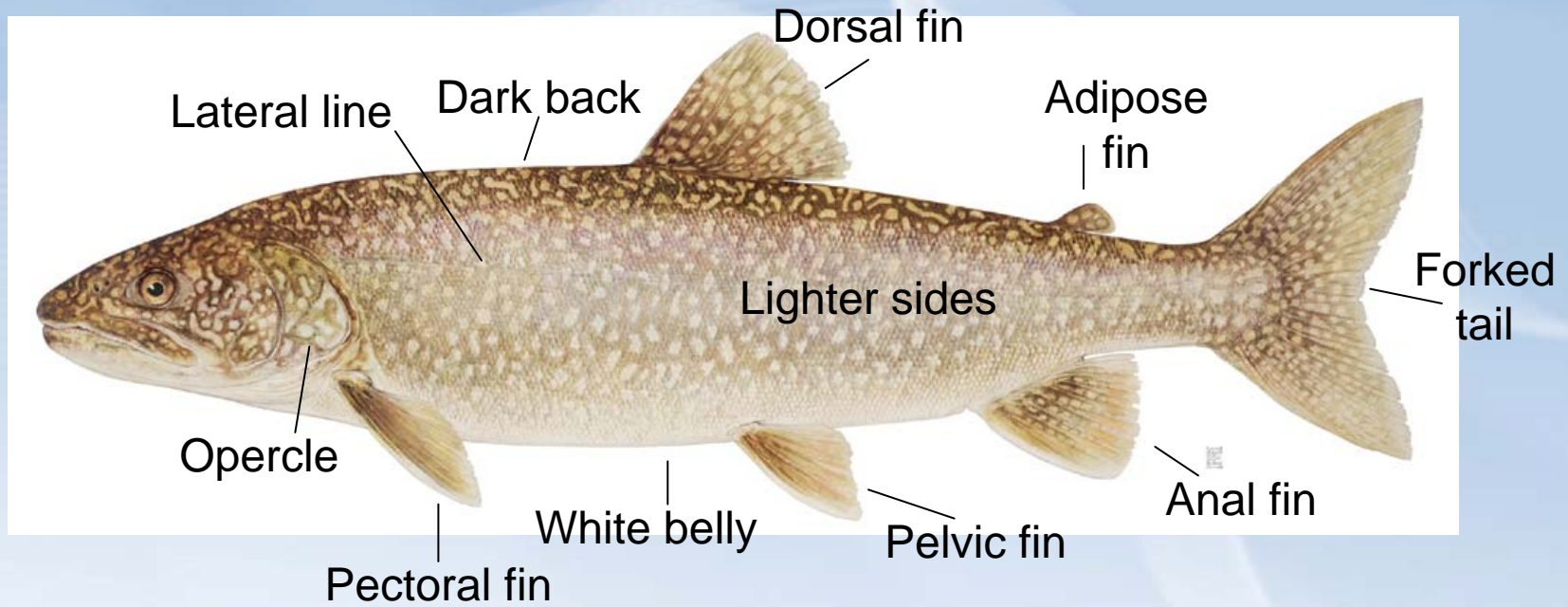
Who: The Fish Family

- Salmonidae family
- Relatives:
 - Salmon
 - char
- Arctic and north temperate fishes, i.e. cold water fish



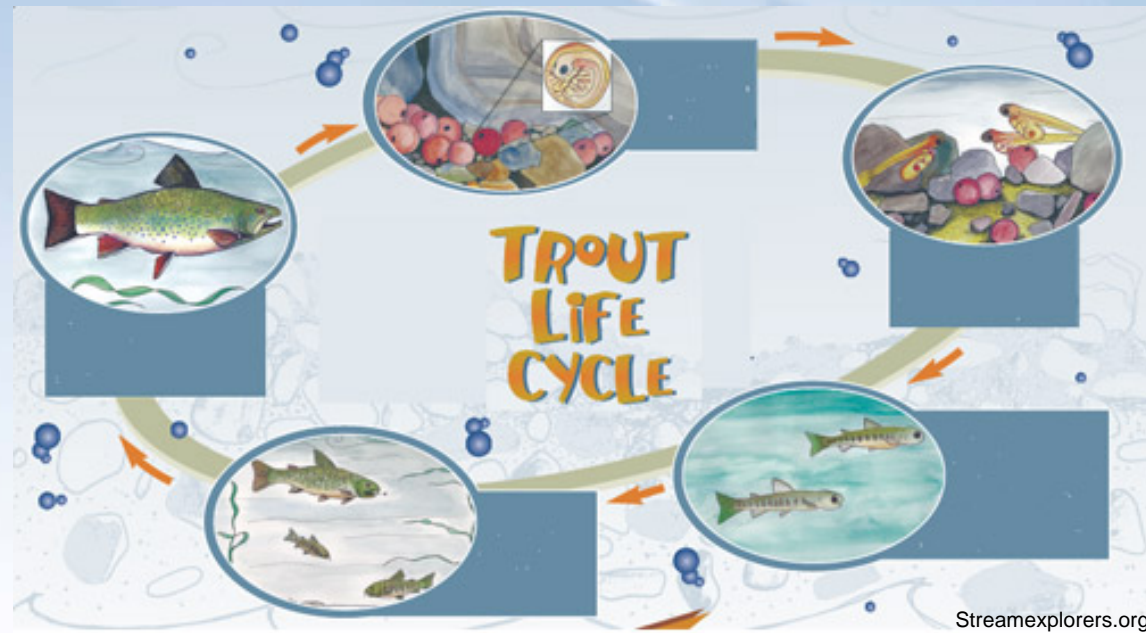
Trout, salmon & char of North America

Who: Appearance

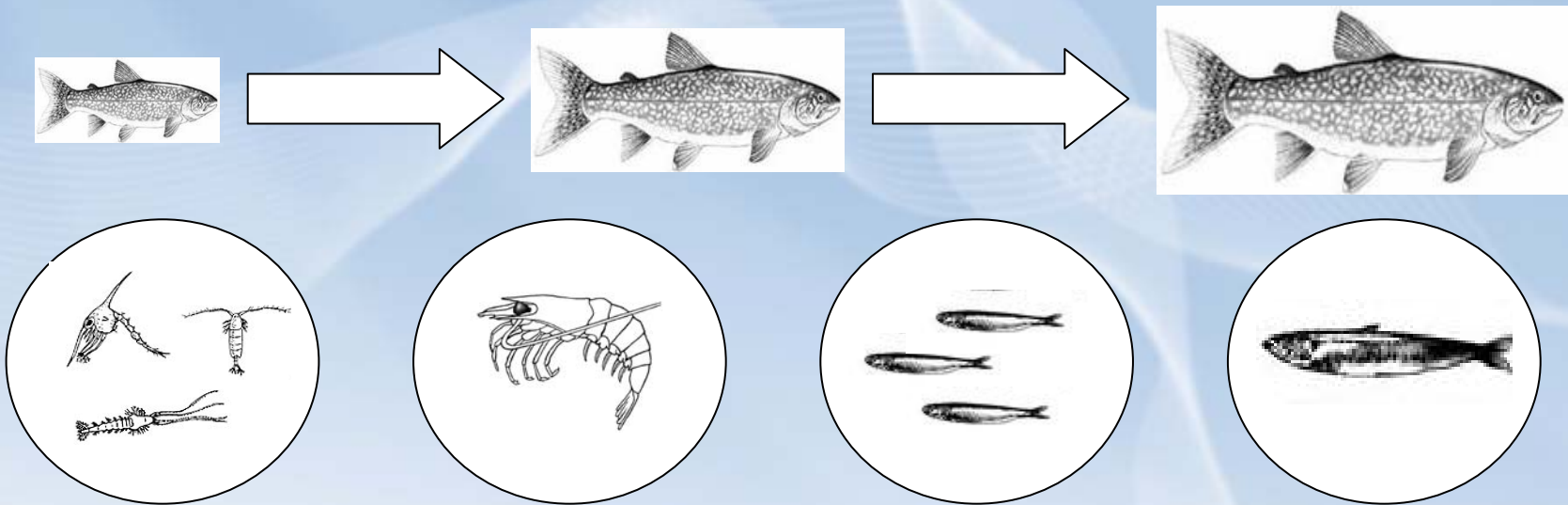


Who: Life Cycle

- Fall spawners, use rocky reefs
- Fry emerge in early spring
- Successful reproduction depends largely on oxygen and temperature
- Slow growing



Who: Food



- Lake trout will also eat amphibians and larger trout will even eat small mammals when given the opportunity.

Where: Habitat

- Cold, clean, well oxygenated deep water lakes
- Simple fish communities



Where: Habitat



What Makes Them Unique

- Native only to North America
- Only top predator that thrives in cold water habitat



What Makes Them Unique

- Lake trout stocks genetically dissimilar
- Once lost, no way to replace it
- One step closer to eventual extinction



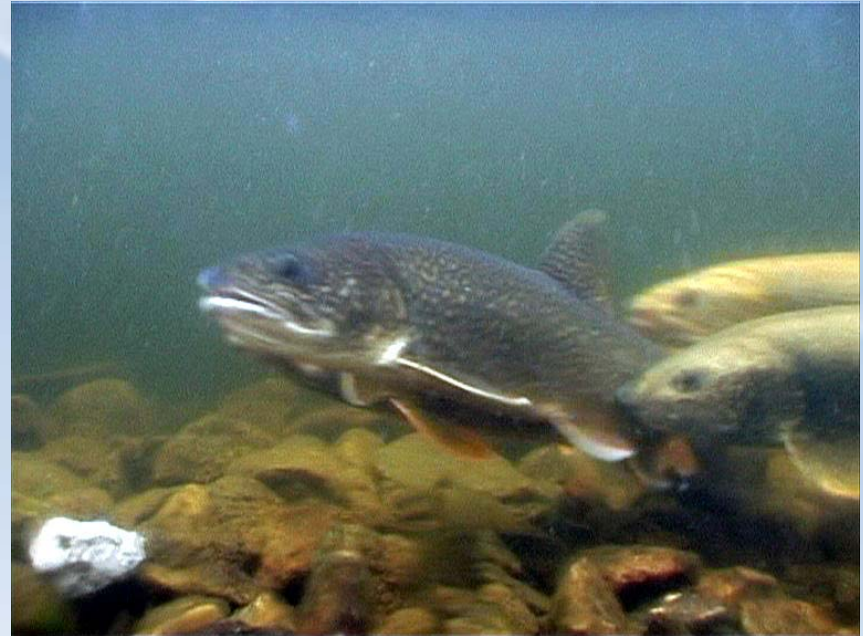
Why Protect Lake Trout Waters

- Represents 20-25% of world's supply
- Largest area of lake trout waters
- Ontario has greatest responsibility in world



Why Protect Lake Trout

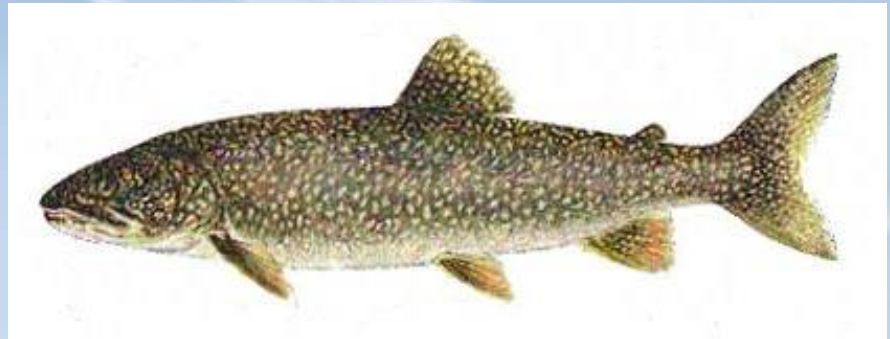
- **Play a key role in water clarity**
- **Balance smaller prey species**
- **Prey species consume zooplankton or the microscopic plant eaters**



Why Protect Lake Trout



=



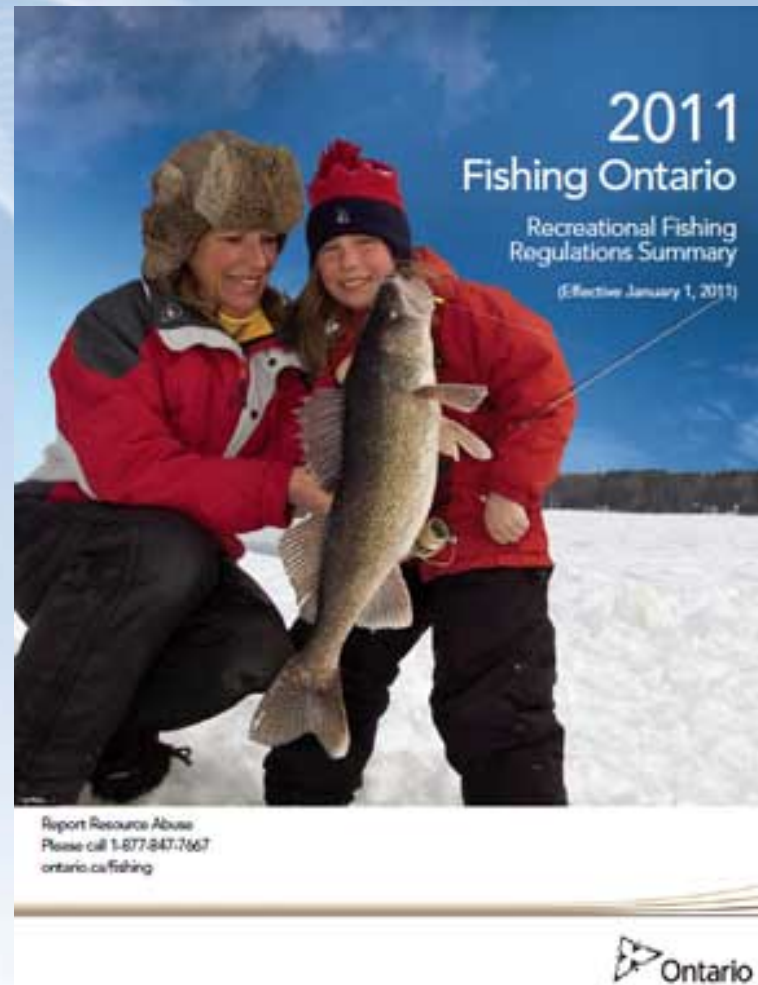
Why Protect Lake Trout

- Important part of our heritage, socially and economically
- Contributes significantly to the demands for angling opportunities



Why Protect Lake Trout

- 1.1 million lake trout caught in 2000
- 40% were caught in central and eastern Ontario
- 60,000 angler days per year in Bancroft area alone
- \$35.00 per angler day, worth in excess of 2 million dollars annually



Questions?

