



## First Nations Fish Habitat Issues Survey

### 1. Welcome!

The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) is a national, First Nation directed environmental non-profit organisation based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. We assist First Nations with building the capacity to address the environmental issues they face. To help us enhance our **First Nations Fish Habitat Program** we are seeking information and feedback from interested First Nations about their needs, concerns, and interests related to fish and fish habitat in and around their communities. Please fill out this 15 minute survey! With your helpful input we will be able to find ways to better help First Nations address issues and concerns they face relate to fish and fish habitat.

### 2. Purpose of the FNFHP

Through the Aboriginal Inland Habitat Program (AIHP) funded by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, CIER developed the First Nations Fish Habitat Program (FNFHP). The goal of the FNFHP is to assist First Nations to restore, monitor, protect and manage their fish habitat. Under the FNFHP, CIER conducts research, develops and delivers communications, training materials and workshops, and assists First Nations to undertake management activities to address regional and local fish habitat issues.

### 3. About You

What First Nation are you from? \_\_\_\_\_

How many years have you lived in your First Nation? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your role/occupation, i.e. fisher, lands manager, education director, trapper, etc.?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Valued Fish Species

Which type(s) of fish are the most important to your First Nation? Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Does your First Nation do any commercial or sustenance fishing? What type(s) of fish?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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What type(s) of fish are culturally important to your First Nation?

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Do you think fish populations are healthy in and around your First Nation? Why or why not?

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## 5. The Meaning of Fish Habitat

What is your definition of 'fish habitat'?

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Is your definition specific to:

- a particular type of fish
- a type of environment
- a fish life phase
- other\_\_\_\_\_

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How do you determine the health of fish habitat?

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## 6. Important Fish Habitats

*Lakes, reservoirs, rivers, streams, marshes, wetlands, canals, and drainage ditches can all provide important habitat for fish.*

What waterbodies are important for fishing in your First Nation?

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What specific areas of these waterbodies (e.g. rapids) are important fish habitats? Why?

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## 7. Threats to Fish and Habitats

Would you consider the fish habitat in and around your First Nation healthy? Circle one.

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

What changes to fish habitat have occurred? When did this happen?

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Are there specific fish habitats that are under stress (i.e. the health is threatened)?

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What are the major threats to fish habitat in and around your First Nation?

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### 8. Management and Mitigation

What fish habitat management issues are of greatest concern to you or to your First Nation?

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Does your First Nation have fish habitat management or enhancement programs or projects (currently or in the past)?

- Yes (please explain)
- No

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Are partners or other organizations involved in these initiatives?

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What do you think needs to be done to mitigate the impacts and improve the health of fish habitat in your area?

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## 9. Challenges and Opportunities

What obstacles to successfully managing fish habitat exist in your First Nation?

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What capacity does your First Nations require in order to become effective managers of fish habitat?

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What type(s) of training would be helpful to enhance participation in fish habitat management?

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What funding options are you aware of to assist in managing fish habitat?

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What successes and challenges have you had in securing funding for fish habitat work?

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What type(s) of fish habitat information would be helpful to you or your First Nation, if any?

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**10. Thank You!**

To receive relevant information (from question 9) from us please provide us with your name and address below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address or Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional comments:**

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