# TOP 10 WAYS

to Protect the Great Lakes at Home!



- 1. Take shorter showers instead of baths
- 2. Install a low volume toilet using less water to flush
- 3. Put up a clothes line and avoid using the dryer
- **4.** Make sure you have full loads of laundry before starting the machine
- 5. Fill the dishwasher before you start it

- **6.** Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth or washing your hands
- 7. Replace energy draining appliances
- 8. Don't leave the lights or computers on when not in use
- **9.** Avoid using cleaning products with harmful chemicals
- **10.** Don't use fertilizer or pesticides everything washes down the storm drains

# Keep our Great Lakes Clean!

### **The Great Lakes Program**

- FREE & Bilingual
- Based on the Ontario Science and Technology Curriculum
- Offered to students across Ontario

Includes PowerPoint presentation, educational artefacts and question/ answer session with a biologist in the classroom.

Questions and bookings?

Contact us

greatlakes@torontozoo.ca

Check out our website www.torontozoo.com/tz/greatlakes

We've gone digital!

The GLP is now offered virtually. E-mail us for more details.

Follow us!







@greatlakesprgm

\_@greatlakesprogram

VISIT Great Lakes fishes at the



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Fisheries and Oceans Pêches et Océans

Printed using eco-friendly materials

dated November 2020

# Great Lakes Program



NOAA, Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory

American Eel
Pugnose Shiner
Channel Darter
Lake Sturgeon
Redside Dace
Hickorynut Mussel
Spotted Gar
Atlantic Salmon





### **REDSIDE DACE**

#### **FNDANGFRFD**

- Habitat: cool, clean rivers and streams of L. Ontario and L. Huron
  - Leaps out of the water to feed on insects



### SPOTTED GAR ENDANGERED

- Mostly active at night
- Can grow over 75 cm long
- Threats: pollution and wetland destruction



### **LAKE STURGEON**

#### **ENDANGERED**

- Diet: small fishes, molluscs, crayfishes, insect larvae
- One of the largest freshwater fishes in North America



## ATLANTIC SALMON EXTINCT

- Land-locked (remain in L. Ontario watershed, do not go out to sea)
  - Restocking program to increase population in L. Ontario



# Great Lakes Program Species At Risk



# AMERICAN EEL ENDANGERED

- Long migration (over 6,000km) to Sargasso Sea to spawn
  - Threats: fishing, pollution, dams, large predators



### **CHANNEL DARTER**

### THREATENED

- Feeds on aquatic insect larvae and crustaceans
- Member of the perch family



### **HICKORYNUT MUSSEL**

### **ENDANGERED**

- Uses Lake Sturgeon as fish host for larvae
- Threats include pollution and competition from zebra mussels



## PUGNOSE SHINER THREATENED

- Scatter their eggs among plants in the water, instead of making a nest
  - Sensitive to changes in their ecosystem



Download the Clam Counter app to learn more about freshwater mussels and how to identify them! When you submit a finding, scientists at the Toronto Zoo and Fisheries and Oceans Canada can use your data to help keep mussels and their habitat safe!

### Mussels are endangered!

- Ontario has 41 freshwater mussel species
- These invertebrates filter 9 L of water/hr to feed
- Mussels are considered an indicator species for healthy waters

### **INVADERS!**



### **Asian Carps**

To prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species such as Asian carps and zebra mussels, don't transport bait, clean, drain and dry boats and equipment and report sightings on EDDMaps.

www.eddmaps.org/ontario