

Cedar, Pitch & Whitewood Creeks

Benthic Invertebrate and Fish Community Assessment



April 5, 2011

Prepared for:
OMNR Stewardship Program
Thunder Bay District

Prepared by:
Dr. Robert F. Foster

Dr. Ken Deacon, Deacon Bio-Consulting



Abstract

Aquatic assessments on three Whitefish River tributaries were conducted due to some concern over potential impacts from land use practices within the watersheds of Cedar, Pitch, and Whitewood creeks. The health of benthic invertebrate communities was assessed using the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network (OBBN) protocol at three sites in 2010, which were compared to previously assessed reference sites on the same tributaries. Landscape habitat patterns were assessed using GIS and aerial reconnaissance, and were measured in the field at 25 sites using methods from the OBBN protocol as well as the Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol (OSAP). The fish communities at these 25 sites were sampled using 1-pass electrofishing with blocking nets. OBBN sites in the lower reaches of all three tributaries had good abundance of sensitive taxa such as EPT (Ephemeroptera-Plecoptera-Tricoptera), but showed increasing numbers of worms compared to upstream reference sites. This suggests increased algae and minor impairment of water quality, possibly due to nutrient inputs.

Fish abundance and biomass, particularly brook trout, varied significantly among sites mainly due to barriers to fish migration, changes in surficial geology, and other habitat factors. Brook trout were most abundant higher in the watershed and were less abundant or absent in the lower reaches of all three tributaries where rainbow trout were more abundant. The streams show higher than preferred maximum summer water temperatures in late summer and the possible lack of thermal refugia in lower reaches where the stream cut through fine-textured glaciolacustrine silts and clays may be limiting factor for brook trout. Localized impacts from land use practices such as livestock watering, dam building, and riparian vegetation removal may reduce the suitability of some sites for some fish species, particularly brook trout. As most of the lower watersheds of these three streams are on private lands, landowner outreach for stewardship is recommended.

Contents

Abstract.....	ii
List of Figures	iv
List of Tables	v
List of Appendices	vi
1 Introduction	1
2 Methods.....	3
2.1 Site Selection	3
2.2 Water Temperature	3
2.3 Electrofishing.....	5
2.4 Data Collection and Analysis	6
2.5 Habitat Survey	7
2.6 OBBN Sampling	7
3 Study Area.....	9
3.1 Geology / Substrate.....	9
3.2 Water Temperature	11
3.3 Aquatic Vegetation.....	12
5 Fish Community	18
5.1 Species Diversity.....	18
5.1.1 Connectivity	18
5.2 Abundance	20
5.3 Size Distribution	31
6 Anthropogenic Activities.....	35
6.1 Land Use	35
6.2 Aggregate Pits	42
6.3 Roads and Trails	44
6.4 Residential Development and Associated Activities.....	46
6.5 Sea Lamprey Control	50
7 Summary and Recommendations.....	51
8 Acknowledgments.....	52
9 Literature Cited	53

List of Figures

Figure 1. General location and land tenure of Whitefish tributaries 2010 study area.	2
Figure 2. Location of 2009 and 2010 OBBN and 2010 fish sampling sites in the Cedar, Pitch, and Whitewood Creek watersheds.	4
Figure 3. Water temperature logger (arrow) on Cedar Creek at Site 6 (L) and Pitch Creek at Site 19 (R).	5
Figure 4. Downstream barrier net at Site 6 and electrofishing.	6
Figure 5. Measuring length (L) and weight (R).	6
Figure 6. Boulder and cobble riffle at Site 14 on Whitewood Creek (L) and corner pool with steep silty-clay bank at Site 6 on Pitch Creek (R).	10
Figure 7. Surficial geology of study area based on NOEGTS (Mollard and Mollard 1980).	10
Figure 8. Area of landform types within each watershed of three Whitefish Creek tributaries.	11
Figure 9. Hourly water temperature at Pitch and Cedar creeks, July 15 to November 1, 2010.	12
Figure 10. Submergents at Site 12 on Whitewood Creek (L) and aquatic moss on bedrock (L) at Site 4 on Pitch Creek.	13
Figure 11. Algae on cobble at Site 6 on Cedar Creek and (L) filamentous algae at Site 5 on Pitch Creek (R; mechanical pencil for scale).	13
Figure 12. Falls at Cedar Creek (L, LRCA photo) and Pitch Creek (R).	19
Figure 13. Box culvert on Cedar Cr. at Hwy 590 (L) and bridge over Whitewood Cr. at Smith Road (R).	19
Figure 14 double culvert on Whitewood Creek at Hwy 590 (L) and Beaver dam on Rock Run Creek above Site 18 (R).	20
Figure 15. Adult brook trout (L) and rainbow trout (R).	20
Figure 16. Total number and biomass of all fish species at 25 sample sites on Whitefish River tributaries in 2010.	27
Figure 17. Biomass relative to sampled water volume (m ³) at 25 sample locations (labelled) on three Whitefish River tributaries, 2010.	28
Figure 18. Total number brook and rainbow trout at 25 sample sites on Whitefish River tributaries in 2010.	29
Figure 19. Length-frequency distribution for Cedar, Pitch, and Whitewood creeks sampled in 2010.	35
Figure 20. Area in different landcover classes (Spectranalysis 2004) in the watersheds of three Whitefish River tributaries.	36
Figure 21. Main land use and potential anthropogenic impacts in the lower watershed of three Whitefish River tributaries.	37

Figure 22. Pasture and regenerating cutover near Site 12 on Whitewood Creek. 38

Figure 23. Hayfield and regenerating cutover adjacent to Pitch Creek and potato farming adjacent to Site 23 (arrow). 38

Figure 24. 2010 Sampling locations in relation to land use patterns (GoogleEarth imagery)..... 39

Figure 25. Cattle trail and adjacent pasture at Site 9 on the lower reaches of Cedar Creek. 40

Figure 26. Lower reach of Cedar Creek with cow paths, streamside trampling, and eroding bank..... 41

Figure 27. Gravel pit near Cedar Creek (lower) and in relation to Site 8 (red arrow; upper right). 43

Figure 28. Quad trails crossing stream at Site 15 (L) and Site 8 (R). 44

Figure 29. Quad trail through Rock Run Creek at Site 18 and resulting streambank erosion..... 45

Figure 30. Muddy culvert pool below Site 17 on Whitewood River..... 45

Figure 31. Unauthorized earthen barrier on stream (L) and apparent man-made pool below water crossing on private road (R). 47

Figure 32. Man-made pond adjacent to Cedar Creek (L) and on upper reaches of Pitch Creek (R)..... 47

Figure 33. Rainbow trout rearing ponds near Rock Run Creek (R) and small check dam at outlet of culvert pool at Site 8 on Whitewood Creek. 48

Figure 34. Rock dam at Site 16 on Whitewood Creek. 48

Figure 35. Residential development adjacent to north Cedar Creek (R) and water intake pipe for residence on Pitch Creek (R). 48

Figure 36. Modified pool at Site 2..... 49

Figure 37. Geotextile used at Site 8 (L) and Site 9 (R; red arrow) to prevent erosion. 49

List of Tables

Table 1. Temperature Logger Locations 3

Table 2. Summary of selected mean Biotic Indices of the macroinvertebrate communities from Cedar Creek, Whitewood Creek and Pitch Creek, Ontario, 2009-2010..... 14

Table 3. Physiographic features of three tributary streams of the Whitefish River, Ontario, 2009 & 2010..... 17

Table 4. Total number of individuals by species for streams sampled in 2010. 23

Table 5. Total number of fish by species sampled at 2010 sampling sites on Cedar, Pitch, and Whitewood creeks. 24

Table 6. Total biomass (g) of fish by species sampled at 2010 sampling sites on Cedar, Pitch, and Whitewood creeks. 25

Table 7. Mean total length and live weight for brook trout and rainbow trout sampled at 21 stations on Whitefish River tributaries in 2010. 33

List of Appendices

Appendix 1. Fish community sampling locations on Whitefish River tributaries, 2010..... 58

Appendix 2. Characteristics of sampling locations on Whitefish River tributaries, 2010. 59

Appendix 3. Site measurements and estimates of fish abundance for 25 sampling locations on Whitefish River tributaries, 2010..... 62

Appendix 4. Fish Sampling site photographs..... 64

Appendix 5. OBBN Sampling site photographs..... 92

Appendix 6. Biotic indices: Calculations and descriptions..... 95

Appendix 7. Tolerance Values (Hilsenhoff 1988) used in the calculation of the Hilsenhoff Biotic Index..... 96

Appendix 8. Benthic macroinvertebrates from Cedar Creek (C-9), Thunder Bay, Ontario, 2010.98

Appendix 9. Benthic macroinvertebrates from Whitewood Creek (WW-14), Thunder Bay, Ontario, 2010. 99

Appendix 10. Benthic macroinvertebrates from Pitch Creek (P-6), Thunder Bay, Ontario, 2010. 100

1 Introduction

Cedar (29.5 km), Pitch (31.5 km), and Whitewood (19.1 km) creeks are three tributaries of the Whitefish River whose watersheds encompass O'Connor, Marks, and other townships immediately west of Kakabeka Falls, Ontario (Figure 1). Forestry, agricultural use, and other human activities are widespread in much of their watersheds, and there has been some concern about potential impacts of these land use practices on aquatic ecosystems. For example, LRCA (1998) recorded *E. coli* levels exceeded provincial surface water quality guidelines on two occasions in 1998 on at Cedar Creek, and suggested it was due to runoff from agricultural use of the land upstream (LRCA 1998). Removal of riparian forests has been shown to have adverse impacts on water quality parameters such as water temperature, dissolved oxygen, phosphate, nitrate, and suspended sediments (Binkley and Brown 1993; Feller 1981) As a coldwater species, brook trout is particularly sensitive to disturbances in thermal regime since cool maximum summer water temperatures are crucial to stream resident brook trout populations (Scott and Crossman 1998).

The Thunder Bay District Stewardship Council decided to investigate the impact of land use practices on the water quality of streams within the Whitefish River watershed. Baseline data about aquatic benthic macroinvertebrates obtained during 2009 in three tributaries of Whitefish River —Cedar Creek, Whitewood Creek and Pitch Creek—indicated that these three sites were suitable for inclusion as Reference Condition sites in the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network database (Deacon & Lavoie 2010). Three test sites located closer to the mouths of these three streams and more likely to be impaired were selected for study in 2010 to determine whether benthic macroinvertebrate communities were affected by land use practices.

Benthic macroinvertebrates respond to ecosystem changes faster than other members of the aquatic community and therefore are commonly used as indicator species to assess the health of aquatic ecosystems. Trends and changes in aquatic macroinvertebrate populations and in their community structure can serve as indicators of short-term stresses. EcoSuperior Environmental Programs has been acquiring baseline data about the macroinvertebrate communities in unimpaired streams on the north shore of Lake Superior and investigating the benthic community structure in possibly impaired sites (Deacon & Lavoie 2005; 2007; 2009; 2010 and 2011).

The purpose of this study was to assess the benthic invertebrate and fish communities in these watersheds, and to examine potential impacts on their habitats.

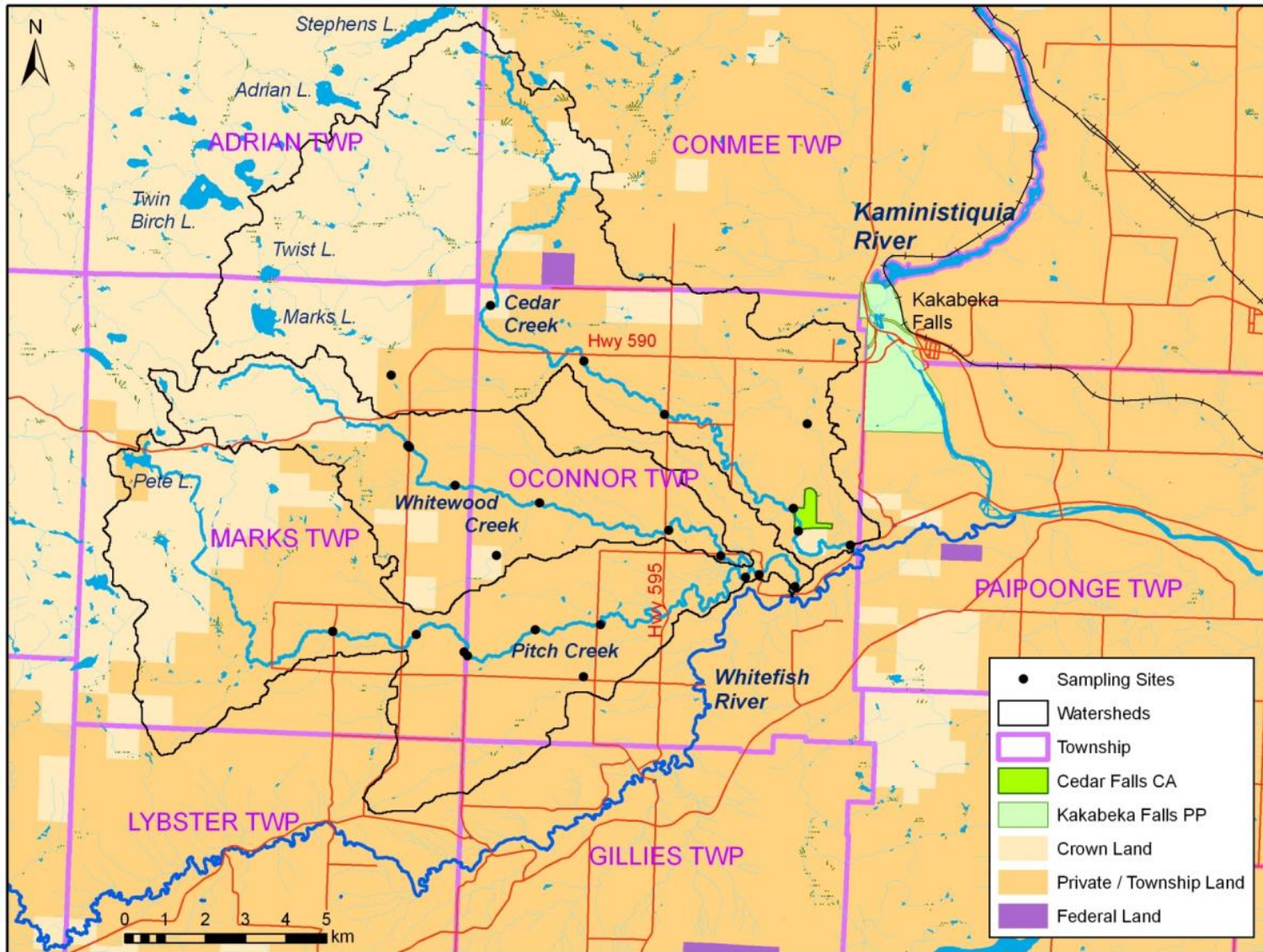


Figure 1. General location and land tenure of Whitefish tributaries 2010 study area.

2 Methods

Fieldwork was conducted July 15 to November 1, 2010. A reconnaissance flight was conducted by R. Foster, B. Raticliff, and D. Viebeck (OMNR) on July 29, 2010 to assess potential sampling locations, access, and adjacent land use practices.

2.1 Site Selection

Site selection and field methods generally followed the Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol (OSAP)(Stanfield 2002, 2005) and the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network protocol (Jones et al. 2005). A total of 25 stations were sampled (Appendix 1, Figure 2). Sample site selection was primarily based on:

- potential impacts from land use practices,
- position in watershed,
- barriers to fish passage,
- access,
- land tenure,
- previous OBBN sampling sites, and
- 1998 and 2010 LRCA water quality sampling sites.

2.2 Water Temperature

A water temperature logger (HOBO Pendant Temperature Light data logger UA-002-08) was installed at one location in each stream (Figure 3, Table 1) on July 15 and removed November 1. Loggers were attached to a brick in at least 30 cm of water, and recorded water temperature hourly approximately 15 cm off the stream bottom. The logger at Whitewood Creek malfunctioned so no data are available for that location. Water temperatures were also taken during fish sampling using a hand-held thermometer.

Table 1. Temperature Logger Locations

Logger	Stream	Easting	Northing
1	Whitewood	293595	5361879
2	Pitch	291732	5357277
3	Cedar	302152	5360328

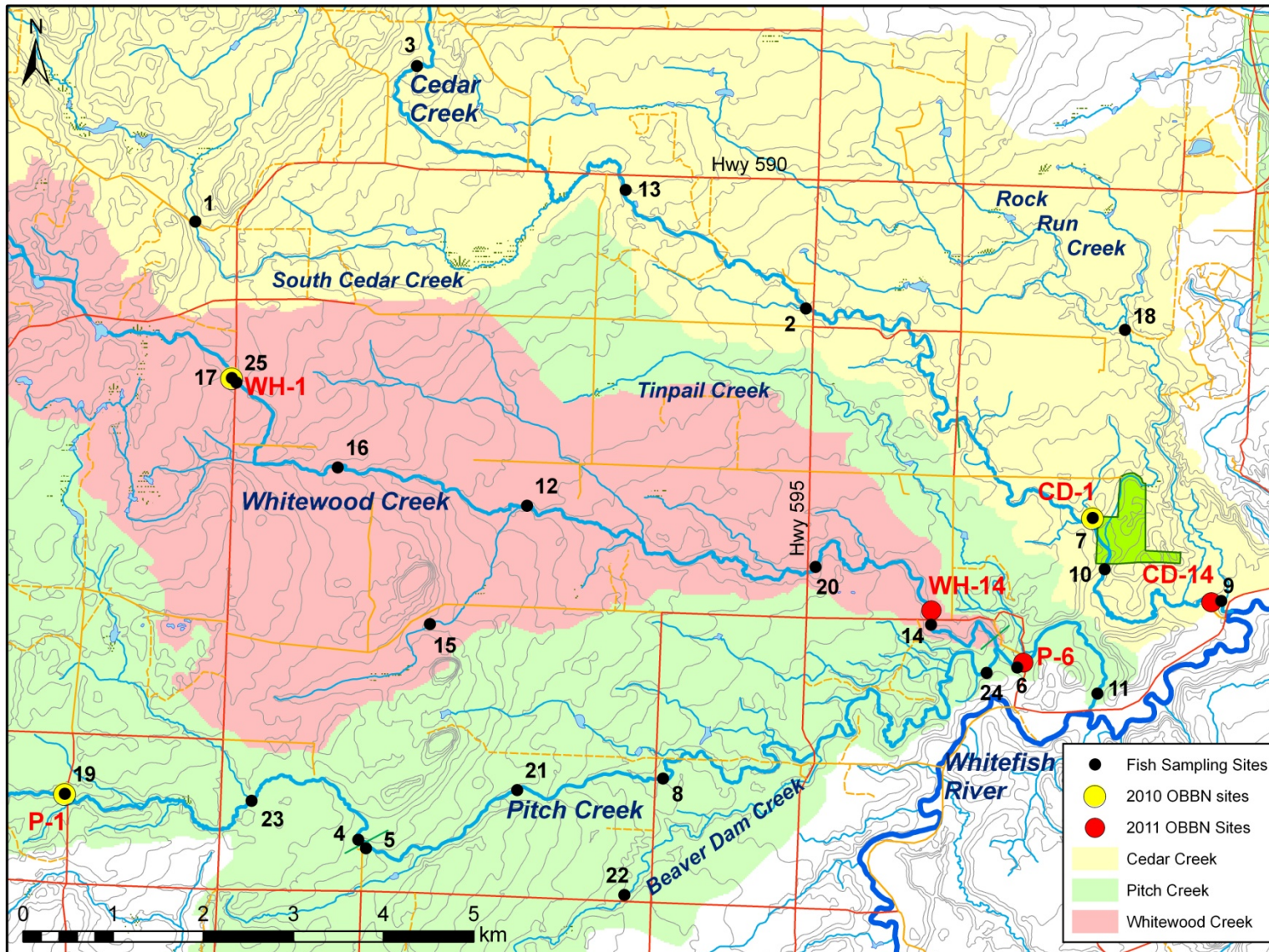


Figure 2. Location of 2009 and 2010 OBBN (red labels) and 2010 fish sampling sites in the Cedar, Pitch, and Whitewood Creek watersheds.



Figure 3. Water temperature logger (arrow) on Cedar Creek at Site 6 (L) and Pitch Creek at Site 19 (R).

2.3 Electrofishing

Fish community and fish habitat assessment was conducted from July 24, 2010 until October 5, 2010 under Licence to Collect Fish for Scientific Purpose No. 1058478.

Standard single pass electrofishing protocol for fish community sampling from the Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol (OSAP)(Stanfield 2002, 2005) was used. Single pass electrofishing is a more efficient use of sampling effort for fish community surveys than multi-pass surveys (Temple and Pearsons 2002; Reid et al. 2009). Electrofishing was conducted using a 2-person crew and a Smith-Root LR-24 backpack electrofisher and was consistent with OMNR (2002) in terms of safety guidelines. The Quick Setup function on the LR-24 was used to determine initial electrofisher settings: this function selects a voltage level necessary to achieve 25 watts average power output through the water between electrodes. Typical initial settings were 25% duty cycle, 4.2 m/s pulse width, 400 V and 60Hz. Voltage settings and frequency settings were adjusted as necessary (depending on the conductivity of the site) to achieve levels necessary for fish capture. At turbid sites e.g., Rock Run Creek, shocking was initially set at 200 V. At each site, at least one riffle-pool-riffle sequence was sampled; in some cases, additional pools and riffles were electrofished if the original sequence was fairly short (e.g., <600 sec).

Blocking (barrier) nets (1/4" mesh) were typically used at upstream and downstream of the sampling reach. A single pass of at least 1000 shocking seconds was used at each sampling site. All shocked fish were placed in streamside buckets with fresh water until they recovered and were processed after the completion of the electrofishing run. Water velocity was measured with a GlobalWater Flow Probe.



Figure 4. Downstream barrier net at Site 6 and electrofishing.

2.4 Data Collection and Analysis

Species were usually determined in the field and fish live-released on site. Where necessary, voucher specimens were retained to confirm identification in the lab using Holm et al. (2008), Scott and Crossman (1998), Stewart and Watkinson (2004) and Lagler et al. (2004). Total length (mm) and weight (g) were recorded individually for all salmonids, and for most adult fish of other species. Weights were recorded using an Ohaus Scout Pro scale (Figure 5) and rounded to the nearest 0.1 g. Where numbers were too great for individual measurements, particularly for young-of-the-year (YOY) cyprinids, total counts and batch sampling were used for weights. This allowed rapid sampling and return of fish to the stream without undue mortality, while permitting biomass estimates. Where necessary, missing weights were estimated from length data using the length-weight relationship derived from linear regression of LON-transformed total lengths and weights for that species.

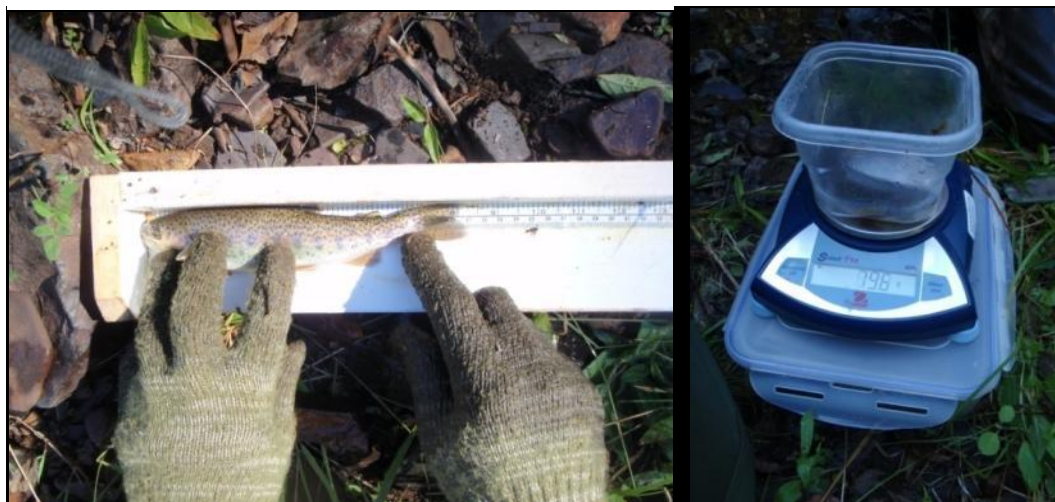


Figure 5. Measuring length (L) and weight (R).

2.5 Habitat Survey

Habitat variables at each fish sampling station were collected according to OBBN methodology, with some additional variables collected following the OSAP. For each pool and riffle sampled, the mean length, width, and water depth were also measured to provide a rough value for the areal extent and volume of potential habitat electrofished. It is recognized that these are rough estimates that depend on discharge at the time of sampling, but provide a value for comparison with other published studies.

Results of the habitat survey are presented in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3. Representative photographs of each sample site are in Appendix 4.

2.6 OBBN Sampling

The aquatic benthic macroinvertebrate communities were sampled at three potentially impacted sites on Cedar Creek, Whitewood Creek and Pitch Creek during October 2010 according to OBBN protocols (Jones *et al.*, 2005), using a traveling kick-and-sweep with a 500-micron D-net. These three sites were adjacent to Sites 6, 9, 14 sampled for fisheries (Figure 2). Three sub-samples were collected at each of the sites and each sub-sample was preserved in the field in 96% ethanol, then the sub-samples were sorted in the laboratory. A minimum of 100 benthic macroinvertebrates were randomly picked from each of the sub-samples using a Nikon SMZ1500 at 10X magnification. The macroinvertebrates were identified using taxonomic keys by Clarke (1981), Peckarsky *et al.* (1990), Merritt *et al.* (2008), and Wiggins (1996). Most organisms were identified to Order or Family level to facilitate the determination of various biotic indices. Orders such as Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Trichoptera are particularly sensitive to impaired water quality, and were therefore identified to the Genus level when possible.

The aquatic benthic macroinvertebrate community was assessed according to the 27-taxa Reference Condition Approach (RCA) as outlined in the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network Protocol Manual (Jones *et al.* 2005). The OBBN is a partnership led by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Environment Canada's Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN). The 27-Taxa include: Amphipoda, Anisoptera, Bivalvia, Ceratopogonidae, Chironomidae, Coelenterata, Coleoptera, Culicidae, Decapoda, Ephemeroptera, Gastropoda, Hemiptera, Hirudinea, Isopoda, Lepidoptera, Megaloptera, Miscellaneous Diptera, Nematoda, Oligochaeta, Plecoptera, Simuliidae, Tabanidae, Tipulidae, Trichoptera, Trombidiformes, Turbellaria, and Zygoptera. The biotic indices used to characterize the benthic communities include: Total Abundance, Richness, Dipteran Richness, Insect Richness, Simpson's Index, Shannon's Diversity Index, Hilsenhoff Biotic Index (HBI), % Dominants, % Ephemeroptera Odonata Trichoptera (EOT), % Ephemeroptera Plecoptera Trichoptera (EPT), % Chironomids, %

Crustacea, % Dipterans, % Gastropods, % Mollusca, % Non-Dipteran Insects, % Odonates, % Pelecypods, and % Oligochaetes (Worms).

The OBBN biotic indices (Appendix 6)(Jones et al., 2005) used to analyse the 27-taxa identified from the candidate sites provide an insight into present and past conditions experienced by the aquatic macroinvertebrate communities. Some of the biotic indices (high % Worms, high % Chironomids) are useful for identifying sites that are heavily impacted by nutrient enrichment. Extreme enrichment will cause premature eutrophication resulting in low dissolved oxygen in the water, with consequent degradation of the habitat. Both worms and chironomids are tolerant of low-oxygen concentrations and become the dominant organisms in eutrophic ecosystems. Chironomids are also highly tolerant of toxic chemicals; therefore, they can survive and become dominant in conditions that kill other organisms, including worms. Other biotic indices (high % EPT, low Hilsenhoff Biotic Index) help to confirm high water quality at the site. Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera and Trichoptera (EPT) are intolerant of toxins and require oxygen concentrations that are close to saturation. The Hilsenhoff Biotic Index (HBI) (Hilsenhoff 1988) is calculated using tolerance values assigned to the various macroinvertebrate taxa (Appendix 7). EPT have low HBI values, whereas worms and chironomids have high HBI values. HBI values above 6.0 are considered indicative of an impaired system, usually because of organic enrichment which can cause eutrophication. Each biotic index provides a separate insight into the quality of the habitat. The combination of several indices makes it possible to evaluate the relative, long-term health of the site. However, not all biotic indices are necessary to determine whether a site is impaired, or whether it should be considered a suitable reference condition site.

The selected biotic indices used to evaluate the sites were: Richness, Shannon's H' Diversity, Hilsenhoff Biotic Index, % Dominant, % EPT, % Chironomids, and % Worms. These biotic indices were compared with data from streams on the north shore of Lake Superior (Deacon & Lavoie, 2005; 2008; 2009; 2010 and 2011) to determine whether the values obtained for Cedar Creek, Whitewood Creek and Pitch Creek were high or low in relation to regional reference condition sites. General physiographic features (Table 3) combined with Biotic Indices (Appendix 6) provided sufficient means to evaluate whether the three test sites were impaired.

3 Study Area

3.1 Geology / Substrate

Most of the watersheds of the Cedar, Pitch, and Whitewood creeks is covered by morainal deposits, accounting for 59% overall (Figure 8). The vast majority (83%) of the Whitewood Creek watershed is underlain by silty or clayey till deposits of morainal origin. In contrast, only 48% of the Pitch Creek watershed is morainal deposits, and it has more finer-textured glaciolacustrine deposits in its lower reaches as well as further upstream (Figure 7). More than half (58%) of the Cedar Creek watershed is morainal deposits, but 15% of the watershed is coarse-grained sands and gravels of glaciofluvial deltaic deposits, particularly in the upper half of its watershed. The lower reaches of Cedar (3.1 km), Pitch (10.6 km), and Whitewood (1.0 km) creeks flow through silty glaciolacustrine delta or alluvial deposits (Figure 7). These largely correspond to Jarvis River soils that are characterized by calcareous reddish clay loam, clay or silty clay and varved lacustrine, and Nolalu soils that are non-calcareous fine sandy loam stony glacial till derived from shale (LRR1 1981). There are patches of bedrock and organic deposits in all watersheds, but alluvial deposits are restricted to the lowest reaches near the Whitefish River.

On a finer scale, there is considerable variation in dominant substrate type among and within sampling sites depending on stream gradient and energy. Coarser materials i.e., cobble and boulders are found in riffle sections where silts and clays remain in suspension (Figure 6). Finer sediments settle out in the deposition zones of pools and on inside point bars. Finer sediments were also found immediately below culverts and bridges, presumably from road-associated effects (e.g. gravel). Silts and clays were more abundant in the lower reaches of all three streams where they have cut through deep, fine-textured glaciolacustrine delta sediments, often leaving steep, slumping banks (Figure 6R). The predominant substrate in many pools in the upper reaches of all three tributaries were typically sands and gravels rather than silts and clays, and consequently less turbid.



Figure 6. Boulder and cobble riffle at Site 14 on Whitewood Creek (L) and corner pool with steep silty-clay bank at Site 6 on Pitch Creek (R).

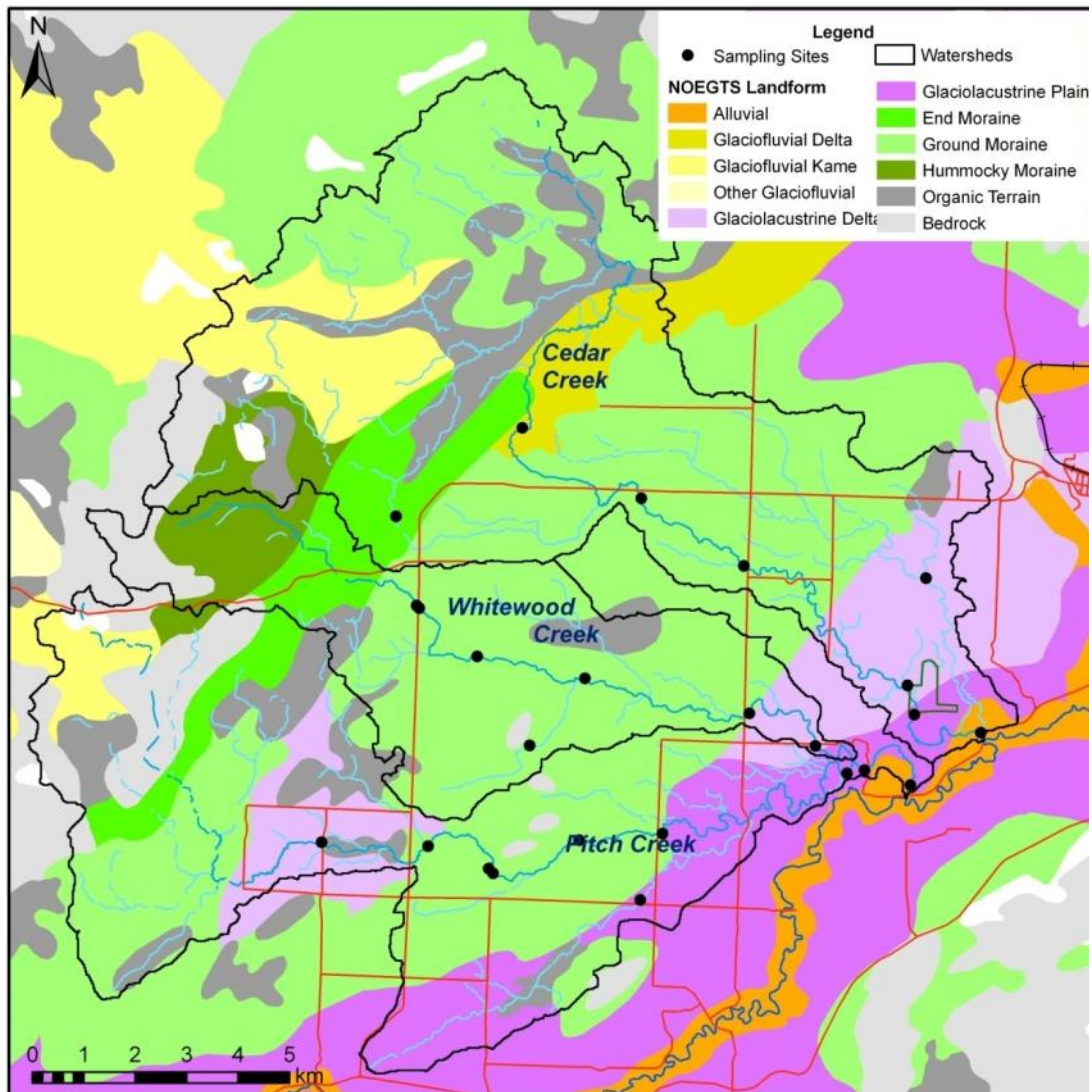


Figure 7. Surficial geology of study area based on NOEGTS (Mollard and Mollard 1980).

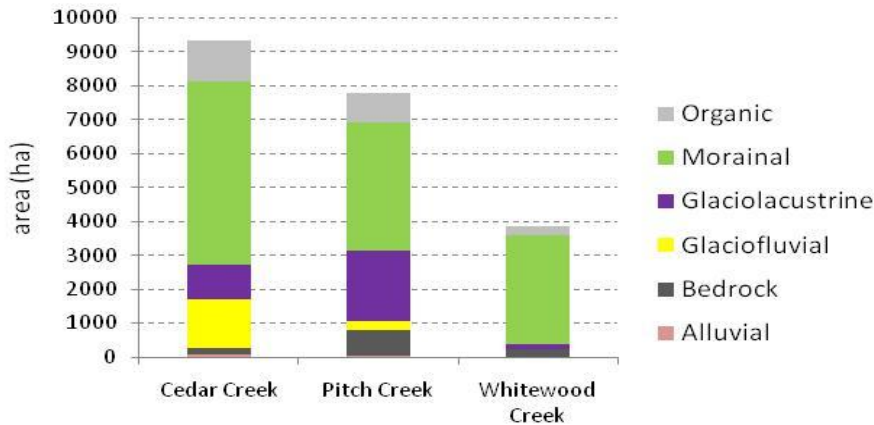


Figure 8. Area of landform types within each watershed of three Whitefish Creek tributaries.

3.2 Water Temperature

Hourly water temperatures on Cedar and Pitch creeks (no data available for Whitewood Cr.) showed very similar patterns of variation from July 15 through November 1, 2010 (Figure 9). Maximum water temperature of 26.6° C was recorded at Cedar Creek (August 3) and 24.5° C at Pitch Creek (August 3, 9, 31). Water temperature fluctuated approximately 5°C between daytime highs and night-time lows during the warmer months. Cedar Creek site showed the greatest diel fluctuation, probably because the logger was in an exposed site rather than a heavily shaded site as at Pitch Creek.

After a relatively warm August with water temperatures well above 15°C in Pitch and Cedar, water temperature dropped dramatically in September in response to cooling air temperatures. Conditions in the Thunder Bay, and likely the study area, were warmer and drier in early 2010 than average. Mean daily air temperature in Thunder Bay Airport (WeatherStats 2011) was 19.7° C in July 2010 vs. 17.6° C for the long-term average, and was 2.4°C warmer than average in August (19.0° C vs. 16.6° C). Precipitation at the Thunder Bay Airport was much lower in spring and summer 2010 than normal, with only 265 mm of precipitation from March through August compared to 412 mm for the long-term average (Environment Canada 2011). Precipitation in the fall was slightly higher than average in 2010 however, and mean air temperatures returned to normal as well in September (10.7° C vs. 11.0° C). As a result, water levels in the streams were generally lower than expected during August sampling.

Picard (1995) found that in 1993 the mean and maximum summer water temperatures in Cedar Creek were 17.3°C and 22° C respectively, with Pitch Creek slightly warmer (mean 18.8° and max of 23°C). Barton et al. (1994) considered streams with maximum summer temperature greater than 22°C as marginal brook trout habitat, although 24°C has been used as the upper limit by others (Meisner 1990). Maximum temperatures on both the Pitch and Cedar creeks

exceeded this value in 2010: however, brook trout were abundant at both logger locations. Picard (1995) considered streams in the Pitch, Cedar and other streams in the southwestern portion of his study area to have marginal thermal conditions for brook trout. Brook trout in these streams may rely on localized groundwater discharge points for coolwater refugia when streams become too warm (Picard 1995), as has been suggested for other systems (e.g. Gibson 1966; Nelsen et al. 1994). Groundwater discharge is related to surficial geology, and groundwater inputs are more likely in deep, coarse morainal or glaciofluvial deposits than the fine glaciolacustrine delta deposits found in the lower reaches of Cedar, Pitch, and Whitewood creeks.

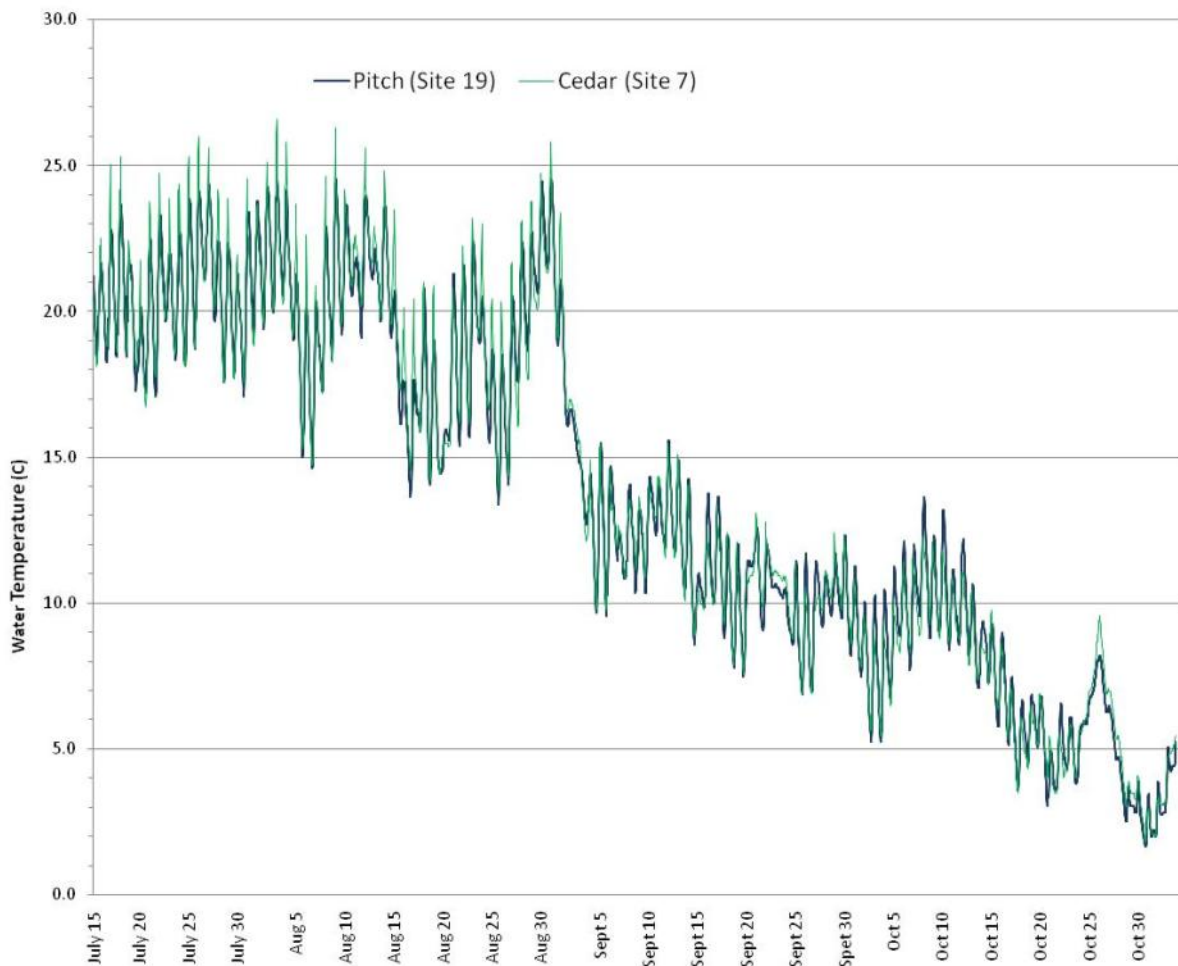


Figure 9. Hourly water temperature at Pitch and Cedar creeks, July 15 to November 1, 2010.

3.3 Aquatic Vegetation

The high gradient, rocky, substrate, and scouring effect of spring flows limits the growth of aquatic plants throughout much of the sampled portions of the watershed. Aquatic plants

were sparse in sites in the three streams, and were limited to small patches in slow, sheltered portions of pools with soft sediments (e.g., clay or silt), although they are likely more abundant in established beaver pond environments in the watersheds that were not sampled. Dominant Pondweeds (*Potamogeton cf. pusillis*, *P. alba*) and water starwort (*Callitriche hermaphroditica*) were the most common submergents. Emergents included manna grass (*Glyceria grandis*), water plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*), and arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*) (Figure 10).

The aquatic moss, *Fontinalis novae-angliae* was abundant at several sites (e.g., Site 3,4,7) (Figure 10). Higher algae abundance was observed in pools downstream of water crossings, due to increased sunlight along the road corridor, and potential input of nutrients from roadside ditches. Effects appear to be minor and local however. Crustose algae was also abundant at Site 6 on Cedar Creek, and filamentous algae was also abundant at Site 5 where the cascading steps have a southern exposure promoting growth (Figure 11).



Figure 10. Submergents at Site 12 on Whitewood Creek (L) and aquatic moss on bedrock (L) at Site 4 on Pitch Creek.



Figure 11. Algae on cobble at Site 6 on Cedar Creek and (L) filamentous algae at Site 5 on Pitch Creek (R; mechanical pencil for scale).

4 Benthic Invertebrates

The Cedar Creek site (CD-9) had a high Richness (10.3) and Shannon's H' Diversity (1.81) (Table 2). The Hilsenhoff Biotic Index (5.54) was moderate. The % Dominants (34.0) was moderately low. The % Chironomids (21.8) was low. The % EPT (46.5) was moderate and the % Worms (18.8) was high. The high % Worms possibly indicates a community from a nutrient-rich habitat which supports an abundance of algae. The substrate at Cedar Creek was dominated by boulders, cobble and leaf packs (Table 3) which provide a somewhat stable substrate for a rich algal community. Worms thrive in an algal-rich habitat. Worms can also dominate a community when anaerobic conditions occur which differentially kill organisms with a high oxygen demand. The permanent nature of the flow at CD-9 and the high oxygen concentration recorded on 21 October (12.4 ppm) (Table 3) indicate anaerobic conditions are extremely unlikely in Cedar Creek. Worms are abundant at CD-9 probably because the algal-rich habitat is ideal for them. If toxins such as pesticides had entered the system, the worms would have been less abundant because of their sensitivity to toxic substances. The moderate HBI and the moderate % EPT indicate that site CD-9 was unimpaired at the time of sampling and should be included in the OBBN Reference Condition database, although it probably warrants reassessment because this site potentially is becoming impaired.

Table 2. Summary of selected mean Biotic Indices of the macroinvertebrate communities from Cedar Creek, Whitewood Creek and Pitch Creek, Ontario, 2009-2010.

Table 4. Summary of selected mean Biotic Indices of the macroinvertebrate communities from Pitch Creek, Whitewood Creek and Cedar Creek, Ontario, 2009-2010.

Site Name	Site Code	Sampling Date	Richness	H' Diversity	Hilsenhoff's Biotic Index	% EPT	% Chironomids	% Worms	% Dominants
Cedar Creek	CD-1	19-Oct-09	8.7	1.57	5.38	61.7	23.5	8.3	43.5
	C-9	21-Oct-10	10.3	1.81	5.54	46.5	21.8	18.8	34.0
Whitewood Creek	WH-1	29-Sep-09	8.7	1.77	5.22	57.2	19.9	14.5	30.1
	WH-14	12-Oct-10	10.3	1.76	6.15	32.9	19.7	31.8	35.1
Pitch Creek	P-1	06-Oct-09	11.0	1.59	5.10	71.5	13.8	4.8	46.8
	P-6	17-Oct-10	9.7	1.48	6.37	21.8	50.1	18.3	50.1

The Whitewood Creek site (WH-14) had a high Richness (10.3) and Shannon's H' Diversity (1.76) (Table 2). The Hilsenhoff Biotic Index (6.15) was also high. The % Dominants (35.1) was moderately low. The % Chironomids (19.7) and the % EPT (32.9) were moderately low. The % Worms (31.8) was very high. The substrate at Whitewood Creek was dominated by boulders and cobble (Table 3) which support an algal community of slimes and crusts, as seen at Cedar Creek. Worms were abundant probably because of the presence of the algae. The high HBI and the moderately low % EPT indicate a possibly impaired community. Site WH-14 warrants reassessment.

The Pitch Creek site (P-6) had a moderate Richness (9.7) and Shannon's H' Diversity (1.48) (Table 2). The Hilsenhoff Biotic Index (6.37) was high and the % Dominants (50.1) was moderate. The % Chironomids (50.1) was moderate. The % EPT (21.8) was moderately low, whereas the % Worms (18.3) was high. The high HBI and the moderately low % EPT indicate an impaired community. Site P-6 warrants reassessment.

The upper reaches of Cedar Creek (CD-1), Whitewood Creek (WH-1) and Pitch Creek (P-1) (Fig. 1) were sampled during 2009. At that time, the sites were considered unimpaired and therefore recommended for inclusion in the OBBN Reference Condition site database (Deacon & Lavoie 2010). All three sites contained benthic macroinvertebrate communities with moderately low to moderate HBI values, and high to very high % EPT values which indicated high water quality (Deacon & Lavoie 2010). The three sites (CD-9, WH-14 & P-6) in the lower reaches of these creeks that were sampled during 2010 all contained macroinvertebrate communities that differed substantially from those communities found during 2009 at CD-1, WH-1 and P-1. The lower reach sites all had higher HBI and lower % EPT values than the upper reach sites. The % Chironomids remained similar in the Cedar and Whitewood sites; however, the value increased from 13.8% at P-1 to 50.1% at P-6. The % Worms was higher by more than a factor of two at all the lower reach sites of these creeks. Substrate was similar between the upper and lower reach sites, therefore, the change in the macroinvertebrate communities is possibly related to nutrient input and associated algal changes.

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment

Table 3. Physiographic features of three tributary streams of the Whitefish River, Ontario, 2009 & 2010.

Site Name	Site Code	Category	Hydraulic Head (mm)	Dissolved Oxygen (ppm)	Substrate	Overhead Cover	Algae	Woody Debris	Detritus
2009									
Cedar Creek (#7)*	CD-1-1	Pool	35	12.5	boulder, cobble	0-24	filaments/attached/slimes/crusts	present	present
	CD-1-2	Riffle	15		gravel, silt		slimes/crusts	abundant	present
	CD-1-3	Riffle	23		boulder, cobble		slimes/crusts	abundant	present
Whitewood Creek (#17)*	WH-1-1	Riffle	25	8.9	cobble, sand	75-100	slimes/crusts	present	abundant
	WH-1-2	Pool	4		sand, gravel		absent	present	abundant
	WH-1-3	Riffle	13		gravel, boulder		slimes/crusts	present	abundant
Pitch Creek (#19)*	P-1-1	Riffle	27	9.6	cobble, sand	50-74	absent	abundant	abundant
	P-1-2	Pool	7		cobble, boulder		absent	present	abundant
	P-1-3	Riffle	20		cobble, boulder		absent	present	abundant
2010									
Cedar Creek (9)*	CD-9-1	Pool	10	12.4	gravel, sand	50-74	slimes/crusts	absent	abundant
	CD-9-2	Riffle	15		gravel, sand		slimes/crusts	absent	present
	CD-9-3	Riffle	90		cobble, gravel		slimes/crusts	present	abundant
Whitewood Creek (14)*	WH-14-1	Riffle	15	12.4	cobble, gravel	0-24	attached/slimes/crusts	absent	present
	WH-14-2	Pool	5		gravel, silt		slimes/crusts	present	abundant
	WH-14-3	Riffle	20		boulder, cobble		attached/slimes/crusts	absent	present
Pitch Creek (6)*	P-6-1	Riffle	7	11.7	boulder, cobble	0-24	attached/slimes/crusts	present	present
	P-6-2	Pool	1		boulder, gravel		attached/slimes/crusts	present	abundant
	P-6-3	Riffle	20		boulder, cobble		attached/slimes/crusts	present	abundant

*refers to site #s used for fisheries sampling

5 Fish Community

5.1 Species Diversity

A total of 18 species of fish were observed during 2010 sampling on the Cedar, Pitch, and Whitewood creeks (Table 4). An additional 13 species were recorded during previous sampling (2000, 2003, 2003, 2009, 2010) conducted by the Sea Lamprey Control Centre at 18 sites in the three watershed (DFO unpublished data), although one of these, spotfin shiner (*Cyprinella spiloptera*), is not known from Thunder Bay area or northern Ontario (Hartviksen and Momot 1987; Holm et al. 2009). In addition, native lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon* spp.) were historically recorded from Pitch Creek (e.g., 1960 pre-treatment surveys, DFO unpublished data), but it is not clear if they were northern brook lamprey (*I. fossor*) and/or silver lamprey (*I. unicuspis*). Of the approximately 32 species recorded for the three tributaries, the greatest species diversity (25 species) was observed in the lower reach of the Pitch Creek below its confluence with the Whitewood. Several species i.e., burbot, logperch, spottail shiner, and trout-perch, have only been recorded in the lower reach of Pitch/Whitewood, but this may reflect their low abundance rather than actual distribution. The fewest species (17) were recorded in Whitewood Creek. Cyprinids (minnows) were the most diverse group, with 14 species found in the three tributaries.

The sites with the most diverse fish communities in 2010 (8-10 species) were found on the lower reaches of Pitch Creek (Sites, 6, 8, 11, 24) and at Site 12 on Whitewood Creek (Table 5; see Figure 2 for location of sites). Based on DFO sampling additional species are also likely present, at least in some other seasons or years. Only one species, brook trout, was sampled at Site 17 and 25, two adjacent sites on the upper reach of Whitewood Creek, and several other sites on Cedar Creek or Pitch Creek had only brook trout with one other species (e.g., blacknose dace or sculpins).

5.1.1 Connectivity

There are two significant barriers to upstream fish passage, Cedar Falls on the Cedar Creek and an unnamed falls on Pitch Creek. No falls were identified on Whitewood Creek within the study area. No rainbow trout were observed above Cedar Falls suggesting it was a barrier during flow conditions experienced in at least last three years, assuming a maximum residence time of three years for smolts (Jon George pers. comm.) Chinook salmon have been recorded from Cedar Creek (DFO unpublished data), but it is not known if any were observed above Cedar Falls. They are capable leapers, and could likely jump the drop of approximately 1-2 m given the deep plunge (1 m) pool below the falls. The barrier on Pitch Creek is an approximately 3 m drop of cascading steps and ledges. It would be difficult for even jumping species to navigate

upstream, although some brook trout were found in shallow pools on lower ledges (possibly from downstream movement).

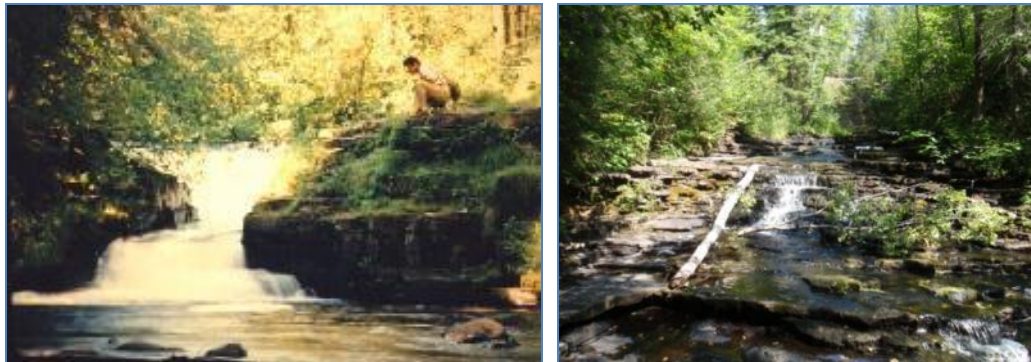


Figure 12. Falls at Cedar Creek (L, LRCA photo) and Pitch Creek (R).

All three tributaries cross numerous roads from their headwaters to their confluence with the Whitefish River, but most are bridges or box culverts that have natural bottoms (Figure 13). The large-diameter culverts on these tributaries probably do not pose a barrier to upstream movement to fish, although they could potentially represent a velocity barrier for some species at high flows. Numerous beaver dams may hinder upstream and downstream passage of fish, but are natural features of these watersheds. Sea Lamprey Control Centre personnel routinely break up numerous beaver dams on Pitch Creek when conducting lampricide treatments every 3-4 four years to increase flow and reduce the wetted area during treatment.

Ponds and lakes farther upstream may serve as source of fish recruitment in the respective watersheds. For example, the 20 ha Pete Lake at the headwaters of Pitch Creek may have been the source of the juvenile white sucker (180 mm TL) sampled at Site 19. It is unlikely that white suckers could have moved past the barrier given the low flow conditions in the spring of 2010.



Figure 13. Box culvert on Cedar Cr. at Hwy 590 (L) and bridge over Whitewood Cr. at Smith Road (R).



Figure 14 double culvert on Whitewood Creek at Hwy 590 (L) and Beaver dam on Rock Run Creek above Site 18 (R).

5.2 Abundance

The numbers of individuals and biomass sampled at each site by species in 2010 are presented in Table 5 and Table 6. Of the 1882 fish sampled, approximately 39% were cyprinids (Minnow Family) and 35% were salmonids (Trout Family). Overall, the most common species was brook trout (397), followed by longnose dace (255), rainbow trout (252), and creek chub (247). Trout accounted for approximately 75% of the total fish biomass, with brook trout representing 58.1% and rainbow trout 17.4%. Although creek chub and longnose dace each accounted for approximately 15% of the individuals, they each represented only 5% of the biomass due to their small size. White suckers, although not common (1.4% of individuals), represented 3.4% of the biomass, since they tended to be fairly large individuals relative to other species.



Figure 15. Adult brook trout (L) and rainbow trout (R).

The number of fish per sampling location ranged from 29 to 189 individuals (Table 5), with a mean of 75 and a median of 65. There were few clear patterns in total abundance or biomass of all species combined based on watershed position (Figure 16). The highest numbers of fish were found at the Sites 1 and 3 farthest upstream on Cedar and South Cedar creeks where there were abundant brook trout, brook stickleback, longnose dace and sculpins, and near the mouths of Pitch and Cedar creeks where there were numerous rainbow trout, creek chub, and

longnose dace. Numbers and biomass of fish in the middle reaches of all three tributaries was variable. Biomass was most closely related to trout abundance due to the typically greater size of brook and rainbow trout compared to cyprinids and other species.

Total abundance and biomass were also converted to density estimates based on length of sampled reach (km), area sampled (ha), and volume of water sampled (m^3), to account for differences in electrofishing effort and size of sample sites. These three density metrics were correlated and showed a slightly different pattern (Figure 17) than uncorrected total abundance or biomass, both for all species combined or for brook trout separately. For example, Site 25 had the highest abundance and biomass of brook trout and all species combined when converted into a density value with respect to sampled length, area, or volume (Appendix 3; Figure 17), despite having the lowest total uncorrected fish abundance. Site 25 was atypical in that it consisted of only a small ($40 m^2$) pool and no associated riffles, brook trout was the only species present, and the pool was electrofished for only 235 seconds (mean of all sites was 1147 sec). Although a small habitat patch, it obviously was preferred habitat, perhaps due to the greater mean depth (50 cm) and volume of the pool compared to Site 17 upstream (mean depth 20 cm) (Appendix 3). Site 22 on Beaver Dam Creek is a similar but more extreme example: despite average total abundance and biomass, the creek had a high density of fish since most were concentrated into one pool of this intermittent stream.

Of particular note is that biomass densities were comparatively low in the lower reaches of Pitch and Cedar creeks since the volume sampled at these sites was greater than elsewhere, and sites higher in the three watersheds (e.g., Sites 3, 4, 5, 16, 17) had higher biomass per stream volume sampled. Estimates of brook trout abundance and biomass in 2010 (Appendix 3) were broadly comparable to those found by Picard (1995) for 60 m-long reaches on Pitch and Cedar creeks (exact location unknown) sampled with 3-pass depletion/removal electrofishing in 1993. For example, Picard's estimates of 89 and 390 brook trout/km respectively for Cedar Creek and Pitch Creek fall within the ranges observed in 2010 i.e., 0 to 1075 BT/km for Cedar Creek (mean 325) and 16 to 667 BT/km for Pitch Creek (mean 170). His estimates for Pitch Creek were amongst the highest within 30 streams sampled in the Thunder Bay area in 1993-1994, which he suggested might be related to higher alkalinity of surface waters since Pitch Creek (and Cedar), is underlain by the limestone-rich Animikie bedrock formation.

In terms of brook trout biomass, 2010 estimates were approximately 10-40 kg/ha for upstream reaches on Cedar, Whitewood, and Pitch creeks where rainbow trout were absent but much lower where rainbow trout co-occurred. These values are broadly comparable to those observed by Picard (1995) for 30 Thunder Bay streams (mean 24.6 kg/ha) and are similar to those recorded for some streams in Quebec (12-53 kg/ha; O'Connor and Power 1976) and

Minnesota (35 kg/ha; Waters et al. 1990). This suggests that although upstream reaches of these streams have relatively healthy populations, lower reaches are marginal for brook trout, due to habitat, thermal regime, competitive interactions with rainbow trout, or other factors. The warmest water temperatures recorded during sampling was 21°C (at 10:30 am on August 31) on Cedar Creek at Site 9 near its mouth and also 3.4 km upstream at Site 7. There was no difference in water temperature between Sites 19 and 11 on Pitch Creek on the morning of Sept 6 (despite the 11.3 km separating them) nor between Sites 19 and 8 on the afternoon of August 30. These observations indicate that there is no significant warming of stream temperatures in the lower portion of these creeks (at least in late summer / early fall), due to habitat changes such as overstory cover.

Brook trout were more abundant higher in the three watersheds and generally decreased towards their confluence with the Whitefish River, with rainbow trout showing a different trend. No brook trout were found in the lower portion of Cedar Creek itself, but a small (67 mm TL) brook trout was electrofished (160 sec), in a small side tributary as well as brook stickleback, central mudminnow, and several creek chub. Water temperature was the same (21°C) as the main stream, and this lone brook trout likely dispersed from upstream. Rainbow trout were not found above the falls on Pitch Creek or Cedar Creek. Rainbow trout were abundant at Site 16 on the Whitewood Creek, 16.4 km upstream from the confluence with the Whitefish River, but were absent from Site 17 only 2.1 km further upstream. There is a beaver dam between Site 16 and 17 which could potentially pose a barrier to upstream fish passage however.

The abundance of brook trout at Site 7 above Cedar Falls, 3.5 km from the Whitefish River, and the pattern of declining abundance/biomass where brook trout overlap with rainbow trout (and potentially salmon), suggest that interspecific competition may play a role in determining distribution and abundance on these tributaries. Brook trout may be at a competitive disadvantage with rainbow trout, although water temperature and preference for pool vs. riffle habitats appear to influence this interaction (e.g. Fausch 1988; Hearn 1987). Cedar, Pitch, and Whitewood creeks may be thermally marginal for brook trout and may depend on localized groundwater inputs for thermal refugia in the peak of the summer. These groundwater inputs are less likely in the lowest reaches of these creeks where they cut through fine glaciolacustrine silts and clays.

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment

Table 4. Total number of individuals by species for streams sampled in 2010. "X" indicates species observed by DFO in previous sampling but not seen in 2010 (unpublished data).

Family	Common Name	Scientific Name	Cedar	Pitch	Whitewood	Pitch / Whitewood	Grand Total
Catostomidae	White Sucker	<i>Catostomus commersonii</i>	9	10	5	3	27
Centrarchidae	Rock Bass	<i>Amploplites rupestris</i>	X				
Centrarchidae	Smallmouth Bass	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>		2		16	18
Cottidae	Mottled Sculpin	<i>Cottus bairdii</i>	X	X		X	
Cottidae	Sculpin sp.	<i>Cottus</i> sp.	30	4			34
Cottidae	Slimy Sculpin	<i>Cottus cognatus</i>	80	25		18	123
Cyprinidae	Blacknose Dace	<i>Rhinichthys atratulus</i>	37	17	74	10	138
Cyprinidae	Blacknose Shiner*	<i>Notropis heterolepis</i>	X				
Cyprinidae	Bluntnose Minnow	<i>Pimephales notatus</i>	X			X	
Cyprinidae	Brassy Minnow	<i>Hybognathus hankinsoni</i>	X			X	
Cyprinidae	Common Shiner	<i>Luxilus cornutus</i>	X	2	8	X	10
Cyprinidae	Creek Chub	<i>Semotilus atromaculatus</i>	49	58	78	62	247
Cyprinidae	Cyprinid sp.		27	16	57	10	110
Cyprinidae	Emerald Shiner	<i>Notropis atheroides</i>		X	11	X	11
Cyprinidae	Fathead Minnow	<i>Pimephales promelas</i>	5	2		X	7
Cyprinidae	Finescale Dace	<i>Chrosomus neogaeus</i>	15	5	3	X	23
Cyprinidae	Lake Chub	<i>Couesius plumbeus</i>	1	X	5	X	6
Cyprinidae	Longnose Dace	<i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i>	133	54	7	61	255
Cyprinidae	Northern Pearl Dace	<i>Margariscus nachtriebi</i>	X		2		2
Cyprinidae	Northern Redbelly Dace	<i>Chrosomus eos</i>	10	X	18	X	28
Cyprinidae	Spotfin Shiner	<i>Cyprinella spiloptera</i>			X		
Cyprinidae	Spottail Shiner	<i>Notropis hudsonius</i>				10	10
Gadidae	Burbot	<i>Lota lota</i>				X	
Gasterosteidae	Brook Stickleback	<i>Culaea insonstans</i>	69	20	42	X	131
Gasterosteidae	Fourspine Stickleback	<i>Apeltes quadracus</i>		X			
Percidae	Johnny Darter	<i>Etheostoma nigrum</i>	2			14	16
Percidae	Logperch	<i>Percina caprodes</i>				X	
Percopsidae	Trout-perch	<i>Percopsis omiscomaycus</i>				1	1
Petromyzontidae	Sea Lamprey	<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	X	X	X	X	
Petromyzontidae	Native lampreys spp.	<i>Icthyomyzon</i>		X		X	
Salmonidae	Brook Trout	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>	210	98	89		397
Salmonidae	Chinook Salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>		X	X	X	
Salmonidae	Rainbow Trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	34	59	97	62	252
Umbridae	Central Mudminnow	<i>Umbra limi</i>	21	13	X	2	36
		Total	732	385	496	269	1882

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment

Table 5. Total number of fish by species sampled at 2010 sampling sites on Cedar, Pitch, and Whitewood creeks.

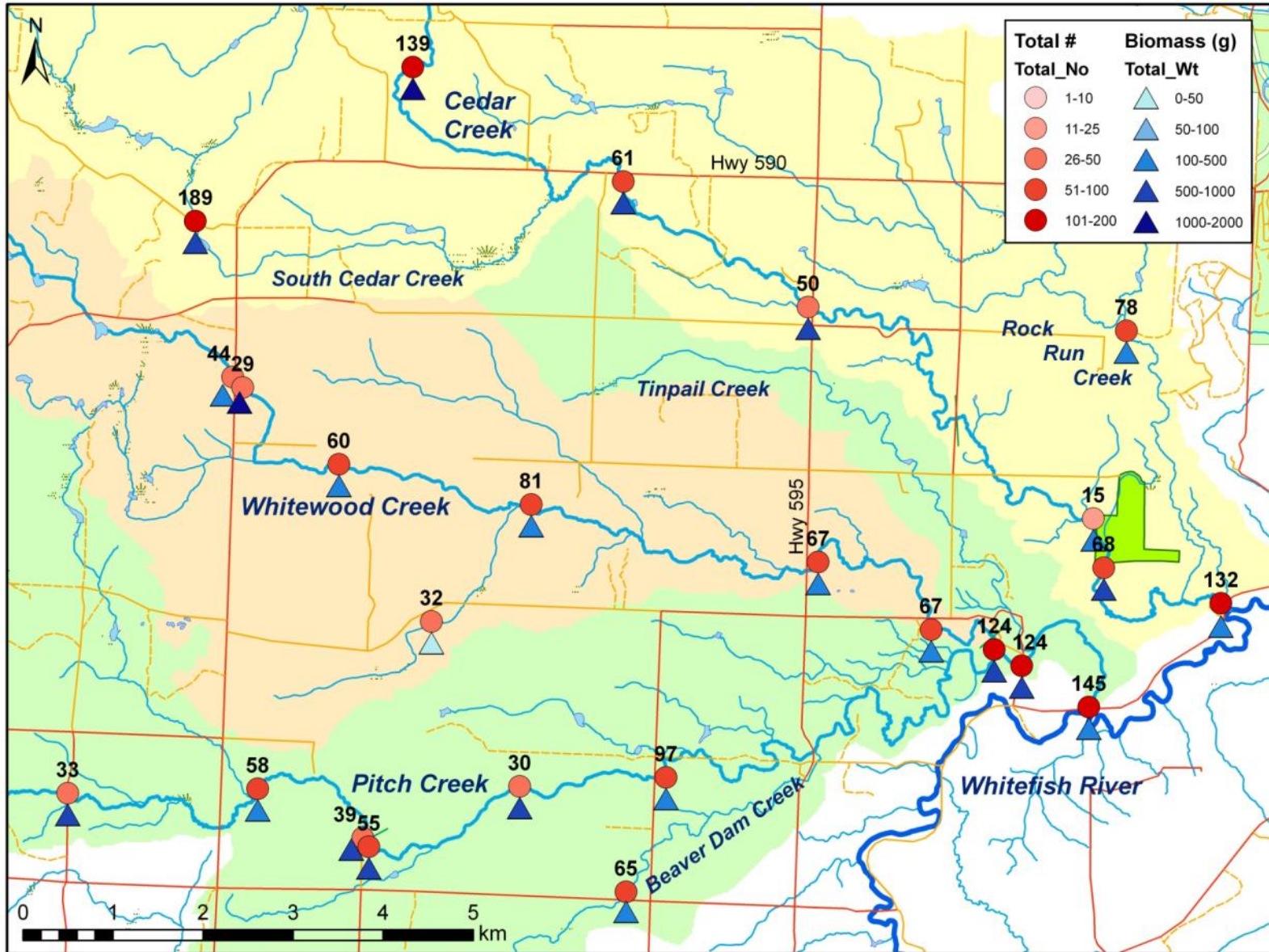
Common Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Total #	% of Total
Blacknose Dace						1	3	3		7	9	28	1	1		9		26	5	22	3	7	7	6		138	7.3
Brook Stickleback	60											3		2	21			9				19	8	9		131	7.0
Brook Trout	18	32	79	22	40		7	3		14			60			14	44		18		15		1	1	29	397	21.1
Central Mudminnow	21										2											13				36	1.9
Common Shiner								2				5		1		2										10	0.5
Creek Chub				4	13	12		37	21		50	12		2	2	5		28	7	15		8	21	10		247	13.1
Cyprinid sp.				13				10	26	1	10			15		2					1	6	20	6		110	5.8
Emerald Shiner																					11					11	0.6
Fathead Minnow																		5				2				7	0.4
Finescale Dace	14	1										2			1							5				23	1.2
Johnny Darter						4			2		10															16	0.9
Lake Chub									1							4					1					6	0.3
Longnose Dace	66	17			1	44	5	12	38	7	17	1		1		1				2	4	2			37	255	13.5
Northern Pearl Dace															2											2	0.1
N. Redbelly Dace	10											5			6	7										28	1.5
Rainbow Trout						48		14	13	17	14	25		45		15		4			12	9			36	252	13.4
Sculpin sp.			20						10															4		34	1.8
Slimy Sculpin			40			3		14	19	21	15													11		123	6.5
Smallmouth Bass						9					7													2		18	1.0
Spottail Shiner											10															10	0.5
Trout-perch											1															1	0.1
White Sucker					1	3		2	2	1						1		6	1	2		5	1	2		27	1.4
Total # Individuals	189	50	139	39	55	124	15	97	132	68	145	81	61	67	32	60	44	78	33	67	30	65	58	124	29	1882	100.0
# Species	6	3	2	2	4	8	3	8	7	6	10	8	2	6	5	9	1	6	5	7	4	7	5	9	1		

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment

Table 6. Total biomass (g) of fish by species sampled at 2010 sampling sites on Cedar, Pitch, and Whitewood creeks. font size changed below

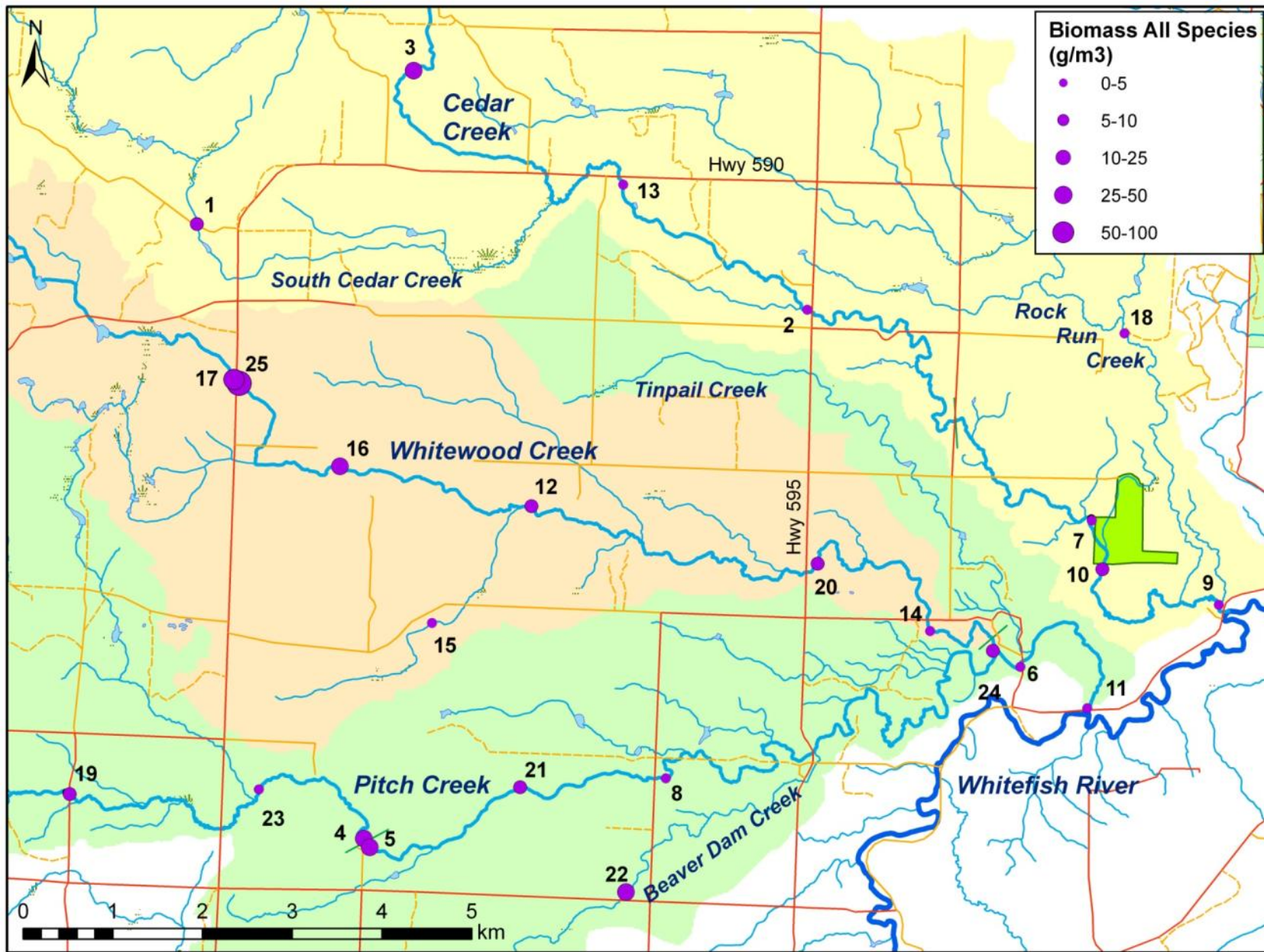
Common Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Grand Total
Blacknose Dace						3	3	20		18	14	27	0	90		31		87	7	27	20	10	37	20		412
Brook Stickleback	64											2		3	14			9				18	8	14		132
Brook Trout	704	616	1633	518	560		362	13		186			790			26	271		638		336		76	28	1193	7950
Central Mudminnow	71										2											45				118
Common Shiner								20				15		2		4										40
Creek Chub				6	12	21		32	12		115	17		68	8	34		118	36	26		167	42	25		739
Cyprinid sp.				2					21	2													8			34
Emerald Shiner																				23						23
Fathead Minnow																		13				7				21
Finescale Dace	21	1										3			1							7				34
Johnny Darter						9			6		10															25
Lake Chub									1							23					5					28
Longnose Dace	123	26			5	115	19	49	83	22	26	8		95		3			10	11	2			85		681
Northern Pearl Dace	8											8			9	11										36
Northern Redbelly Dace															4											4
Rainbow Trout					350		115	25	574	19	349		85		209		106			104	188			256		2378
Slimy Sculpin			119			17		45	77	57	41													52		408
Smallmouth Bass						93					44													9		146
Spottail Shiner											5															5
Trout-perch											2															2
White Sucker					50	11		20	75	33						11		15		22		130	16	78		462
Grand Total	993	643	1752	526	628	619	384	314	301	893	277	428	791	341	37	350	271	348	690	216	545	384	187	567	1193	13678

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment



Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment

Figure 16. Total number and biomass of all fish species at 25 sample sites on Whitefish River tributaries in 2010.



Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment

Figure 17. Biomass relative to sampled water volume (m^3) at 25 sample locations (labelled) on three Whitefish River tributaries, 2010.

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment

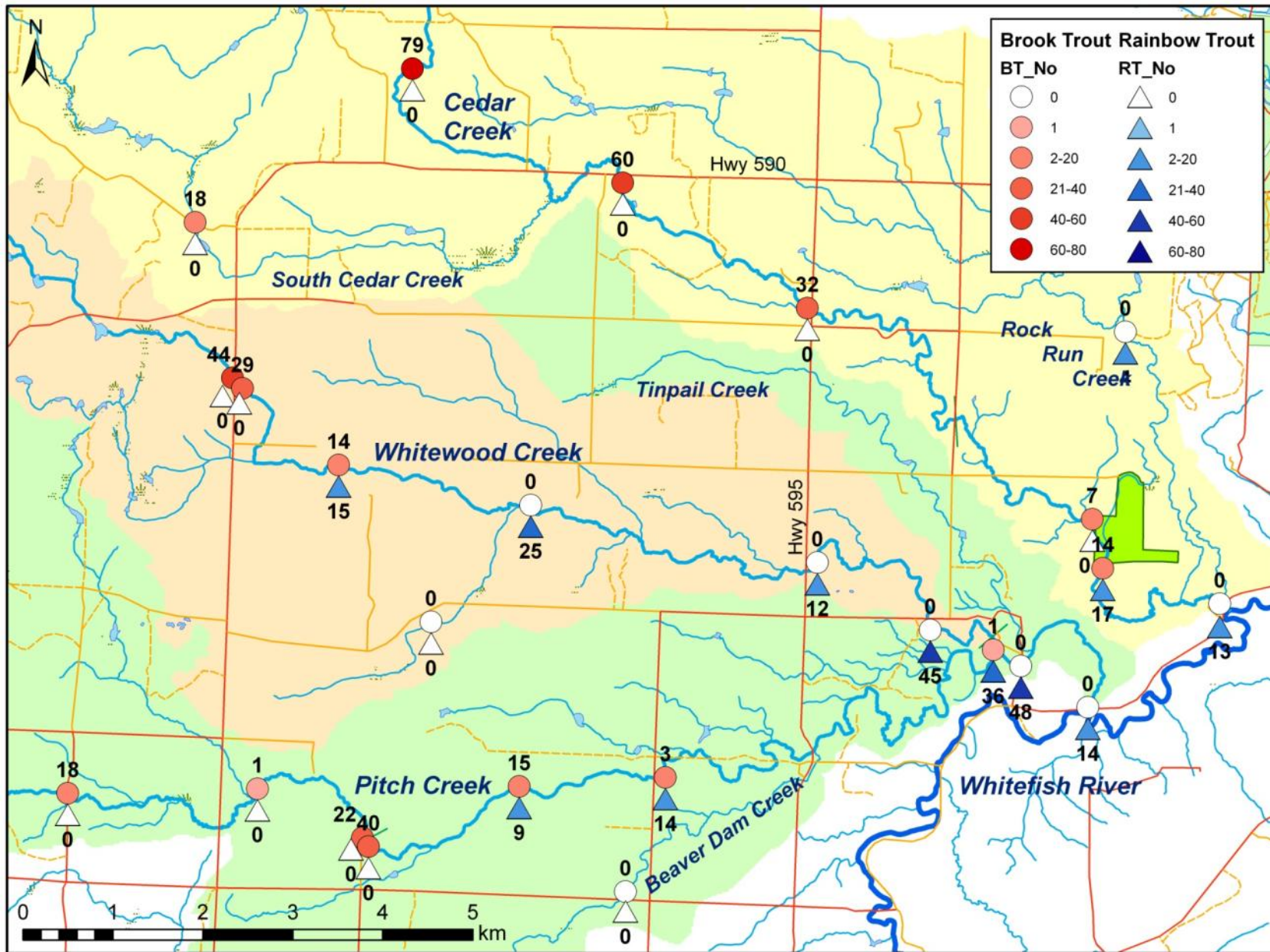


Figure 18. Total number brook and rainbow trout at 25 sample sites on Whitefish River tributaries in 2010.

5.3 Size Distribution

Length-frequency diagrams for rainbow trout and brook trout are presented in Figure 19. Brook trout in Cedar Creek exhibited a bell-shaped size distribution, with the 100-120 mm total length (TL) being the most common size class. In contrast, there were relatively few brook trout on Pitch and Whitewood Creeks in that size range, resulting in a roughly bimodal length-frequency distribution. A 133 mm TL brook trout sampled on September 17 from Site 25 had approximately 50 eggs and was 2 years of age, indicating that sexual maturity occurs at a relatively young age and small size on these systems. Another sampled male brook trout was 193 mm TL at 2 years of age.

Mean total length was similar among the three tributaries ranging from 122.9 mm to 129.7 mm (

Table 7), with greater variation within each system than among tributaries. In 1993, Picard (1995) recorded a mean fork length of 176.8 ± 12.11 mm for brook trout from Cedar Creek and 124.6 ± 10.14 from Pitch Creek. The locations of Picard's two sampling sites are not available however, but his values are roughly comparable to Site 7 at Cedar Falls (which is a likely sampling site due to ease of access and land tenure), and to several sites on Pitch Creek.

Table 7. Mean total length and live weight for brook trout and rainbow trout sampled at 21 stations on Whitefish River tributaries in 2010.

	Brook Trout			Rainbow Trout		
	TL (mm)	Wt (g)	n	TL (mm)	Wt (g)	n
Cedar						
Site 1	139.4	39.1	18			
Site 2	116.2	36.2	17			
Site 3	135.9	33.3	49			
Site 7	174.1	51.7	7			
Site 9				62.6	2.5	10
Site 10	108.1	16.9	11	164.4	47.8	12
Site 13	121.6	19.8	40			
Site 18				143.5	26.5	4
Cedar All	129.7	30.2	142	122.0	27.1	26
Pitch						
Site 4	113.0	23.5	22			
Site 5	110.3	20.8	27			
Site 6				79.2	7.3	48
Site 8	78.0	4.3	3	107.8	12.8	9
Site 11				55.0	1.7	11
Site 19	159.8	48.8	13			
Site 21	131.4	25.8	13	143.7	31.3	6
Site 23	192.0	75.9	1			
Site 24	158.0	27.8	1	89.3	8.5	30
Pitch All	122.9	27.1	80	85.8	8.9	104
Whitewood						
Site 12				111.2	14.0	25
Site 14				59.5	2.6	33
Site 16	64.0	2.4	11	121.7	19.0	11
Site 17	86.6	8.5	32			
Site 20				97.4	8.7	12
Site 25	153.7	41.1	29			
Whitewood All	110.2	20.7	72	89.5	9.2	81
Grand Mean	123.1	27.0	294	91.7	11.3	211

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment

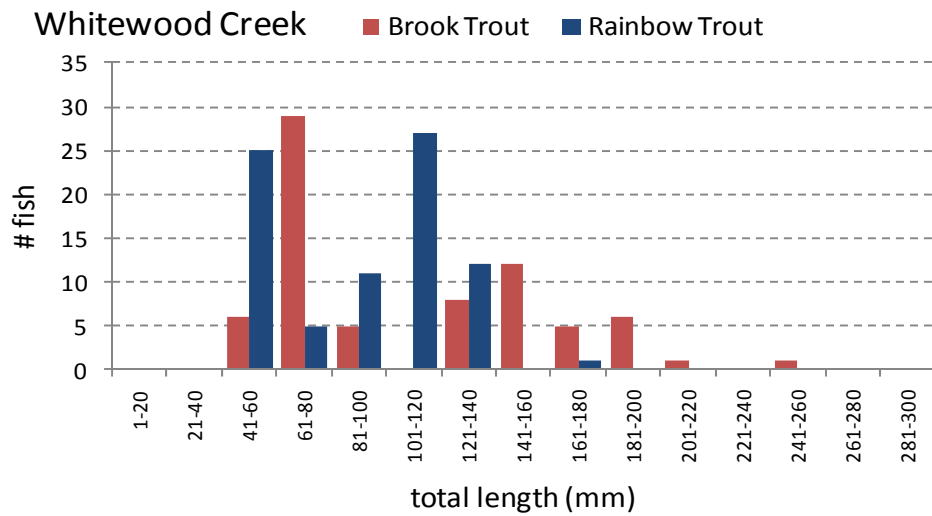
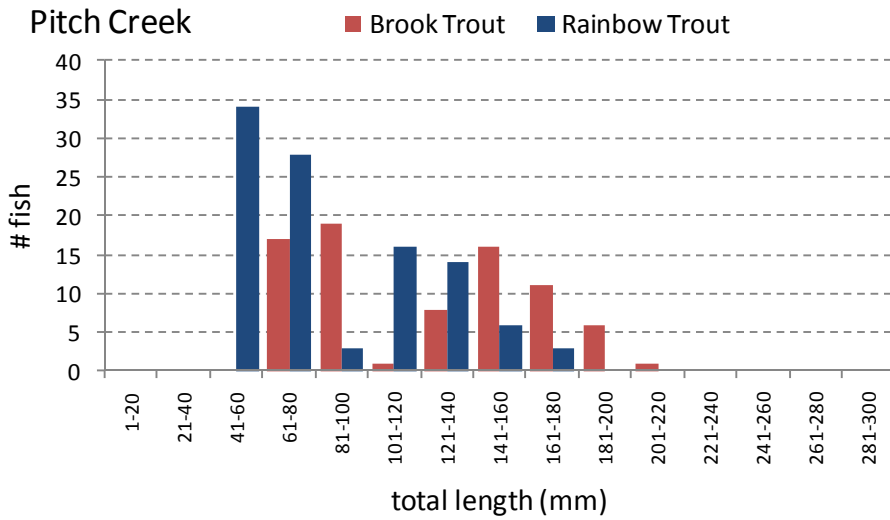
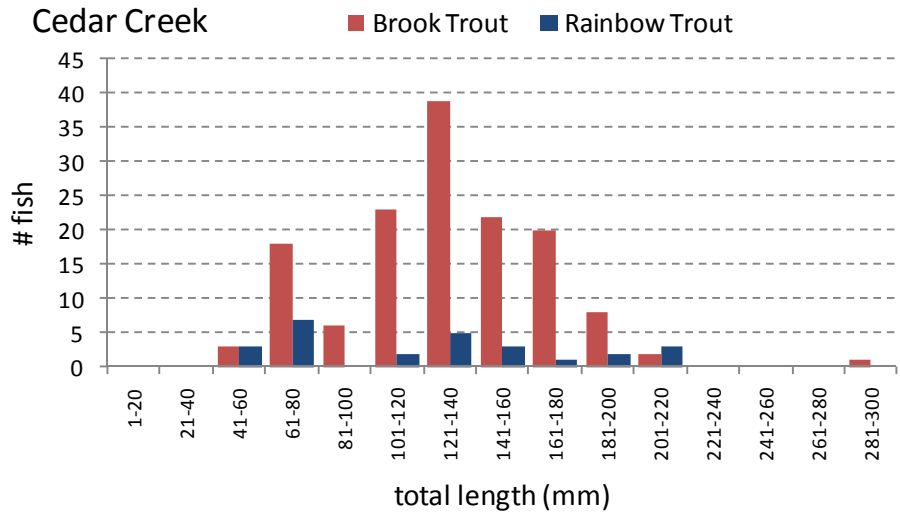


Figure 19. Length-frequency distribution for Cedar, Pitch, and Whitewood creeks sampled in 2010.

6 Anthropogenic Activities

6.1 Land Use

The primary land uses in the watersheds of the Cedar, Pitch, and Whitewood creeks are forestry and agriculture (Figure 23). However, based on 2000 interpreted Landsat satellite imagery (Spectranalysis 2004), approximately 3% of the combined watersheds was classed as recent cutovers and less than 1% was interpreted as cropland (Figure 20). It appears that much of the pasture and regenerating cutover (Figure 21 to Figure 23) in these three watersheds classed as sparse forest, and significant areas of pasture were misinterpreted and also included in this landcover class. Based on aerial reconnaissance and fieldwork, row crops (e.g. potato farm near Site 23) occupy only a minor proportion of the watershed, with pasture and hayfields being the primary agricultural use. Dense mixed or deciduous forests are the other significant land cover classes, representing approximately half the total watershed area according to 2000 interpreted Landsat imagery.

Aerial reconnaissance and GoogleEarth imagery (Figure 21, Figure 24) indicate that there is a greater proportion of the three watersheds in open land cover classes, particularly recent cutover and pasture on private lands, than indicated by the 2000 Landsat imagery. Based on digitized GoogleEarth imagery (date unknown, but more recent than 2000), approximately 30% of the land between Highway 590 and the Whitefish River is open habitat that is either recent cutover, pasture, cropland, lawns or gravel pits. The watershed of Whitewood Creek has the highest proportion of open lands (35%), followed by Cedar Creek (32%) and Pitch Creek (25%). There is some pasture west and north of Highway 590, but the predominant land use is forestry on Crown land.

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment

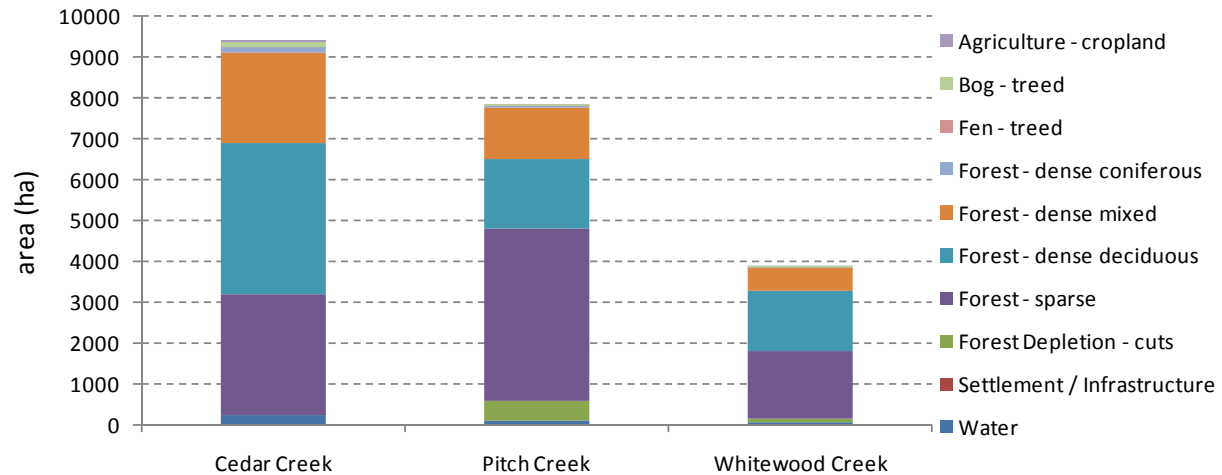


Figure 20. Area in different landcover classes (Spectralanalysis 2004) in the watersheds of three Whitefish River tributaries.

Approximately 65% (13,600 ha) of the watershed area of the three Whitefish tributaries is on private land, and is therefore not covered by forest management guidelines for riparian areas and fish habitat (OMNR 1998). Nonetheless, the aerial reconnaissance survey, fieldwork, and examination of GoogleEarth imagery indicate that in most cases a treed, or at least vegetated, buffer is left adjacent to Cedar, Pitch, and Whitewood creeks. A discussion with one landowner indicated that logging companies operating on his land were instructed to leave a forested buffer from the top of the ridge along Whitewood Creek. No direct impacts on fish habitat from forestry were observed in the field in 2010.

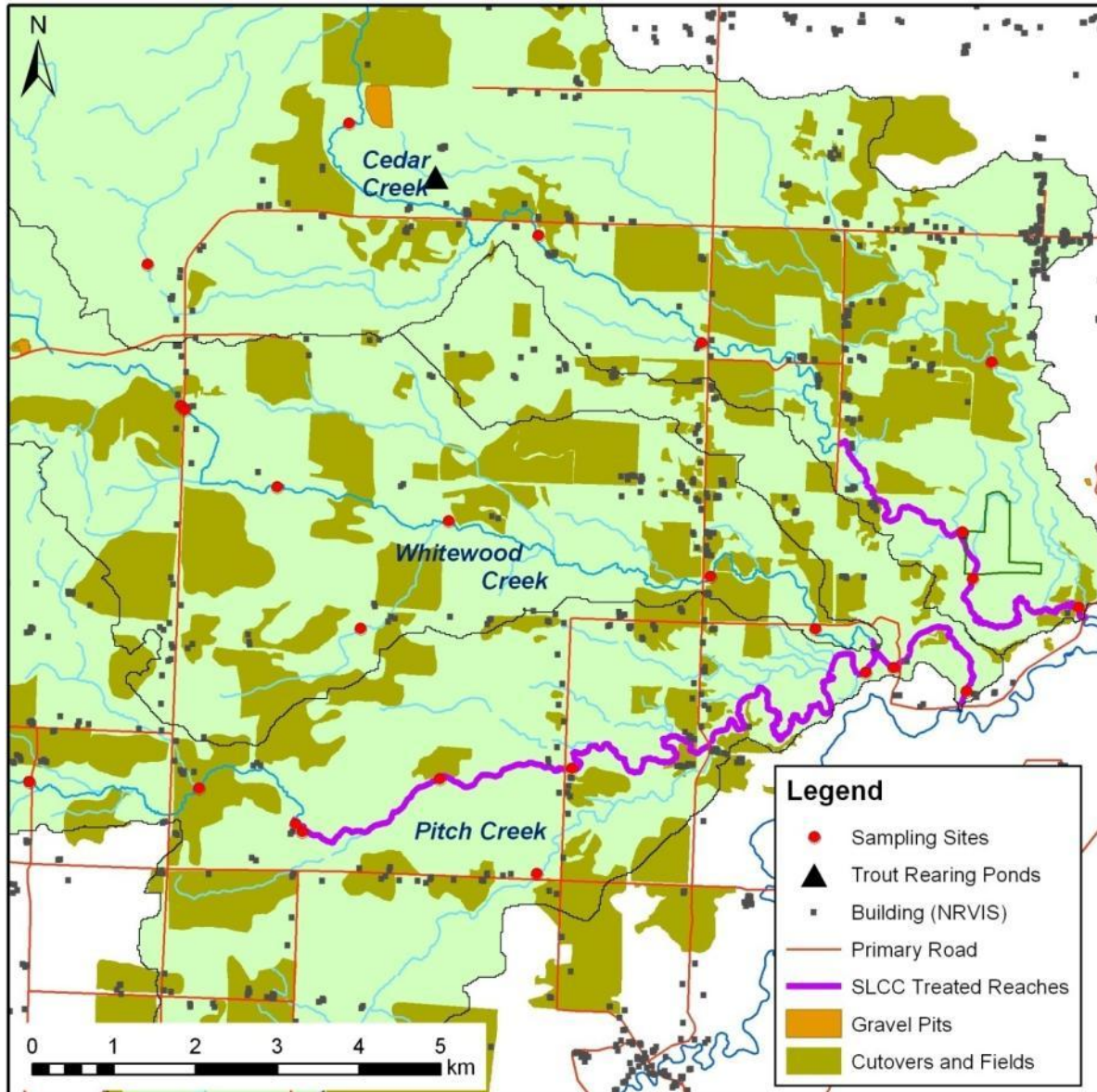


Figure 21. Main land use and potential anthropogenic impacts in the lower watershed of three Whitefish River tributaries. Recent cutovers and fields digitized from GoogleEarth imagery (unknown date).



Figure 22. Pasture and regenerating cutover near Site 12 on Whitewood Creek.



Figure 23. Hayfield and regenerating cutover adjacent to Pitch Creek and potato farming adjacent to Site 23 (arrow).

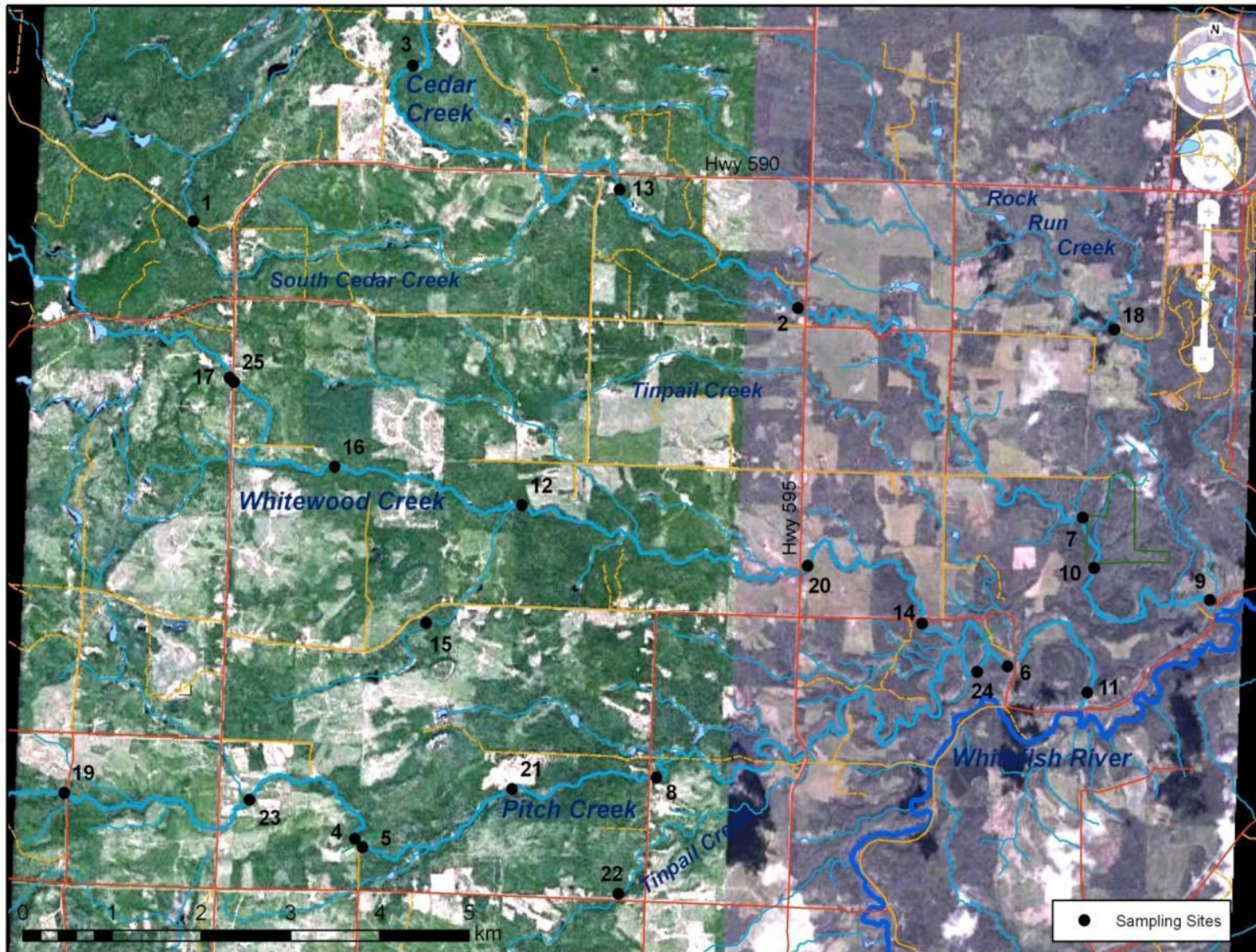


Figure 24. 2010 Sampling locations in relation to land use patterns (GoogleEarth imagery).

Most of the agricultural lands in the study watersheds are devoted to hayfields or pasture for cattle or horses. Although much of Cedar, Pitch and Whitewood creeks pass through forested landscape or have riparian buffers, portions of these watercourses or their tributaries pass through pastures. For example, the lower portion of Cedar Creek passes through a pasture that is used for cattle (Figure 25). No fencing prevents cattle from entering the stream, and as a result there are several cowpaths through the stream leading to bank erosion, reduced natural riparian vegetation, increased siltation, and widening of the channel at Site 6 (Figure 26).

Some erosion is a natural process as creeks cut through soft deposits, and there are other locations (e.g., Site 9) on the lower Pitch Creek with slumping silty clay banks similar to Site 6. These glaciolacustrine deposits are particularly susceptible to erosion which can be accelerated from improper land use practices, leading to siltation in Cedar Creek and farther downstream i.e., Whitefish River, Kaministiquia River. Siltation can have negative impacts on aquatic biota such as suffocating fish eggs (Kerr 1995), and may contribute to the lower fish biomass at Site 6. However, it is difficult to separate out direct or indirect farming-related impacts from natural habitat variability associated with landscape position. In particular, the streams become wider, shallower, slower, and more soft-bottomed on glaciolacustrine delta deposits in their lower reaches compared to on tills higher in the watershed.



Figure 25. Cattle trail and adjacent pasture at Site 9 on the lower reaches of Cedar Creek.



Figure 26. Lower reach of Cedar Creek with cow paths, streamside trampling, and eroding bank.

6.2 Aggregate Pits

A large (approximately 14 ha) gravel pit is located approximately 300 m northeast of Site 3 and adjacent to Cedar Creek (Figure 27) on a coarse glaciofluvial deposit. There are several other smaller aggregate pits associated with forest access roads in the western part of the study area. Although there was only a narrow riparian buffer adjacent to the gravel pit, no apparent effects of the gravel pit (e.g., siltation) were detected downstream at Site 3. Brook trout and sculpin were abundant at this site indicating no impairment of water quality.





Figure 27. Gravel pit near Cedar Creek (lower) and in relation to Site 8 (red arrow; upper right).

6.3 Roads and Trails

Trails created by all terrain vehicles (ATV) and informal footpaths, likely from anglers, were observed at several sites on private land (Sites 8, 15, 18, 20). In contrast, the snowmachine trail that crosses Cedar Creek at Site 8 on Crown land has a proper bridge structure. On an unnamed tributary of Whitewood Creek at Site 15, an ATV trail crosses at two locations (Figure 28). Boards have been placed to facilitate crossing and other boards have washed downstream into the next pool. There is erosion of silty-clay banks and siltation in the pool downstream. However, the impacts are localized to the first pool downstream, and pools farther downstream do not appear to be negatively impacted. Erosion at Site 8 on Rock Run Creek is extensive and has led to the development of multiple crossing points (Figure 29). Although there are fairly significant local impacts, they are less extensive or profound than the habitat changes associated with the beaver dam and pond immediately upstream. In contrast, there are minimal impacts to the watercourse at Site 8 where an ATV trail crosses the cobble bottom (Figure 28).



Figure 28. Quad trails crossing stream at Site 15 (L) and Site 8 (R).

Roadways can create pools by creating impoundments on the upstream end of improperly sized culverts, or when they are shallowly installed such as at Site 1 on Cedar Creek (see Appendix 4, Site 1). Scour pools can also develop on the downstream side of culverts such as at Site 25 on the Whitewood River (Figure 30) and above Site 20 (Figure 14). At Site 25, the silt-bottomed pool was approximately 8 m x 6 m with a maximum depth of 65 cm (mean 50 cm) with an associated small patch of pondweeds (*Potamogeton* sp.). The pool provides habitat for a relatively large number of good-sized brook trout; a total of 25 brook trout with a mean TL of 154 mm were sampled there in 235 seconds of electrofishing. A conversation with the adjacent landowner indicated that brook trout have traditionally been angled from this pool. The

population was even larger in the past. In comparison, a shallow, silty culvert pool (average depth 70 cm) at Whitewood Creek above Site 20 (Figure 22) had only one rainbow trout in 75 seconds of sampling.



Figure 29. Quad trail through Rock Run Creek at Site 18 and resulting streambank erosion.



Figure 30. Muddy culvert pool below Site 17 on Whitewood River.

6.4 Residential Development and Associated Activities

A number of activities associated with residential development within the study watersheds may potentially have impacts, either positive or negative, on fish habitat and fish communities. The most commonly observed was the construction of small ponds or pools on private property. In several instances the pools appeared to have been created with the use of heavy machinery by excavation or creating a check dam (Figure 31). One pool was recent, whereas the other three large pools were created long ago judging by surrounding vegetation (Figure 32). One pond (0.2 ha) just downstream of Site 13 does not appear to be hydrologically connected to Cedar Creek. Riparian vegetation has been cleared around this pond and the adjacent residence (Figure 32L). A series of adjacent dug-out ponds along Rock Run Creek are apparently used for rearing rainbow trout (Figure 33L). No rainbow trout were observed at Site 18 km downstream on Rock Run Creek, indicating that no rainbow trout had escaped from the rearing ponds to establish a stream-resident population.

Several other pools have apparently been made by hand in an attempt to deepen them. Typically the pools consist of a small vortex weir or check dam made of rocks placed at the tail end of a pre-existing natural pool (Figure 33R, Figure 34). Such modifications can be difficult to distinguish from naturally-occurring rocks, but appear to have been made at Sites 2, 4, 5, 8, 13, 16, and 20. These modifications may enhance holding habitat to improve angling, particularly at easily accessible sites. Brook trout typically prefer pool to riffle habitats (Power 1980). The largest brook trout in the study was from a modified pool at Site 2. Discussions with landowners also indicate that some pools are modified to increase water depth for children to swim or play in during the summer. One pool has a pump and water line to provide water to the residence (Figure 35). Any impacts on the hydrology could not be assessed in the context of this study.

In at least two instances, coarse woody debris appears to have been removed from the modified pool presumably to facilitate swimming/bathing or to reduce snags when angling. Trees and other riparian vegetation have been partially or entirely removed adjacent to a number of these pools or residences (Figure 32, Figure 32, Figure 35) presumably for aesthetics, to increase sunlight, or to reduce biting insects. Nonetheless, the modified pool at Site 2 (Figure 36), held the largest brook trout observed during the 2010 study (291 mm TL, 293 g).

Attempted use of geotextile (filter cloth) to stabilize stream banks and prevent continued erosion was observed at three sites (Sites 8, 9, 11) (Figure 37). At all sites, the filter cloth had

not actively been maintained in some time, and had pieces of geotextile blown out under high flow conditions which were observed on streambanks farther downstream.



Figure 31. Unauthorized earthen barrier on stream (L) and apparent man-made pool below water crossing on private road (R).



Figure 32. Man-made pond adjacent to Cedar Creek (L) and on upper reaches of Pitch Creek (R).



Figure 33. Rainbow trout rearing ponds near Rock Run Creek (R) and small check dam at outlet of culvert pool at Site 8 on Whitewood Creek.



Figure 34. Rock dam at Site 16 on Whitewood Creek.



Figure 35. Residential development adjacent to north Cedar Creek (L) and water intake pipe for residence on Pitch Creek (R).



Figure 36. Modified pool at Site 2.



Figure 37. Geotextile used at Site 8 (L) and Site 9 (R; red arrow) to prevent erosion.

6.5 Sea Lamprey Control

The Kaministiquia River and a number of its tributaries, including the Whitefish River system, have been treated 15 times with the lampricide TFM for sea lamprey control since 1960, with the most recent treatment on July 14-18, 2010 (DFO unpublished data). The upstream lampricide application points used by Sea Lamprey Control Centre are:

- on Pitch Creek immediately above the falls, 15 km from its confluence with the Whitefish River;
- on Whitewood Creek just above the chutes, approximately 150 m above its confluence with the Pitch Creek; and
- on Cedar Creek (referred to as O'Connor Creek in SLCC records) immediately above Cedar Falls or at Garbutt Road (6.2 km from its mouth).

In the case of Pitch and Cedar creeks, these locations are thought to mark the upstream limit of sea lamprey ammocoete distribution, and the turbulence at all three sites helps ensure adequate mixing of the lampricide and stream water (DFO unpublished data).

Non-target mortality observed during sea lamprey control of Whitefish River tributaries on July 14-18, 2010 included central mudminnow, common shiner, emerald shiner, logperch, longnose dace, rainbow trout, and white sucker (DFO unpublished data). In July 30, 2006, Coho salmon (under 22.5 cm) were also recorded as non-target mortality on the Pitch Creek. Non-target mortality from the Whitefish River tributaries was often not reported separately from the rest of the Kaministiquia River treatment. Longnose Dace and trout-perch had moderate mortality during the 1992 treatment (501-100 individuals) on Whitefish Rivers tributaries (DFO unpublished data). Fish species that are bottom-oriented, such as longnose dace, trout-perch, and sculpins tend to be most adversely impacted by TFM treatments since the lampricide concentrations are highest near the streambottom. These species seek refuge in the substrate rather than by avoidance (Foster and Colby 2009). Fish community sampling in 2010, which occurred after SLCC treatment, found that sculpins and longnose dace were fairly abundant in portions of the treated reaches in Cedar and Pitch creeks. No pre-treatment data are available for comparison however.

According to Gilderhus and Johnson (1980) the long-term effects on benthic invertebrate communities from TFM treatments appear to be minimal. Although overall community composition and density are not significantly affected, some taxa are negatively impacted. The following taxa appear to be particularly sensitive to TFM and TFM/1% niclosamide mixtures at the concentrations applied for sea lamprey control (i.e., 1.3 to 1.5 MLC sea lamprey):

- mayflies *Hexagenia* and *Litobranca* and to a lesser extent *Cloeon*, *Pseudocloeon*, *Baetis*

- and *Isonychia*;
- caddisflies *Chimarra*, *Dolophilodes* and *Glossosoma*;
- black fly family Simuliidae, especially *Prosimulium* and *Simulium*;
- aquatic worms (oligochaetes), and
- erpobdellid leeches.

Although significant mortality and drift of sensitive taxa may occur with individual treatments, it appears that pre-treatment densities of most taxa typically recover within several years due to inherent productivity of these communities and recolonization through downstream drift (Weisser et al. 2003). However, if streams are treated on a cycle of every 3-5 years, benthic communities may be in a near continuous state of recovery due to repeated applications of lampricide.

Lampricide treatments can impact aquatic invertebrates other than through direct mortality. Dramatic increases in drift rates after lampricide treatments have been observed for the mayfly *Baetis*, caddisflies *Chimarra* and *Dolophilodes*, the blackfly *Simulium*, various oligochaete worms, leeches and scuds *Gammarus* (e.g., Maki 1980; Dermott and Spence 1984; Jeffrey et al. 1986; Kolton et al. 1986; McMahon et al. 1987; Dubois and Plaster 1993). TFM in lab studies immobilizes *Chironomus* at 1/6 the concentration required to produce 50% mortality for this genus (ACSCEQ 1985). Immobilization increases susceptibility of *Chironomus* to predation.

7 Summary and Recommendations

Landscape-level land use practices such as forestry and agriculture and more localized site-specific impacts may potentially impact the habitat of benthic invertebrate and fish communities of Cedar, Pitch, and Whitewood Creeks. These creeks flow through watersheds that support agricultural activity with probable nutrient inputs, either in the form of chemical fertilizers or organics, such as manure. Increased nutrients stimulate algal growth which in turn provides habitat favoured by worms. The macroinvertebrate communities at all three lower reach sites still retain taxa, such as Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera and Trichoptera, that require clean, well oxygenated water; however, the proportion of these taxa within the community has decreased while the proportion of worms has increased compared to the upper reach sites. The abundance of worms at all three lower benthic macroinvertebrates sites probably indicates that the communities were not affected significantly by the lampricide treatment, although pre-treatment data about macroinvertebrate community composition are not available for comparison. Reduction of nutrient inputs would probably reduce algal growth which would permit a rapid recovery of the EPT and benefit fish species that forage upon them.

Localized impacts which include increased rates of stream bank erosion and siltation, reduction in riparian vegetation, and changes to natural streamflows are caused by livestock trampling, ATV trails, dams, residential development and other anthropogenic activities. The impacts appear to be minor and/or localized, and do not appear to have had significant effects on overall benthic macroinvertebrate or fish communities at this time compared to habitat changes from natural processes such as beaver activity. However, cumulative impacts of these activities should be considered. Brook trout populations are particularly sensitive and may have a limited ability to recover their numbers following disturbance, especially since the creeks may be thermally marginal.

Discussions with landowners generally indicated a sincere concern for fish and fish habitat, particularly brook trout, on their properties. Given this interest, there is potential for stewardship outreach to address some of the land use concerns identified in 2010.

Stewardship activities might focus on:

- Use of appropriate water crossing techniques for informal ATV trails such as cobble fords.
- Importance of coarse woody debris, particularly in natural or anthropogenic pools, as cover for trout and other fish species, as well as benthic macroinvertebrates.
- Importance of retaining overstory trees for maintenance of thermal stability and organic inputs (e.g., leaves, invertebrates) for the stream.
- Importance of retaining riparian vegetation as a barrier against sediment and nutrient input (e.g., fertilizers, pesticides) from adjacent lawns, pastures, and agricultural fields.
- Increased awareness of the Fisheries Act with respect to work in water.
- Livestock management e.g. fencing to prevent negative impacts on channel morphology, erosion, riparian vegetation.

8 Acknowledgments

Landowners, too numerous to mention, are thanked for permitting access to their property, sharing their knowledge of the watersheds, and for their stewardship of the environment. Tammy Cook and Scott Drebit at the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority provided background reports and GIS coverages. Tonia Van Kempen (Sea Lamprey Control Centre - Fisheries and Oceans Canada) shared unpublished treatment records and fish community sampling data for the three watersheds. Davis Viebeck (OMNR Stewardship Program

Coordinator) assisted with reconnaissance survey and project management. Julian Holenstein and Brian Ratcliff assisted with fieldwork. Lorna Buob and Linda Racicot at the O'Connor Township Office where very helpful in providing landowner contact information.

9 Literature Cited

Barton, D.R., W.D. Taylor, and R.M. Biette. 1985. Dimensions of riparian buffer strips to maintain trout habitat in southern Ontario streams. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* 5:364-378.

Binkley, D. And T.C. Brown. 1993. Forest practices as nonpoint source of pollution in North America. *Water Resources Bulletin* 29:729-710.

Clarke, A.H. 1981. *The Freshwater Molluscs of Canada*. Natl. Mus. Nat. Sci., Natl. Mus. Can., Ottawa.

Deacon, K. and Lavoie, L. 2005. *Benthic Community Reference Condition Sites in Thunder Bay, 2004*. EcoSuperior Environmental Programs.

<http://www.ecosuperior.org/upload/documents/benthos-report-2004.pdf>

Deacon, K. and Lavoie, L. 2008. *Aquatic Benthic Macroinvertebrate Communities in Streams from the North Shore of Lake Superior, 2005 and 2007*. EcoSuperior Environmental Programs.

<http://www.ecosuperior.org/upload/documents/benthos-report-2005-2007.pdf>

Deacon, K. and Lavoie, L. 2009. *Aquatic Benthic Macroinvertebrate Communities in Streams from the North Shore of Lake Superior, 2008*. EcoSuperior Environmental Programs.

<http://www.ecosuperior.org/upload/documents/benthos-report-2008.pdf>

Deacon, K. and Lavoie, L. 2010. *Aquatic Benthic Macroinvertebrate Communities in Streams from the North Shore of Lake Superior, 2009*. EcoSuperior Environmental Programs.

<http://www.ecosuperior.org/upload/documents/benthos-report-2009.pdf>

Deacon, K. and Lavoie, L. 2011. *Aquatic Benthic Macroinvertebrate Communities in Streams from the North Shore of Lake Superior, 2010*. EcoSuperior Environmental Programs. (In prep).

Dubois, R. B., and S. D. Plaster. 1993. Effects of the lampricide treatment on macroinvertebrate drift in a small, softwater stream. *Hydrobiologia* 139:251-267.

Environment Canada. 2011. Climate Normals 1971-2000 for Thunder Bay. Website http://www.climate.weatheroffice.gc.ca/climate_normals/results_e.html?Province=ONT%20&StationName=&SearchType=&LocateBy=Province&Proximity=25&ProximityFrom=City&StationNumber=&IDType=MSC&CityName=&ParkName=&LatitudeDegrees=&LatitudeMinutes=&LongitudeDegrees=&LongitudeMinutes=&NormalsClass=A&SelNormals=&StnId=4055&

Fausch, K.D. 1988. Tests of competition between native and introduced salmonids in streams: What have we learned? *Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci* 45:2238-2246.

Feller, M.C. 1981. Effects of clearcutting and slash burning on stream temperatures in southwestern British Columbia. *Water Resources Bulletin* 17:863-867,

Foster, R.F. and P.J. Colby. 2009. *Non-target impacts of sea lamprey control*. Draft report prepared by Northern Bioscience for Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Thunder Bay. 108 p.

Gibson, R.J. 1966. Some factors influencing the distribution of brook trout and young Atlantic salmon. *Journal of the Fisheries Board of Canada* 23: 1977-1980.

Gilderhus, P. A., and B. G. H. Johnson. 1980. Effects of sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) control in the Great Lakes on aquatic plants, invertebrates, and amphibians. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* 37:1895-1905.

Hartviksen, C. and W. Momot. 1987. *Fishes of the Thunder Bay Area of Ontario*. Wildwood Publications, Thunder Bay. 282 p.

Hearn, W.E. 1988. Interspecific competition and habitat segregation among stream-dwelling trout and salmon: *A review*. *Fisheries* 12(5):24-30.

Hilsenhoff, W.L. 1988. Rapid field assessment of organic pollution with a family-level biotic index. *J. N. Am. Benthol. Soc.* 7(1):65-68.

Holm, E., N.E. Mandrak, and M.E. Burridge. *The ROM Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of Ontario*. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto. 462 p.

Jones, C., K.M. Somers, B. Craig, and T.B. Reynoldson. 2005. *Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network Protocol Manual. Ver. 1.0*. Ont. Min. Env't., Dorset, ON, 111 p.

Kerr, S.J. 1995. *Silt, turbidity and suspended sediments in the aquatic environment: an annotated bibliography and literature review*. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Southern Region Science & Technology Transfer Unit Technical Report TR-008. 277 p.

Lagler, K.F., C.L. Hubbs, and G.R Smith. 2004. *Fishes of the Great Lakes Region*. Univ. Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, MI. 2nd ed. 332 p.

Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA). 1998. *Cedar Creek Watershed Assessment Report*. Unpublished report, Thunder Bay. 81 p.

Land Resource Research Institute (LRRI). 1981. Research Branch. *Soils of the Thunder Bay Area-Kakabeka Falls*. Map number 52 N5.

Meisner, J.D. 1990. Potential loss of thermal habitat for brook trout due to climate warming in two southern Ontario Streams. *Trans. Am. Fish. Soc.* 119: 282-291.

Merritt, R.W., Cummins, K.W. and Berg, M.B. (Editors) 2008. *An Introduction to the Aquatic Insects of North America*. 4th ed., Kendall/ Hunt Pub. Co., Dubuque.

Mollard, D.G. and J.D. Mollard (1979). *Thunder Bay (NTS 52A/SW). Northern Ontario Engineering Geology Terrain Study (NOEGTS) 69*. Ontario Geological Survey.

Nelson, R.L., W.S. Platts, D.P. Larsen, and S.E. Jensen. 1992. Trout distribution and habitat in relation to geology and geomorphology in the North Fork Humboldt River drainage, northeastern Nevada. *Trans. Am. Fish. Soc.* 121:405-426.

O'Connor, J.F. and G. Power. 1976. Production by brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) in four streams in the Matamek watershed, Quebec. *J. Fish. Res. Board Canada* 33:6-18.

Ontario Ministry of the Environment (OMOE). 1994. *Provincial Water quality objectives*. Queen's Printer for Ontario.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR). 1988. *Timber Management Guidelines for the Protection of Fish Habitat*. Queen's Printer for Ontario, Toronto, ON. Branch. 22 p.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR). 2002. *Electrofishing Equipment and Operating*

Guidelines and Procedures. Official Procedure Manual, Policy FI.3.01.01. Fish and Wildlife Branch. 18 p.

Peckarsky, B.L., Fraissinet, F.R., Penton, F.A. and Conklin, Jr., D.J. 1990. *Freshwater Macroinvertebrates of Northeastern United States.* Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca.

Picard, C.R. 1995. *Factors that predict brook trout distribution, thermal habitat, and abundance in northwestern Ontario streams.* Unpublished MSc. thesis, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, ON. 282 p.

Power, G. 1980. The brook charr, *Salvelinus fontinalis*. pp. 141-203 in E. K. Balon [ed.] *Charrs: Salmonid Fishes of the Genus Salvelinus.*

Racey, G.D., A.G. Harris, J.K. Jeglum, R.F. Foster and G.M. Wickware. 1996. *Terrestrial and wetland ecosites of northwestern Ontario.* Ont. Min. Natur. Resour., Northwest Sci. & Technol. Thunder Bay, Ont. Field Guide FG-02. 88 pp. + Append.

Reid, S.M., G. Yunker, N.E. Jones. 2009. Evaluation of single-pass backpack electric fishing for stream fish community monitoring. *Fisheries Management and Ecology.* 16(9):1-9.

Scott, W.B. and E.J. Crossman 1998. *Freshwater Fishes of Canada.* Galt House Publications Ltd., Oakville, ON.

Spectranalysis Inc. 2004. *Introduction to the Ontario Land Cover Data Base, Second Edition (2000): Outline of Production Methodology and Description of 27 Land Cover Classes.* Report to Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Unpublished"

Stanfield, L.W. (ed.). 2003. *Guidelines for designing and interpreting stream surveys: A compendium manual to the Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol.* Ont. Min. Natur. Resour., Aquatic research and Development Section, Picton. ON.

Stanfield, L.W. 2005. *Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol.* Ont. Min. Natur. Resour., Aquatic research and Development Section, Picton. ON.

Stewart, K.W. and D.A. Watkinson. 2004. *The Freshwater Fishes of Manitoba.* University of Manitoba Press, Winnipeg, MB.

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment

Temple, G.M. and T.N. Pearsons. 2009. Electrofishing: Backpack and Drift Boat. pp. 95-132 in S.A. Bonar, W.A. Hubert and D.W. Willis [eds.] *Standard Methods for sampling North American Freshwater Fishes*. American Fisheries Society, 335 p.

Waters, T.F., M.T. Doherty, and C.C. Krueger. 1990. Annual production and production: biomass ratios for three species of stream trout in Lake Superior tributaries. *Trans. Am. Fish. Soc.* 119:470-474.

WeatherStats. 2011. *Thunder Bay Climate*. Website
<http://thunderbay.weatherstats.ca/metrics/temperature.htm>

Weisser, J. W., G. A. Baldwin, J. Heinrich, D.S. Lavis, J. W. Slade, R. J. Schuldt, and J. V. Adams. 354 In review. Effect of the Lampricide 3-trifluoromethyl-4-nitrophenol (TFM) on macroinvertebrates in riffle communities in the Brule River in Douglas County, Wisconsin (1990-1993), Whitefish River in Alger County, Michigan (1986-1993), and Sturgeon River in Cheboygan County, Michigan (1986-1995). *Journal of Great Lakes Research*.

Wiggins, G.B. 1996. *Larvae of the North American Caddisfly Genera*. 2nd ed., Univ. of Toronto Press, Toronto.

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment

Appendix 1. Fish community sampling locations on Whitefish River tributaries, 2010 (*per=permanent; int=intermittent).

Site No	Watercourse	Date Sampled	Observers	Land Tenure	Downstream Easting	Downstream Northing	Upstream Easting	Upstream Northing	River (per/int)*	Water Temp (°C)
1	Cedar Creek	05/10/2010	RFF, BR, JH	Crown	293182	5363609	293181	5363672	per	7.0
2	Cedar Creek	25/08/2010	RFF, BR	Kydd	299988	5362655	299942	5362673	per	15.5
3	Cedar Creek	05/10/2010	BR, JH	Crown	295598	5365318	295657	5365369	per	7.5
4	Pitch Creek	26/08/2010	RRF, BR	Watson	295043	5356764	295010	5356791	per	14.0
5	Pitch Creek	27/08/2010	RRF, BR	Kramer	295109	5356667	295085	5356696	per	19.0
6	Pitch/Whitewood Creek	28/08/2010	RFF, BR, JH	Township	302362	5358676	302296	5358684	per	10.0
7	Cedar Creek	29/08/2010	AGH, RRF	LRCA	303158	5360308	303110	5360343	per	21.0
8	Pitch Creek	30/08/2010	RRF, BR	Arthur	298411	5357436	298342	5357464	per	21.0
9	Cedar Creek	31/08/2010	RRF, BR	Vaclav	304575	5359368	304543	5359400	per	21.0
10	Cedar Creek	05/09/2010	AGH, RRF	LRCA	303273	5359763	303293	5359851	per	13.0
11	Pitch/Whitewood Creek	06/09/2010	AGH, RRF	Baca	303107	5358217	303221	5358451	per	10.0
12	Whitewood Creek	06/09/2010	AGH, RRF	Travis	296912	5360465	296880	5360469	per	14.0
13	Cedar Creek	08/09/2010	RRF, BR	Wigley	297936	5364048	297890	5364113	per	10.5
14	Whitewood Creek	08/09/2010	RRF, BR	Township	301356	5359077	301330	5359164	per	14.0
15	Whitewood tributary	16/09/2010	RRF, BR	MNR/Cook	295804	5359166	295759	5359129	per	8.0
16	Whitewood Creek	16/09/2010	RRF, BR	Kukkee	294778	5360911	294751	5360874	per	11.0
17	Whitewood Creek	17/09/2010	RRF, JH	Vaillant	293597	5361879	293573	5361900	per	11.5
18	Rock Run Creek	19/09/2010	RRF, JH	Township	303524	5362392	303502	5362452	per	9.0
19	Pitch Creek	19/09/2010	RRF, JH	Bowyer	291766	5357260	291728	5357298	per	9.5
20	Whitewood Creek	21/09/2010	RRF, JH	Township	300100	5359825	300007	5359735	per	10.5
21	Pitch Creek	22/09/2010	RRF, JH	Flesherton	296785	5357335	296709	5357303	per	9.5
22	Beaver Dam Creek	22/09/2010	RRF, JH	Pogue	297966	5356167	297919	5356125	int	10.0
23	Whitewood Creek	27/09/2010	AGH, BR	Ray's Potato Farm	293875	5357311	293850	5357252	per	7.5
24	Pitch Creek	28/09/2010	BR, JH	Prentice	302055	5358855	302079	5358805	per	10.0
25	Whitewood Creek	17/09/2010	RRF, JH	Road Allowance	293654	5361836	293623	5361839	per	11.5

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment

Appendix 2. Characteristics of sampling locations on Whitefish River tributaries, 2010.

Feature	Class	Sample #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
Algae ¹	Attached	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	1	2	3	3	1	2	2	3		
		2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	2	2			
		3	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	2		
	Filaments	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	
		2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3		
		3	2	3	3	3	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3		
	Floating	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	
		2	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	3	3	2	
		3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		
	Slimes or Crusts	1	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
		2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	1	2	2		
		3	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
Macrophytes ¹	Emergents	1	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	
		2	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	3		
		3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	3		
	Free-Floating	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
		2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
		3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
	Rooted	1	2	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2
		2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	
		3	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
	Submergent	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2
		2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	3		
		3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3		
Organic Matter ¹	Detritus	1	1	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		
		2	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment

Feature	Class	Sample #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
	Woody Debris	3	1	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2		
		1	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
		2	1	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
		3	1	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	
Riparian Vegetation ²	1.5-10 m	Left	4	4	6	6	6	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	6	6	6	4	4	4	6	6	4	4	3	
		Right	4	3	6	6	6	6	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	6	6	6	6	4	5	5	5	6	4	4	3	
	10-30 m	Left	5	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	3	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	4	4	3
		Right	6	5	6	6	6	6	6	5	3	6	6	6	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	4	6	3
	30-100 m	Left	5	6	6	5	6	6	6	5	3	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	6	4	6	6	2	6	6
		Right	6	5	6	6	6	6	6	5	3	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	6	5	6	6	2	6	6
Substrate ³	Dominant	1	2	5	5	5	6	6	5	6	5	5	4	5	6	5	2	5	4	5	5	6	5	6	1	4	2	
		2	2	2	5	7	7	1	4	2	2	2	4	3	5	1	5	5	3	2	5	4	4	7	1	4		
		3	2	7	5	7	7	6	6	6	5	6	4	4	5	6	2	5	5	5	5	5	6	2	1	4		
	Subdominant	1	6	6	4	6	7	5	6	5	4	6	5	4	5	6	1	6	5	4	4	5	6	5	1	5	3	
		2	6	7	4	7	5	4	5	1	3	4	2	4	3	4	6	3	4	6	3	2	5	6	4	5		
		3	6	6	4	7	6	5	4	5	4	5	5	1	6	5	1	6	4	2	4	2	5	5	4	5		
Canopy Cover ⁴			1	1	3	4	3	1	2	4	1	1	1	2	1	1	4	3	3	1	4	2	2	1	2	1	1	

¹ 1=abundant; 2=present; 3=absent

² 1=none; 2=cultivated; 3=meadow; 4=scrubland; 5=forest, mainly coniferous; 5=forest, mainly deciduous

³ 1=clay (hard pan); 2=silt; 3=sand; 4=gravel; 5=cobble; 6=boulder; 7=bedrock

⁴ 1=0-24%; 2=25-49%; 3=50-74%; 4=75-100%

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment

Appendix 3. Site measurements and estimates of fish abundance for 25 sampling locations on Whitefish River tributaries, 2010.

Site No	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
Candidate Ref Site	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	
Shocking Time (s)	1206	1050	1406	811	1075	1761	1269	1247	1435	1380	1741	1025	1075	1778	635	966	852	1338	963	1053	1082	671	1017	1604	235	
Hyd. Head (mm) Riffle1	0	14	18	7	7	27	40	12	22	40	20	30	50	30	0	20	8	3	5	12	10	0	0	45		
Hyd. Head (mm) Pool	0	0	20	11	0	0	3	0	0	5	3	5	10	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	
Hyd. Head (mm) Riffle2	0	20	14	16	6	19	3	13	20	40	50	20	20	10	0	15	18	2	15	8	7	0	0	50		
Bankfull Width (m)	15	9	6	6	7	10	17	6	9	15	14	10	6	10	5	5	4	3	7	5	7	8	7	19	15	
Total Pool Area (m3)	88	228	32	80	77	238	70	175	207	210	205	120	85	387	114	82	8	185	119	44	90	61	308	117	45.0	
Total Pool Volume (m3)	35	137	8	15	38	71	11	88	91	74	41	32	38	39	33	15	2	78	54	11	27	28	224	29	22.5	
Average Pool Depth (m)	0.40	0.60	0.25	0.18	0.50	0.30	0.15	0.50	0.42	0.35	0.20	0.25	0.45	0.10	0.33	0.19	0.20	0.42	0.43	0.25	0.30	0.40	0.72	0.25	0.50	
Max. Pool Depth (m)	0.51	0.12	0.50	0.33	0.78	0.51	0.23	0.92	0.94	0.55	0.28	0.50	0.68	0.42	0.73	0.42	0.23	0.65	0.80	0.40	0.37	0.74	1.10	0.43	0.65	
Total Site Length (m)	66	98	74	63	60	78	67	98	84	98	106	100	88	98	47	53	52	55	62	73	64	53	57	63	9	
Total Site Area (m2)	404	612	391	197	195	639	469	354	453	592	630	347	405	728	132	182	83	204	214	209	297	80	308	300	45	
Total Site Volume (m3)	138	199	95	27	53	138	102	109	135	136	108	65	166	90	34	25	8	79	97	29	71	30	224	59	23	
BT Ave. Length (mm)	139	116	136	113	110		174	78		108			122			64	87		160			131		192	158	154
RT Ave. Length (mm)						79		108	63	164	55	111		60		122		144		97	144			89		
BT Max TL	215	291	203	185	179		194	79		176			173			73	157		205		182		192	158	245	

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment

Site No	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
RT Max TL						164		128	74	216	65	136		122		173		160		125	173			152	
# Brook Trout (BT)	18	32	79	22	40	0	7	3	0	14	0	0	60	0	0	14	44	0	18	0	15	0	1	1	29
# Rainbow Trout (RT)	0	0	0	0	0	48	0	14	13	17	14	25	0	45	0	15	0	4	0	12	9	0	0	36	0
# Fish (all spp.)	189	50	139	39	55	124	15	97	132	68	145	81	61	67	32	60	44	78	33	67	30	65	58	124	29
Wt (g) BT	704	616	1633	518	560	0	362	13	0	186	0	0	790	0	0	26	271	0	638	0	336	0	76	28	1193
Wt (g) RT	0	0	0	0	0	350	0	115	25	574	19	349	0	85	0	209	0	106	0	104	188	0	0	256	0
Wt (g) Fish (all spp.)	993	643	1752	526	628	619	384	314	301	893	277	428	791	341	37	350	271	348	690	216	545	384	187	567	1193
# BT/km	272	327	1075	347	667	0	104	31	0	143	0	0	682	0	0	264	854	0	290	0	234	0	18	16	3222
# All Fish/km	2859	510	1891	615	917	1600	224	990	1581	694	1368	810	693	684	681	1132	854	1418	532	918	469	1226	1018	1968	3222
# BT/ha	445	523	2023	1119	2057	0	149	85	0	236	0	0	1481	0	0	769	5273	0	841	0	505	0	32	33	6444
# All Fish/ha	4675	817	3559	1985	2828	1941	320	2740	2914	1148	2302	2334	1506	920	2424	3297	5273	3824	1542	3213	1010	8110	1881	4136	6444
# BT/100m3	13	16	83	82	76	0	7	3	0	10	0	0	36	0	0	57	572	0	19	0	21	0	0	2	129
# All Fish/100m3	137	25	146	145	104	90	15	89	98	50	134	125	37	75	93	244	572	99	34	230	42	218	26	210	129
BT kg/km	11	6	22	8	9	0	5	0	0	2	0	0	9	0	0	0	5	0	10	0	5	0	1	0	133
Wt (kg) All spp/km	15	7	24	8	10	8	6	3	4	9	3	4	9	3	1	7	5	6	11	3	9	7	3	9	133
BT kg/ha	17	10	42	26	29	0	8	0	0	3	0	0	20	0	0	1	33	0	30	0	11	0	2	1	265
Wt (kg) All spp/ha	25	11	45	27	32	10	8	9	7	15	4	12	20	5	3	19	33	17	32	10	18	48	6	19	265
BT kg/1000m3	5	3	17	19	11	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	1	35	0	7	0	5	0	0	0	53
Wt (kg) All spp/1000m3	7	3	18	20	12	4	4	3	2	7	3	7	5	4	1	14	35	4	7	7	8	13	1	10	53

Appendix 4. Fish Sampling site photographs.

Site 1



Looking upstream from culvert, August 2010.



Middle reach looking upstream, October 2010.

Site 2



Lower riffle looking upstream (L) and downstream (R)



Pool from west bank (L) and looking downstream (R).



Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Upper riffle looking upstream (L) and downstream (R).

Site 3



Lower riffle looking upstream (L) and downstream (R)



Pool looking downstream (L) and looking upstream (R).



Northern Bioscience

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Upper riffle looking upstream (L) and downstream (R).

Site 4



Lower riffle looking upstream (L) and lower pool looking downstream (R)



Middle riffle looking downstream (L) and upper pool looking downstream (R).



Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Upstream riffle looking upstream (L) and downstream (R).

Site 5



Lower riffle looking upstream (L) and close-up at outlet of pool (R)



Pool looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).



Northern Bioscience

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Upper riffle looking upstream (L) and stepped riffle farther upstream (R).

Site 6



Lower riffle looking upstream (L) and downstream (R).



Pool looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).



Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Upper riffle looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).

Site 7



Lower riffle looking upstream (L) and downstream (R).



Pool looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).



Northern Bioscience

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Upper riffle looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).

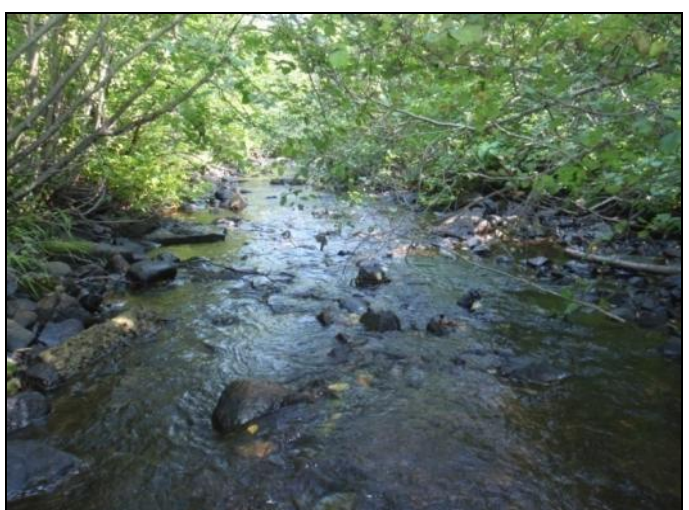
Site 8



Lower riffle looking upstream (L) and downstream (R)



Pool looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).



Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Upper riffle looking downstream.

Site 9



Lower riffle looking upstream (L) and downstream (R)



Pool looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).



Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Upper riffle looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).

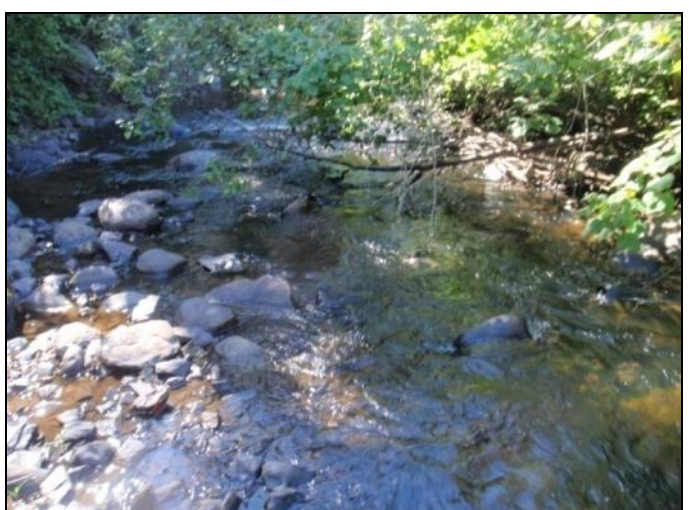
Site 10



Lower riffle looking upstream (L) and downstream (R)



Pool looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).



Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Upper riffle looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).

Site 11



Lower riffle looking upstream (L) and downstream (R)



Pool looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).



Northern Bioscience

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Upper riffle looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).

Site 12



Lower riffle looking upstream (L) and middle riffle looking upstream (R)



Lower pool looking downstream (L) and middle riffle looking upstream (R).



Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Upper pool looking upstream (L) and upper riffle looking downstream(R).

Site 13



Lower riffle looking upstream (L) and downstream (R)



Pool looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).



Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Upper riffle looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).

Site 14



Lower riffle looking upstream (L) and downstream (R)



Pool looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).



Northern Bioscience

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Upper riffle looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).

Site 15



Lower pool looking upstream (L) and lower riffle looking upstream (M) and middle pool looking upstream (R)



Upper middle pool looking upstream (L) and middle riffle looking upstream (R).



Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Upper riffle looking downstream (L) and pool looking upstream (R).

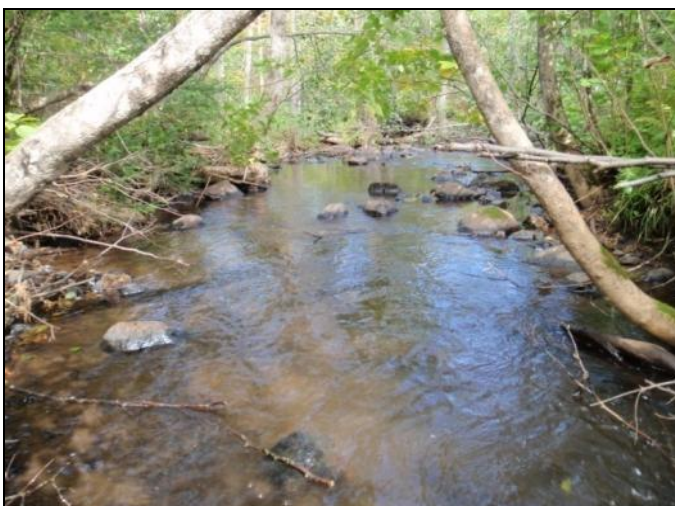
Site 16



Lower riffle looking upstream (L) and lower pool looking upnstream (R)



Middle riffle looking upstream (L) and upper pool looking upstream (R).



Northern Bioscience

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Upper pool looking downstream (L) and upper riffle looking downstream (R).

Site 17



Lower riffle looking upstream (L) and downstream (R)



Pool looking upstream (L) and detail of undercut bank (R).



Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Upper riffle looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).

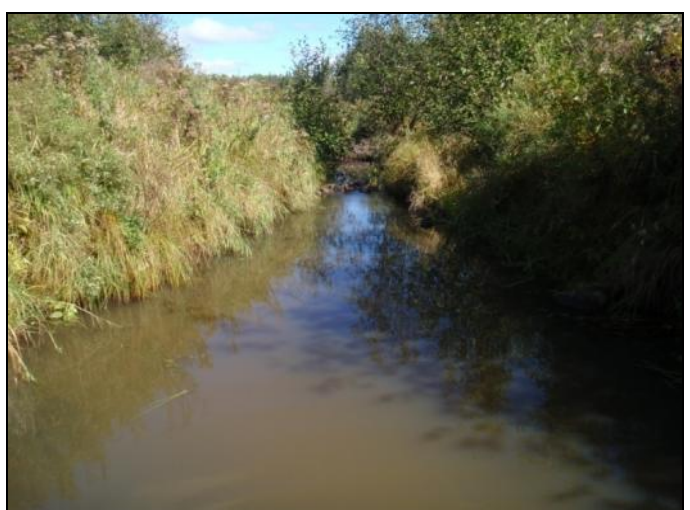
Site 18



Lower riffle looking upstream (L) and lower pool looking upstream (R).



Middle riffle looking upstream (L) and middle pool looking upstream (R).



Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Upper middle pool (L) and upper pool (R) looking upstream.

Site 19 Pitch Creek



Lower riffle looking upstream (L) and downstream (R)



Pool looking downstream (L) and pool bottom (R).



Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Upper riffle looking downstream (L) and upper pool (R).

Site 20 Whitewood Creek



Lower riffle looking upstream (L) and downstream (R)



Pool looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).



Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Upper riffle looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).

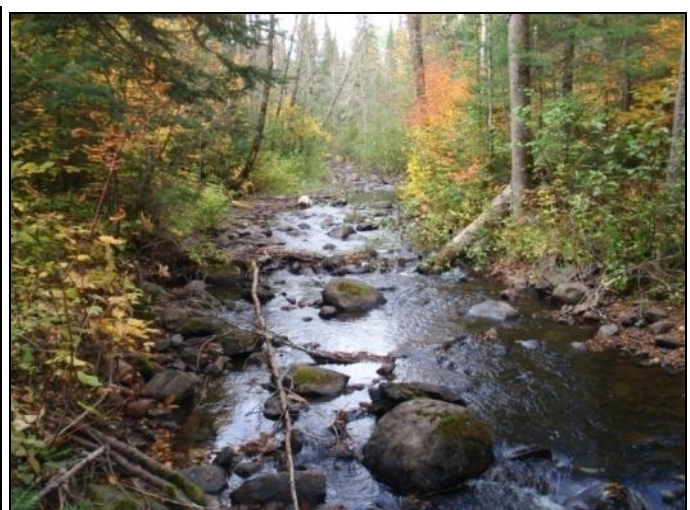
Site 21



Lower riffle looking upstream (L) and downstream (R)



Pool looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).



Northern Bioscience

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Upper riffle looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).

Site 22



Lower pool looking upstream (L) and downstream (R)



Riffle looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).



Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Looking downstream from box culvert (L) and upstream of box culvert (R).

Site 23



Pool



Pool



Northern Bioscience



Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Pool

Site 24



Lower riffle looking upstream (L) and downstream (R)



Pool looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).



Northern Bioscience

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment
Upper riffle looking downstream (L) and upstream (R).

Appendix 5. OBBN Sampling site photographs.



Cedar Creek (C-9) looking upstream from upper riffle.



Cedar Creek (C-9) looking downstream from upper riffle.



Whitewood Creek (WH-14) looking upstream from pool.



Whitewood Creek (WH-14) looking downstream from pool.



Pitch Creek (P-6) looking upstream (L) and downstream (R) from pool.

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment

Appendix 6. Biotic indices: Calculations and descriptions.

Subcategory	Index	How to Calculate:	Indication
Richness/Diversity	ABUNDANCE	Sum of Organisms	possibly impaired if extremely low or high value
	RICHNESS	Count of taxa found in a sample	the greater the number of taxa the higher the quality of the habitat
	INSECT RICHNESS	Count of Chironomidae+Culicidae +Ceratopogonidae +Tipulidae +Tabanidae +Simuliidae+Odonates(Zygoptera and Anisoptera) + Coleoptera + Ephemeroptera + Hemiptera + Lepidoptera + Megaloptera + Plecoptera + Trichoptera + misc Dipterans	the greater the number of taxa the higher the quality of the habitat
	DIPTERIAN RICHNESS	Count of Chironomidae+Culicidae +Ceratopogonidae+Tipulidae+Tabanidae+ Simuliidae	the greater the number of taxa the higher the quality of the habitat
	SIMPSON'S INDEX	Proportion of species i relative to the total number of species (p_i), squared Squared proportions for all the species summed, and the reciprocal is taken	probability that two individuals will belong to the same taxon
	SHANNON'S H' DIVERSITY	$H' = -\sum(p_i * \ln(p_i))$ where p_i = proportion of the count of each taxa	high values indicate increased evenness of the counts among the taxa and higher quality habitat
Composition	%AMPHIPODA	Sum of amphipoda /abundance *100	associated with eutrophic conditions
	%CHIRONOMIDAE	Sum of Chironomidae / Abundance*100	extremely abundant in highly eutrophic situations, but present in all habitats
	%CRUSTACEANS and MOLLUSCA	(Sum of Amphipoda+Decapoda+Isopoda +Gastropoda + Pelecypoda) /Abundance*100	associated with eutrophic conditions, but present in many habitats
	%CRUSTACEANS	(Sum of Amphipoda+Decapoda+Isopoda) /abundance*100	associated with eutrophic conditions, but present in many habitats
	%EPHEMEROPTERA	Sum of Ephemeroptera /abundance*100	the greater the value the higher the quality of the habitat
	%GASTROPODS	Sum of Gastropoda /abundance*100	associated with eutrophic conditions, but present in many habitats
	%HIRUDINEA	Sum of Hirudinea /abundance*100	associated with eutrophic conditions, but present in many habitats
	%ISOPODA	Sum of Isopoda /abundance*100	associated with eutrophic conditions
	%MOLLUSCA	(Sum of Gastropoda + Pelecypoda) /abundance*100	associated with eutrophic conditions, but present in many habitats
	%ODONATES	(Sum of Anisoptera and Zygoptera) /abundance*100	the greater the value the higher the quality of the habitat
	%OLIGOCHAETES	Sum of Oligochaetes /abundance*100	abundant in highly eutrophic situations, but present in many habitats
	%PELECYPODA	Sum of Pelecypoda /abundance*100	the greater the value the healthier the habitat
	%TIPULIDAE	Sum of Tipulidae /abundance*100	possibly impaired if extremely high value, but present in many habitats
	%TABANIDAE	Sum of Tabanidae /abundance*100	possibly impaired if extremely high value, but present in many habitats
	%SIMULIDAE	Sum of Simuliidae /abundance*100	possibly impaired if extremely high value, but present in many habitats
	%DIPTERA	(Sum of Chironomidae+Culicidae +Ceratopogonidae +Tipulidae+Tabanidae+Simuliidae +misc Dipterans) / Total Abundance* 100	possibly impaired if extremely low or high value
	%INSECTS	(Sum of abundance of Chironomidae+Culicidae +Ceratopogonidae +Tipulidae+Tabanidae+Simuliidae+Odonates (Zygoptera and Anisoptera) + Coleoptera + Ephemeroptera + Hemiptera + Lepidoptera + Megaloptera + Plecoptera + Trichoptera + misc Dipterans)/ Total Abundance* 100%	possibly impaired if extremely low or high value
	%NON-DIPTERIAN INSECTS	(Sum of Zygoptera + Anisoptera + Coleoptera + Ephemeroptera + Hemiptera + Lepidoptera + Megaloptera + Plecoptera + Trichoptera)/Total Abundance* 100	a high value indicates higher water quality than a lower value
	%EPT	(Sum of Ephemeroptera + Plecoptera + Trichoptera) / Abundance * 100	a high value indicates higher water quality than a lower value
	%EOT	(Sum of Ephemeroptera + Anisoptera + Zygoptera + Trichoptera) / Total Abundance * 100	a high value indicates higher water quality than a lower value
Tolerance	%DOMINANT	Abundance of the Most Common Taxon / abundance * 100	the dominance of a pollution tolerant group indicates an impaired site
	HILSENHOFF'S BIOTIC INDEX	$=\sum(x_i \cdot t_i) / \text{Total abundance}$ where x_i = abundance of each taxa and t_i = tolerance value for each taxa.	a low value implies low nutrient conditions. Values above 6.0 are of concern

Appendix 7. Tolerance Values (Hilsenhoff 1988) used in the calculation of the Hilsenhoff Biotic Index.

TAXON	TOLERANCE
PLECOPTERA	
Capniidae	1
Chloroperlidae	1
Leuctridae	0
Nemouridae	2
Peltoperlidae	?
Perlidae	1
Perlodidae	2
Pteronarcyidae	0
Taeniopterygidae	2
EPHEMEROPTERA	
Baetidae	4
Baetiscidae	3
Capnidae	7
Ephemerellidae	1
Ephemeridae	4
Heptageniidae	4
Leptophlebiidae	2
Metretopodidae	2
Oligoneuriidae	2
Polymitarcyidae	2
Potomanthidae	4
Siphoneuridae	7
Trycorythidae	4
ODONATA	
Aeshnidae	3
Calopterygidae	5
Coenagrionidae	9
Cordulegastridae	3
Corduliidae	5
Gomphidae	1
Lestidae	9
Libellulidae	9
Macromiidae	3
LEPIDOPTERA	
Pyralidae	5
COLEOPTERA	
Dryopidae	5
Elmidae	4

TAXON	TOLERANCE
TRICHOPTERA	
Brachycentridae	1
Glossosomatidae	0
Helicopsychidae	1
Hydropsychidae	4
Hydroptilidae	4
Lepidostomatidae	1
Leptoceridae	4
Limnephilidae	4
Molannidae	6
Odontoceridae	0
Philopotamidae	3
Phryganeidae	4
Polycentropodidae	6
Psychomyiidae	2
Rhyacophiliidae	0
Sericostomatidae	3
MEGALOPTERA	
Corydalidae	0
Sialidae	4
DIPTERA	
Athericidae	2
Blephariceridae	0
Ceratopogonidae	6
Blood-red Chironomidae	8
other (including pink) Chironomidae	6
Dolichopodidae	4
Empididae	6
Ephydriidae	6
Psychodidae	10
Simuliidae	6
Muscidae	6
Syrphidae	10
Tabanidae	6
Tipulidae	3
AMPHIPODA	
Gammaridae	4
Talitridae	8
ISOPODA	

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment

Psephenidae	4	Asellidae	8
-------------	---	-----------	---

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment

Appendix 8. Benthic macroinvertebrates from Cedar Creek (C-9), Thunder Bay, Ontario, 2010.

	Cedar Creek	Cedar Creek	Cedar Creek
	C-9-2	C-9-3	C-9-4
	Pool	Riffle	Riffle
	21-Oct	21-Oct	21-Oct
COELENTERATA			
PLATYHELMINTHES			
NEMATODA			
MOLLUSCA			
Gastropoda			
Ancylidae	3	1	1
Lymnaeidae	1		
Physidae		1	
Bivalvia			
Sphaeriidae	2		
ANNELIDA			
Oligochaeta	9	14	43
ARTHROPODA			
Hydracarina	1	6	3
Insecta			
Ephemeroptera			
Baetidae	Juvenile/damaged	3	2
	<i>Baetis</i>	2	1
Heptageniidae	Juvenile/damaged	1	6
	<i>Leucrocuta</i>		3
	<i>Maccaffertium</i>		1
	<i>Rhithrogena</i>		3
Ephemerellidae	Juvenile/damaged		
	<i>Eurylophella</i> (s str.)		
	<i>Serratella</i>	5	6
Caenidae	<i>Caenis</i>	1	
Baetiscidae	<i>Baetisca</i>	2	
Leptophlebiidae	Juvenile/damaged	2	3
	<i>Leptophlebia</i>	2	6
Ephemeridae	<i>Ephemera</i>	1	
Odonata			
Gomphidae	Juvenile/damaged	1	
	<i>Ophiogomphus</i>		1
Plecoptera			
Taeniopterygidae	<i>Oemopteryx</i>		3
	<i>Taeniopteryx</i>	1	2
Nemouridae	<i>Nemoura</i>		1
Leuctridae	<i>Leuctra</i>		
	<i>Paraleuctra</i>	2	
Capniidae	Juvenile/damaged		10
	<i>Paracapnia</i>		5
Perlidae	Juvenile/damaged		
	<i>Acroneuria</i>	1	1
	<i>Claassenia</i>		
Perlodidae	Juvenile/damaged		
	<i>Isoperla</i>		1
			2
Coleoptera			
Dryopidae	<i>Helichus</i>		
Elmidae	Juvenile/damaged		
	<i>Dubiraphia</i>	3	
	<i>Optioservus</i>	4	1
Trichoptera			
Philopotamidae	<i>Chimarra</i>		
			1
Polycentropodidae	<i>Polycentropus</i>		
Hydropsychidae	Juvenile		4
	<i>Cheumatopsyche</i>	1	
	<i>Hydropsyche</i>		2
			6
Rhyacophilidae	<i>Rhyacophila</i>		
Glossosomatidae	<i>Glossosoma</i>		2
Hydroptilidae	<i>Hydroptila</i>		
Lepidostomatidae	<i>Lepidostoma</i>	1	1
			2
Limnephilidae	Juvenile/damaged		
Diptera	Damaged/pupa		
Ceratopogonidae	<i>Culicoides</i>	1	
	<i>Probezzia</i>	5	2
Chironomidae		40	16
Simuliidae	<i>Simulium</i>		
Tipulidae	<i>Antocha</i>		
	<i>Dicronata</i>	2	
Athericidae	<i>Atherix</i>		
			1
Total number of individuals	103	102	127
% Sorted (10m/3 min)	3.4	5.7	1.6

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment

Appendix 9. Benthic macroinvertebrates from Whitewood Creek (WH-14), Thunder Bay, Ontario, 2010.

		Whitewood Creek	Whitewood Creek	Whitewood Creek
		W-14-1	W-14-2	W-14-3
		Riffle 12-Oct	Pool 12-Oct	Riffle 12-Oct
COELENTERATA				
PLATYHELMINTHES				1
NEMATODA			2	
MOLLUSCA				
Gastropoda				
Ancylidae		4		4
Lymnaeidae				
Physidae		1		
Bivalvia				
Sphaeriidae				
ANNELIDA				
Oligochaeta		45	33	37
ARTHROPODA				
Hydracarina		3	1	1
Insecta				
Ephemeroptera				
Baetidae	Juvenile/damaged	1		5
	<i>Baetis</i>			2
Heptageniidae	Juvenile/damaged	2		
	<i>Leucrocuta</i>	3		
	<i>Maccaffertium</i>	3	1	4
	<i>Rhithrogena</i>			1
Ephemerellidae	Juvenile/damaged			
	<i>Eurylophella</i> (s. str.)		1	
	<i>Serratella</i>			
Caenidae	<i>Caenis</i>	2	14	
Baetiscidae	<i>Baetisca</i>			
Leptophlebiidae	Juvenile/damaged			3
	<i>Leptophlebia</i>	1	16	11
Ephemeridae	<i>Ephemera</i>	1	5	
Odonata				
Gomphidae	Juvenile/damaged	1	1	
	<i>Ophiogomphus</i>	2	1	
Plecoptera				
Taeniopterygidae	<i>Oemopteryx</i>			
	<i>Taeniopteryx</i>	3		
Nemouridae	<i>Nemoura</i>	2	3	4
Leuctridae	<i>Leuctra</i>			
	<i>Paraleuctra</i>			
Capniidae	Juvenile/damaged			
	<i>Paracapnia</i>			
Perlidae	Juvenile/damaged			
	<i>Acroneuria</i>			1
	<i>Claassenia</i>			1
Perlodidae	Juvenile/damaged			1
	<i>Isoperla</i>			
Coleoptera				
Dryopidae	<i>Helichus</i>			
Elmidae	Juvenile/damaged			4
	<i>Dubiraphia</i>			
	<i>Optioservus</i>	4		1
Trichoptera				
Philopotamidae	<i>Chimarra</i>			
Polycentropodidae	<i>Polycentropus</i>	1		2
Hydropsychidae	Juvenile			9
	<i>Cheumatopsyche</i>			1
	<i>Hydropsyche</i>			5
Rhyacophilidae	<i>Rhyacophila</i>			
Glossosomatidae	<i>Glossosoma</i>			
Hydroptilidae	<i>Hydroptila</i>	1		
Lepidostomatidae	<i>Lepidostoma</i>	4		2
Limnephilidae	Juvenile/damaged	1	2	
Diptera				
Ceratopogonidae	Damaged/pupa			
	<i>Culicoides</i>			
	<i>Probezzia</i>	8	14	2
Chironomidae		24	47	6
Simuliidae	<i>Simulium</i>			
Tipulidae	<i>Antocha</i>			
	<i>Dicronata</i>	1		
Athericidae	<i>Atherix</i>			1
Total number of individuals		118	141	109
% Sorted (10m/3 min)		2.9	2.1	5.0

Whitefish Tributaries 2010 Assessment

Appendix 10. Benthic macroinvertebrates from Pitch Creek (P-6), Thunder Bay, Ontario, 2010.

		Pitch Creek	Pitch Creek	Pitch Creek
		P-6-1	P-6-2	P-6-3
		Riffle	Pool	Riffle
		17-Oct	17-Oct	17-Oct
COELENTERATA			1	
PLATYHELMINTHES		1		
NEMATODA			1	
MOLLUSCA				
Gastropoda				
Ancylidae		2		
Lymnaeidae				
Physidae				
Bivalvia			1	
Sphaeriidae				
ANNELIDA				
Oligochaeta		20	27	12
ARTHROPODA				
Hydracarina				6
Insecta				
Ephemeroptera				
Baetidae	Juvenile/damaged		2	
	<i>Baetis</i>	4	4	
Heptageniidae	Juvenile/damaged	4		
	<i>Leucrocuta</i>	5		5
	<i>Maccaffertium</i>	2	3	
	<i>Rhithrogena</i>			
Ephemerellidae	Juvenile/damaged			1
	<i>Eurylophella</i> (s str.)	1	1	2
	<i>Serratella</i>			
Caenidae	<i>Caenis</i>		10	
Baetiscidae	<i>Baetisca</i>			
Leptophlebiidae	Juvenile/damaged			1
	<i>Leptophlebia</i>	2		
Ephemeridae	<i>Ephemera</i>		1	
Odonata				
Gomphidae	Juvenile/damaged			
	<i>Ophiogomphus</i>			1
Plecoptera				
Taeniopterygidae	<i>Oemopteryx</i>		1	3
	<i>Taeniopteryx</i>	1	1	1
Nemouridae	<i>Nemoura</i>			1
Leuctridae	<i>Leuctra</i>	1	1	
	<i>Paraleuctra</i>			
Capniidae	Juvenile/damaged			
	<i>Paracapnia</i>	1		
Perlidae	Juvenile/damaged			
	<i>Acroneuria</i>			1
	<i>Claassenia</i>			
Perlodidae	Juvenile/damaged			
	<i>Isoperla</i>			
Coleoptera				
Dryopidae	<i>Helichus</i>			1
Elmidae	Juvenile/damaged	1		
	<i>Dubiraphia</i>		3	
	<i>Optioservus</i>	5		1
Trichoptera				
Philopotamidae	<i>Chimarra</i>			
Polycentropodidae	<i>Polycentropus</i>			
Hydropsychidae	Juvenile			
	<i>Cheumatopsyche</i>			
	<i>Hydropsyche</i>	1		1
Rhyacophilidae	<i>Rhyacophila</i>			
Glossosomatidae	<i>Glossosoma</i>			
Hydroptilidae	<i>Hydroptila</i>	1		
Lepidostomatidae	<i>Lepidostoma</i>	3		
Limnephilidae	Juvenile/damaged	2	2	
Diptera	Damaged/pupa			
Ceratopogonidae	<i>Culicoides</i>			
	<i>Probezzia</i>	2	3	
Chironomidae		46	48	65
Simuliidae	<i>Simulium</i>			
Tipulidae	<i>Antocha</i>	1		
	<i>Dicronata</i>			
Athericidae	<i>Atherix</i>	1		
Total number of individuals		107	110	102
% Sorted		4.5	4.8	2.8