

## Aquatic Habitat Data Worksheet

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Study location: \_\_\_\_\_

Field observation team: \_\_\_\_\_ Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

Water Temperature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Habitat type:**  Ditch  Stream  River  Pond  Wetland  Lake

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

**Soil:**  Sandy  Rocky  Clay  Silt  Sediment

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

**Shoreline Vegetation:**  None  Moderate growth  Dense plant growth  Wooded

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

**Aquatic vegetation:**  None  algae  floating plants (ie, lily pads)  submerged plants  
 rooted plants (ie cattails)

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

**Water clarity:**  Clear  Somewhat clear  Cloudy (turbid)

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

**Water movement:**  Still  Slow moving  Gently flowing  Fast moving

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Water depth (if known) \_\_\_\_\_ Vertebrates: \_\_\_\_\_

Living organisms \_\_\_\_\_ Macroinvertebrates: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



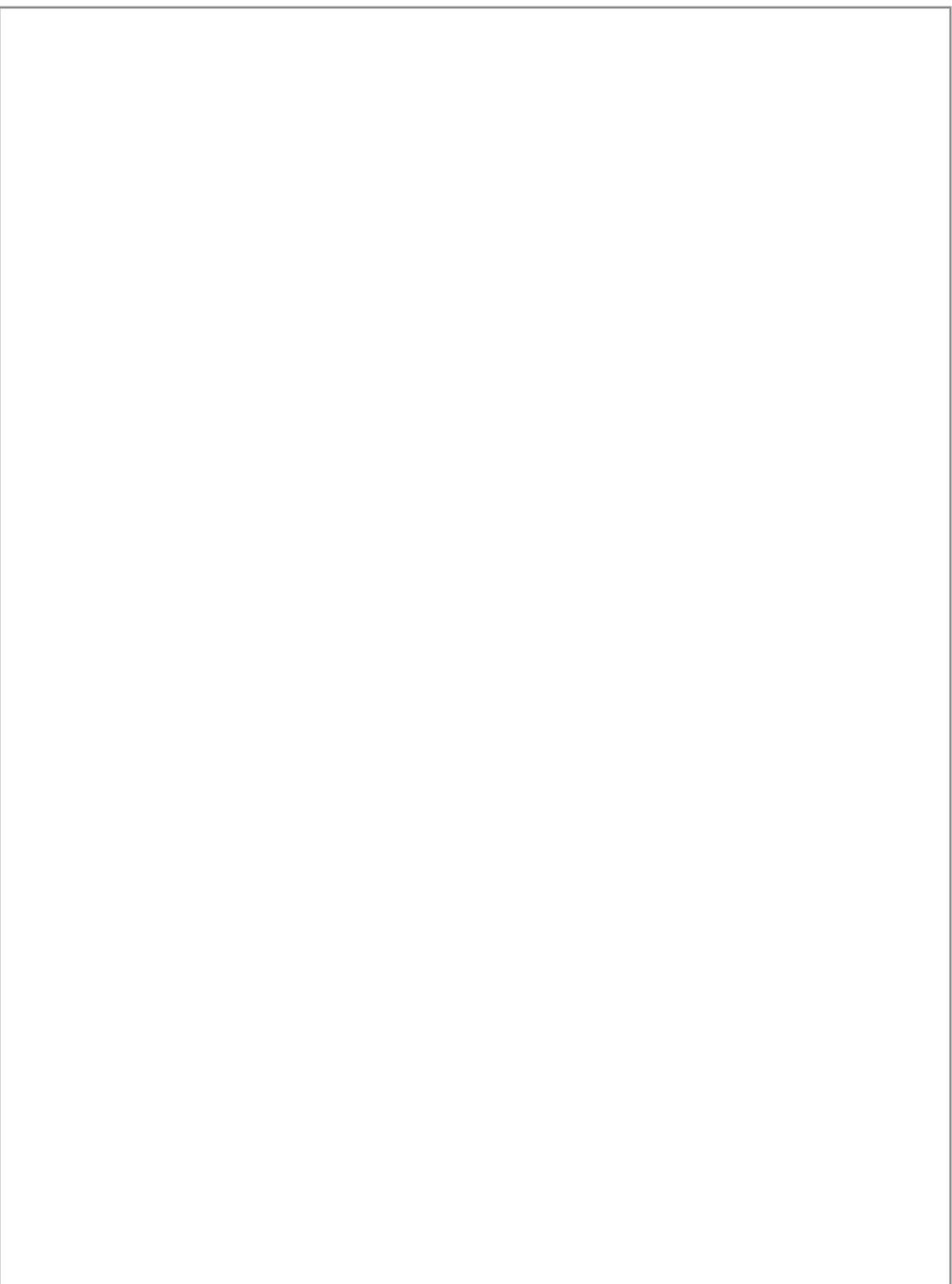
# FISH HABITAT

Unit 3, Lesson 2

## Aquatic Habitat Data Worksheet

### Observation Illustration and Summary

Use the space below to draw or photograph significant details of the aquatic habitat at this site. Write a short summary of the habitat based on field observations, notes, and illustrations. Be sure to record any other characteristics of this particular aquatic habitat. Additional factors might include fallen logs or other objects in the water, proximity of water to buildings or roads, whether the shoreline is altered in any way by humans (e.g. mowing, etc)



Based on the habitat illustration and summary above, make a predication about which species of freshwater fish might live in this type of habitat and why. Refer to habitat cards for examples.

Habitat prediction: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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# FISH HABITAT

## Unit 3, Lesson 2

More than 160 species of fish thrive in the Great Lakes region. All species tolerate cold, near freezing water temperatures for several months every year. However, during warmer months, fish can be grouped by water temperature preference. Listed here are some common fish species and their habitat.

### WARMWATER FISH

(higher than 75 degrees)

#### Black bullhead

*Ameiurus melas*

Habitat: Ponds, sloughs, and sluggish parts of creeks and rivers; in shallow and often silty water.

#### Bluegill

*Lepomis macrochirus*

Habitat: Vegetated lakes and slow-moving streams. Prefers weedy areas with lily pads and other aquatic vegetation.

#### Common carp

*Cyprinus carpio*

Habitat: Primarily warm rivers and inland lakes. Tolerant of silty and turbid environments. Bottom-feeder.

#### Largemouth bass

*Micropterus salmoides*

Habitat: Warm, weedy, or brushy lakes and ponds, bayous, backwaters, and quiet streams.

### COOLWATER FISH

(higher than 65 degrees but less than 75)

#### Northern pike

*Esox lucius*

Habitat: Cool to moderately warm, weedy lakes, ponds and sluggish rivers.

#### Pumpkinseed

*Lepomis gibbosus*

Habitat: Cool, weedy ponds, small lakes and slow-moving streams.

#### Smallmouth bass

*Micropterus dolomieu*

Habitat: Clear, gravel-bottom runs in flowing rivers; shallow rocky areas of lakes.

#### Walleye

*Sander vitreus*

Habitat: Cold, clear waters of lakes and streams. Prefers sand, gravel or rock bottom. Seldom found in mud-bottomed waters.

#### Yellow perch

*Perca flavescens*

Habitat: Thrives in a variety of locations, including quiet ponds, streams with little current, and large and small lakes. Also found in the Great Lakes.

### COLDWATER FISH

(less than 70 degrees)

#### Brook trout

*Salvelinus fontinalis*

Habitat: Cold, clear lakes and streams.

#### Chinook salmon

*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*

Habitat: Deep open waters of the Great Lakes. Spawns in tributaries in autumn.

#### Deepwater sculpin

*Myoxocephalus thompsonii*

Habitat: Cold, bottom waters of the Great Lakes.

#### Emerald shiner

*Notropis atherinoides*

Habitat: Pelagic (open water) species found in large lakes and rivers.

#### Lake whitefish

*Coregonus clupeaformis*

Habitat: Cold, deep waters of the Great Lakes; cold, deep inland lakes.

#### Sources:

Fishes of the Great Lakes Region  
Michigan Fishes (Michigan State University and Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources)  
Reviewers: Gerald R. Smith; Solomon David