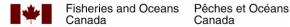
## Results of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's 2020 Asian Carp Early Detection Field Surveillance Program

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2021

**Canadian Manuscript Report of** Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 3168-3





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## Canadian Manuscript Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 3168-3

#### 2021

# RESULTS OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA'S 2020 ASIAN CARP EARLY DETECTION FIELD SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

Ву

Filipe Aguiar, Julia E. Colm, and David M. Marson

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Correct citation for this publication:

Aguiar, F., Colm, J.E., and Marson, D.M.. 2021. Results of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's 2020 Asian Carp Early Detection Field Surveillance Program. Can. Manuscr. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 3168-3: vii + 57 p.

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Aguiar, F., Colm, J.E., and Marson, D.M.. 2021. Results of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's 2020 Asian Carp Early Detection Field Surveillance Program. Can. Manuscr. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 3168-3: vii + 57 p.

In 2020, Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Asian Carp Program continued early detection surveillance for Asian carps in Canadian waters of the Laurentian Great Lakes. A total of 980 field sites were sampled at 30 locations using six gear types. A total of 61 247 fishes were caught representing 84 species. Buffalo (*Ictiobus* spp.) and Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) were used as surrogate species to assess the effectiveness of gear types. A total of 434 buffalo and 995 Common Carp were caught. Trammel nets and boat electrofishing were the most effective at capturing these surrogate species. An additional 69 field sites were sampled at six locations for larval fishes and eggs using bongo nets. A total of 239 larval fishes were caught. One Grass Carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) was caught during the 2020 early detection surveillance efforts; a diploid female captured in Jordan Harbour (Lake Ontario drainage). Surveillance for Asian carps will continue in 2021, with an emphasis on the lower Great Lakes where the threat of arrival remains highest.

#### **RÉSUMÉ**

Aguiar, F., Colm, J.E., and Marson, D.M.. 2021. Results of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's 2020 Asian Carp Early Detection Field Surveillance Program. Can. Manuscr. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 3168-3: vii + 57 p.

En 2020, le Programme de lutte contre les carpes asiatiques de Pêches et Océans Canada a poursuivi ses activités de détection précoce des carpes asiatiques dans les eaux canadiennes des Grands Lacs laurentiens. Au total, 980 sites sur le terrain ont été échantillonnés à 30 emplacements à l'aide de 6 types d'engins. Au total, 61 247 poissons ont été capturés, représentant 84 espèces. Le buffalo (*Ictiobus* spp.) et la carpe commune (*Cyprinus carpio*) ont été utilisés comme espèces de remplacement pour évaluer l'efficacité des types d'engins. Au total, 434 buffalos et 995 carpes communes ont été capturés. Les trémails et la pêche à l'électricité en bateau ont été les plus efficaces pour capturer ces espèces de remplacement. En outre, 69 autres sites sur le terrain ont été échantillonnés à 6 emplacements pour les larves et les œufs de poissons à l'aide de filets Bongo. Au total, 239 larves de poissons ont été capturées. Une carpe de roseau (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) a été capturée pendant les travaux de surveillance et de détection précoce de 2020; une femelle diploïde capturée dans le port de Jordan (bassin versant du lac Ontario). La surveillance des carpes asiatiques se poursuivra en 2021, l'accent étant mis sur les Grands Lacs inférieurs, où la menace d'introduction demeure la plus élevée.

#### **PREFACE**

Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Asian Carp Program has conducted early detection surveillance for Asian carps throughout the Great Lakes basin since 2013. The program has improved sampling protocols and identified early detection locations considered suitable for Asian carps (for reproduction or feeding) that can be sampled effectively with a suite of gear types. The Asian Carp Program surveillance data has been summarized into annual reports, such as this since 2013. By 2017, the fifth year of sampling, standard protocols have been established, and the sampling methods and locations are not expected to change greatly from year to year. The Asian Carp Program will continue early detection surveillance in and around the Great Lakes basin for the foreseeable future. As such, data summaries will be produced each year as a subseries contributing to the more detailed 2017 report (Colm et al. 2019). Any changes to methodology or sampling locations will be noted in the data summary reports, but readers will be referred back to the 2017 report for detailed descriptions of methods. An in-depth report is planned for every five years highlighting major changes and providing updates on the program, as well as present cumulative summaries from the previous five years of sampling as an appendix.

For full description of methods, please refer to:

Colm, J., Marson, D. and Cudmore, B. 2019. Results of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's 2017 Asian Carp Early Detection Field Surveillance Program. Can. Manuscr. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 3168: vi + 69 p

#### INTRODUCTION

The focus of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) Asian Carp Program is to prevent the entry and establishment of Asian carps in Canadian waters of the Great Lakes through outreach, early detection, response and management. The Asian Carp Program has conducted early detection surveillance in Canadian waters since 2013. Early detection and removal is essential to prevent the establishment of aquatic invasive species, as more response options are available and it is less costly than managing or controlling an established invasive species (Lodge et al. 2006; Vander Zanden et al. 2010).

For early detection surveillance, the Asian Carp Program uses a variety of gear types targeting all sizes and life stages of four species of Asian carps: Bighead Carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*), Black Carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*), Grass Carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) and Silver Carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*). As Grass Carp reproduction has been detected in at least two Lake Erie tributaries in the Great Lakes (Embke et al. 2016; USGS 2019; Whitledge et al. 2021), more emphasis has been placed on targeting Grass Carp in recent years. Asian carps are not established in Canadian waters so in place of capture data on these target species, surrogate species are used to assess the effectiveness of gear types and sampling techniques, specifically buffalo species (*Ictiobus* spp., referred to hereafter as buffalo) and Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). Both surrogate species are large-bodied and mobile, and relatively widespread in the basin. Although early detection of Asian carps is the primary objective of surveillance, the full fish community is sampled, providing a baseline of the fish community in areas that could be impacted by Asian carps.

Surveillance sampling in 2020 took place from June 29<sup>th</sup> to November 9<sup>th</sup> in 30 locations (wetlands, tributary rivers and interconnected channels) of the Great Lakes. A summary of the results from the 2020 early detection surveillance sampling effort is presented here.

#### **METHODS**

Thirty-seven early detection locations were identified for surveillance in Canadian waters of the Great Lakes (Figure 1). These are large tributary rivers suitable to Asian carp spawning and large, productive wetlands with abundant submerged aquatic vegetation that would be attractive to Grass Carp for feeding (Cudmore et al. 2012, 2017). In these locations, sites were selected semi-randomly based on where gears could be deployed and fished effectively. A collection of sites in each waterbody have been selected to be standardized sites, and are sampled annually. If crews determine an area within the waterbody as a suitable sample site, targeted sampling is also completed. Thirty of the 37 early detection locations were sampled in 2020. Maps of 2020 sampling sites at each location are found in Appendix 2.

Sites were sampled using six gear types: boat electrofishing, hoop nets, mini fyke nets, seine nets, trammel nets, and trap nets (details and dimensions provided in Appendix 1). These gear types capture both large- and small-bodied fishes in a variety of habitats. Sampling the full extent of the fish community increases the likelihood of detecting all four species of Asian carps at both juvenile and adult life-stages. All fish captured are identified, counted (up to a maximum of 250 individuals per species) and total lengths of ten representative individuals are measured. A

habitat assessment is also completed at each site; the results of which are not presented here. Surveillance in some Lake Ontario locations (Duffins Creek, Frenchman's Bay, Toronto Islands, Humber and Rouge rivers) was completed by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) following DFO Asian Carp Program protocols. Sampling for larval fishes and eggs was also conducted using bongo nets in select high-risk tributaries in lakes Erie and Huron (maps in Appendix 3).

#### RESULTS

In 2020, the Asian Carp early detection field surveillance program sampled 980 sites in 30 waterbodies (i.e. wetlands, tributary rivers and interconnected channels) within Canadian waters of the Great Lakes basin. In total, 137 field sites were sampled in seven Lake Huron waterbodies, 333 sites in eight waterbodies in the Huron-Erie Corridor (HEC), 329 sites in eight Lake Erie waterbodies and 181 field sites in seven Lake Ontario waterbodies.

A total of 61 247 fishes were caught in 2020, representing 84 species (Table 1). The mean number of fishes caught per site was 62 and the mean number of species was five. Of the species caught, the most abundant were Gizzard Shad (*Dorosoma cepedianum*) totalling 20 379 fish (~33.3% of all fishes caught), Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*) totalling 6 120 fish (~10.0%), Pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*) totalling 3 577 fish (~5.8%), Emerald Shiner (*Notropis atherinoides*) totalling 3 323 fish (~5.4%), and Bluntnose Minnow (*Pimephales notatus*) totalling 2 214 fish (~3.6%; Table 3).

The species that were caught most frequently were Bluegill (caught at 40.4% of all sites sampled), Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*; 39.9%), Pumpkinseed (39.1%), Common Carp (30.5%) and Gizzard Shad (27.6%).

An additional 69 field sites were sampled for larval fish and eggs using bongo nets. Approximately 239 larval fishes weighing a total of 0.72 g were collected.

#### **BOAT ELECTROFISHER**

Boat electrofishing was conducted at 340 sites in all 30 of the waterbodies sampled. A total of 3 444.12 minutes of shocking were completed, with a mean of 10.22 minutes of shock time per site (Table 4). A total of 30 998 fishes were caught with this gear, representing 70 species. The mean catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 9.10 fishes per minute of shocking. There were three boat electrofishing sites where no fish were caught.

Boat electrofishing is often conducted in combination with either tied-down gill or trammel nets to prevent large fishes from fleeing the site; this method has been effective for DFO at capturing Grass Carp. Fish captures and effort were recorded separately for each gear. Of the 340 sites sampled with boat electrofishing, 203 were sampled with this gear alone, and had a mean CPUE of 9.03 fishes per minute of shocking. 137 sites were sampled in combination with trammel nets with a mean CPUE of 9.20 fishes per minute of shocking.

The most abundant species caught boat electrofishing were Gizzard Shad (63.1% of fishes caught), Emerald Shiner (9.0%) and Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*; 4.1%). The most frequently caught species were Largemouth Bass (caught at 67.4% of sites sampled), Gizzard

Shad (61.8%) and Pumpkinseed (52.6%). There were 123 buffalo and 437 Common Carp caught boat electrofishing. Of the total fishes captured by electrofishing, 1.81% were surrogate species.

In the Lake Huron drainage, 49 sites were sampled by boat electrofishing. A total of 2 252 fishes were caught, representing 51 species. The mean CPUE across these sites was 4.83 fishes per minute of shocking (Tables 2, 5).

In the HEC, 116 sites were sampled by boat electrofishing. A total of 16 330 fishes were caught, representing 49 species. The mean CPUE across these sites was 14.03 fishes per minute of shocking.

In the Lake Erie drainage, 118 sites were sampled by boat electrofishing. A total of 10 092 fishes we caught, representing 54 species. The mean CPUE across these sites was 8.56 fishes per minute of shocking.

In the Lake Ontario drainage, 57 sites were sampled by boat electrofishing. A total of 2 324 fishes we caught, representing 35 species. The mean CPUE across these sites was 3.93 fishes per minute of shocking.

#### **HOOP NET**

Hoop nets were set at 35 sites in eight waterbodies. Nets were set for a total of 1 623.58 hours, with a mean of 46.39 hours of set time per site (Table 4). A total of 74 fishes were caught with this gear, representing 17 species. The mean CPUE was 0.05 fishes per hour of set time. There were 19 hoop net sites where no fish were caught.

The most abundant species caught in hoop nets were Freshwater Drum (*Aplodinotus grunniens*; 20.3% of fishes caught), Rock Bass (*Ambloplites rupestris*; 17.6%) and White Perch (*Morone americana*; 9.5%). The most frequently caught species in hoop nets were Rock Bass (caught at 20.0% of sites sampled) and Freshwater Drum (17.1%). There were no buffalo and one Common Carp caught in the hoop nets. Of the total fishes captured by hoop nets, 1.35% were surrogate species.

In Lake Erie, 11 sites were sampled with hoop nets. A total of 19 fishes were caught, representing nine species. The mean CPUE across these sites was 0.04 per hour of set time (Tables 2, 5).

In the HEC, 24 sites were sampled with hoop nets. A total of 55 fishes were caught, representing 13 species. The mean CPUE across these sites was 0.05 per hour of set time.

No hoop nets were set in Lake Huron or Lake Ontario waterbodies.

#### MINI FYKE NET

Mini fyke nets were set at 259 sites in 30 waterbodies sampled. Nets were set for a total of 5 623.81 hours, with a mean of 21.71 hours of set time per site (Table 4). A total of 22 706 fishes were caught with this gear, representing 65 species. The mean CPUE was 4.11 fishes per hour of set time. There were six sites where no fish were caught in this gear.

The most abundant species caught in mini fyke nets were sunfish species (*Lepomis* sp; 33.1% of fishes caught), Bluegill (16.9%), and Pumpkinseed (8.1%). The most frequently caught species in mini fyke nets were Bluegill (caught at 51.0% of sites sampled), Pumpkinseed (49.8%), and Largemouth Bass (43.6%). There were 12 buffalo and 23 Common Carp caught in mini fyke nets. Of the total fishes captured by mini fyke nets, 0.15% were surrogate species.

In Lake Huron, 40 sites were sampled with mini fyke nets. A total of 2 280 fishes were caught, representing 37 species. The mean CPUE across these sites was 2.79 per hour of set time (Tables 2, 5).

In the HEC, 89 sites were sampled with mini fyke nets. A total of 8 416 fishes were caught, representing 36 species. The mean CPUE across these sites was 4.47 per hour of set time.

In Lake Erie, 82 sites were sampled with mini fyke nets. A total of 8 399 fishes were caught, representing 43 species. The mean CPUE across these sites was 4.83 per hour of set time.

In Lake Ontario, 48 sites were sampled with mini fyke nets. A total of 3 611 fishes were caught, representing 31 species. The mean CPUE across these sites was 3.32 per hour of set time.

#### SEINE NET

Seine nets were used at 11 sites in eight waterbodies. A total of 27 hauls were completed, with a mean of 2.45 hauls per site (Table 4). A total of 1 983 fishes were caught with this gear, representing 25 species. The mean CPUE was 104.59 fishes per haul. There were no seine net sites where no fish were caught.

The most abundant species caught in seine nets were sunfish species (28.5% of fishes caught), Brook Silverside (*Labidesthes sicculus*; 15.7%), and Bluntnose Minnow (13.6%). The most frequently caught species in seine nets were Round Goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*; 25.93% of sites sampled), Bluntnose Minnow (25.93%), and Brook Silverside (25.93%). There were no buffalo and no Common Carp caught with seine nets.

In Lake Huron, six sites were sampled with seine nets. A total of 931 fishes were caught, representing 17 species. The mean CPUE across these sites was 119.19 per haul (Tables 2, 5).

In Lake Erie, five sites were sampled with seine nets. A total of 1 052 fishes were caught, representing 22 species. The mean CPUE across these sites was 87.07 per haul.

No seine nets were used in the HEC or Lake Ontario.

#### TRAMMEL NETS

Trammel nets were set at 169 sites in 30 waterbodies with a total set time of 6 939 minutes, and a mean of 41.06 minutes of set time per site (Table 4). A total of 685 fishes were caught with this gear, representing 15 species. The mean CPUE was 0.08 fish per minute of set time. There were 92 sites where no fish we caught in this gear.

The most abundant species caught in trammel nets were Common Carp (53.1% of fishes caught), buffalo (38.2%), and Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*; 2.5%). The most frequently caught species in trammel nets were Common Carp (33.7% sites sampled), buffalo (21.3%), and

Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*; 5.3%). There were 262 buffalo and 364 Common Carp caught with trammel nets. Of the total fishes captured by trammel nets, 91.39% were surrogate species.

In Lake Huron, 20 sites were sampled with trammel nets. A total of 15 fishes were caught, representing six species. The mean CPUE across these sites was 0.13 per minute of set time (Tables 2, 5).

In the HEC, 46 sites were sampled with trammel nets. A total of 330 fishes were caught, representing eight species. The mean CPUE across these sites was 0.14 per minute of set time.

In Lake Erie, 58 sites were sampled with trammel nets. A total of 78 fishes were caught, representing seven species. The mean CPUE across these sites was 0.03 per minute of set time.

In Lake Ontario, 45 sites were sampled with trammel nets. A total of 262 fishes were caught, representing seven species. The mean CPUE across these sites was 0.13 per minute of set time.

#### TRAP NETS

Trap nets were set at 166 sites in 28 waterbodies. A total set time of 3 765.99 hours, with a mean of 22.69 hours of set time per site (Table 4). A total of 4 801 fishes were caught with this gear, representing 35 species. The mean CPUE was 1.34 fish per hour of set time. There were 18 sites where no fish were caught in this gear.

The most abundant species caught in trap nets were Brown Bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*; 24.0% of fishes caught), Bluegill (22.1%), and Pumpkinseed (12.4%). The most frequently caught species in trap nets were Bluegill (54.8% of sites sampled), Black Crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*; 50.6%), and Pumpkinseed (42.2%). There were 37 buffalo and 170 Common Carp caught with trap nets. Of the total fishes captured by trap nets, 4.31% were surrogate species.

In Lake Huron, 22 sites were sampled with trap nets. A total of 288 fishes were caught, representing 19 species. The mean CPUE across these sites was 0.63 per hour of set time(Tables 2, 5).

In the HEC, 58 sites were sampled with trap nets. A total of 987 fishes were caught, representing 27 species. The mean CPUE across these sites was 0.82 per hour of set time.

In Lake Erie, 55 sites were sampled with trap nets. A total of 2 393 fishes were caught, representing 32 species. The mean CPUE across these sites was 2.03 per hour of set time.

In Lake Ontario, 31 sites were sampled with trap nets. A total of 1 133 fishes were caught, representing 21 species. The mean CPUE across these sites was 1.58 per hour of set time.

#### **SURROGATES**

A total of 1 429 surrogate fishes were caught in 2020 consisting of 434 buffalo and 995 Common Carp. Buffalo ranged in size from 30 to 889 mm total length, with a mean and median total length of 555.7 mm and 611 mm, respectively. Buffalo was the 19<sup>th</sup> most abundant and the 15<sup>th</sup> most frequently caught species in 2020. It was caught in 14 of 30 waterbodies in all Great Lakes

sampled; however, in Lake Huron, it was only caught in the Ausable River, and in Lake Ontario, only in Jordan Harbour. The most buffalo were caught in the Thames River (137 individuals, approximately 2.1 per site).

Common Carp ranged in size from 32 to 971 mm total length, with a mean and median total length of 594.6 mm and 620 mm, respectively. Common Carp was the 11<sup>th</sup> most abundant and the fourth most frequently caught species in 2020. It was caught in all but one waterbody sampled (Rouge River). The most Common Carp caught and the greatest number caught per site was in Jordan Harbour (255 individuals, 5.1 per site).

The most buffalo were caught in trammel nets, a total of 262 (60.4% of all buffalo caught; approximately 1.6 buffalo per trammel net site; Table 4) were caught. Boat electrofishing and trap nets were also effective at capturing buffalo, with 123 (28.3%; 0.4 per site) and 37 (8.5%; 0.2 per site) caught in these gear types, respectively.

The most Common Carp were caught by boat electrofishing, a total of 437 (43.9% of all Common Carp caught; approximately 1.3 Common Carp per electrofishing site; Table 4) were caught; however, trammel nets caught the greatest number per site, a total of 364 individuals (36.6%; 2.2 individuals per site).

#### **ASIAN CARPS**

On July 2, 2020, during early detection surveillance, field crews captured one Grass Carp in Jordan Harbour in a trammel net. Located in Lincoln, Ontario, Jordan Harbour is a large wetland habitat that drains into Lake Ontario.

The Grass Carp was 1 058 mm in total length, weighed 16.324 kg, and was a diploid female (capable of reproducing). This female had large and well hydrated eggs, was estimated to be at least nine years old, and its otolith microchemistry was consistent with that of a wild born individual.

The fish was captured at a depth of 1.2 m in an area dominated with emergent aquatic vegetation. The fish was captured in a 183 m (200 yard) trammel net with 10 cm (4") bar mesh that was set for 64 minutes, and was captured within 32 m of shore. This trammel net was fished in combination with electrofishing with a shock time of 5 minutes.

Following the capture of the Grass Carp, response efforts were initiated on July 2, 2020. Three DFO crews from the Canadian Center of Inland Waters in Burlington, Ontario began sampling the area of capture within Jordan Harbour. and the crewsset 28 trammel net sets totalling 5 124 m of net and approximately 2 051 minutes of set time. Additionally, 27 000 seconds of boat electrofishing were conducted. The entire area of Jordan Harbour was intensively sampled for five days until July 7, 2020 and no additional Grass Carp were captured.

#### OTHER NON-INDIGENOUS AQUATIC SPECIES

Other non-indigenous fish species (as listed in Sturtevant et al. 2019, updated from Mills et al. 1993) were caught during DFO's early detection surveillance work targeting Asian carps. They included 66 Alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*), five Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*), 53 Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), 13 Flathead Catfish (*Pylodictis olivaris*), 116 Goldfish

(*Carassius auratus*), ten Goldfish x Common Carp hybrids (*Carassius auratus* x *Cyprinus carpio*), four Orangespotted Sunfish (*Lepomis humilis*), one Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), 736 Round Goby, 177 Rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*), ten Tubenose Goby (*Proterorhinus semilunaris*) and 101 White Perch (*Morone americana*).

#### LARVAL BONGO NETS

Bongo nets were deployed in six waterbodies at 69 sites in late-summer of 2020 (Table 6). Bongo nets were deployed for 12 300 seconds. A total of 239 larval fishes were caught, with a weight of 0.72 g. The greatest CPUE was in the Thames River with 5.7 fishes per minute of bongo tow. Genetic analysis (Colm et al. 2019) indicate 37 species present, all of which were detected as adults in traditional sampling during early detection surveillance. No Asian carps were detected in the genetic analysis.

#### **SUMMARY**

In 2020, DFO's Asian Carp Program early detection surveillance crews sampled 30 waterbodies in the Great Lakes basin at high risk for the arrival of Asian carps. Six gear types were used to target large- and small-bodied fishes in a variety of wetland and riverine habitats where Asian carps are likely to arrive. A total of 980 field sites were sampled and 61 247 fishes representing 84 species were caught. Additionally, bongo nets were used to target Asian carp icthyoplankton (larval fish and eggs); another 69 field sites were sampled resulting in 239 larval fishes. One Grass Carp was detected during the 2020 surveillance in Jordan Harbour, Lake Ontario.

Trammel nets, boat electrofishing and trap nets continue to be the most effective gear types for capturing surrogate species; trammel nets especially so for buffalo, and boat electrofishing for Common Carp. This is generally consistent with effectiveness of gear types at capturing Asian carps in the Missouri River, USA (Wanner and Klumb 2009).

Buffalo and Common Carp were the 19th and 11th most abundant of the 84 species caught, and the 15th and fourth most frequently caught species, respectively, suggesting our methods are targeting large-bodied fishes effectively.

There were minimal changes in the gear types used for early detection surveillance in 2020. The program continued to deploy two custom Henley boats fitted with Halltech (Guelph, Ontario) and Midwest Lake electrofishing equipment (Polo, Missouri) to improve consistency in sampling efforts. Due provincial travel restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, fewer sites were sampled overall, but particularly for larval fishes, and only bongo nets were deployed during larval sampling. Due to reduced sampling events, tie-down gill nets were also not used during early detection sampling. No changes in gear are anticipated for the 2021 sampling season.

The Asian Carp Program conducted early detection surveillance in 30 of 37 early detection locations identified as highly suitable for Asian carps. The early detection locations in Lake Superior and northern Lake Huron (Georgian Bay) were not visited in 2020 as these remain lower risk. Whereas, there are sites in the lower Great Lakes where Grass Carp have been detected and/or are reproducing (i.e. two Lake Erie tributaries in US waters). These northern early detection sites will be visited when opportunity allows or if the threat increases.

In 2021, the Asian Carp Program will continue to conduct early detection surveillance for Asian carps and to concentrate efforts in the western basin of Lake Erie, and the southern HEC where the threat of Grass Carp arrival is most imminent. Other sites in the Great Lakes basin may be visited fewer times or may be sampled with non-traditional techniques (e.g. environmental DNA surveillance). This change in strategy is intended to further improve early detection and prevent the spread of Grass Carp beyond western Lake Erie and into Canadian waters.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We thank the 2020 summer and fall field staff for the Asian Carp Program: Matthew Cowley, Laura Harman, Colin Illes, Alex Price, Kaitlyn Brougham, Kate Beirnes, Tabitha DiCintio, Anne Ha, Greg Koebel, Ella Middleton, Ryan Story, Zach Stuckey, and Jessica Robichaud. Thank you to the thoughtful reviewers Kaitlyn Brougham and David Reddick. Thanks to TRCA for program support and to field staff: Brian Graham, Don Little, Brynn Coey, Matthew Fraschetti, Marco Haust, Kirsten Pautler, Laura Salazar, Samuel Burr, Devan Bruce, Michelle Place, and Justin Chan. This project was funded through DFO's Asian Carp Program.

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**TABLES** 

Table 1 Summary of the 2020 catch data for the Asian Carp Program's early detection surveillance.

Number of Sites	980
Number of Waterbodies	30
Number of Fish Caught	61 247
Mean Number of Fish per Site	62.50
Maximum Number of Fish per Site	553
Total Number of Species	84
Mean Number of Species per Site	5.27
Maximum Number of Species per Site	40
Total Number of Asian carp	1
Total Number of Buffalo	434
Total Number of Common Carp	995

Table 2 Catch data by waterbody for the 2020 Asian Carp Program's early detection surveillance.

				Mean		Mean			
			Total	Number		Number	Number		Number
			Number	of Fish	Number	of	of Sites	Number	of
Great		Number	of Fish	Captured	of	Species	with No	of	Common
Lake	Waterbody Name	of Sites	Captured	per Site	Species	per Site	Fish	Buffalo	Carp
	Ausable River	37	2127	57.49	36	7.03	4	2	25
	Bayfield River	18	753	41.83	31	5.17	2	0	16
	Coldwater River	25	614	24.56	17	5.36	2	0	14
Huron	Maitland River	17	819	48.18	22	4.06	4	0	8
	Pine River	12	927	77.25	22	4.17	0	0	6
	Sauble River	15	213	14.20	21	4.33	3	0	2
	Sturgeon River	13	313	24.08	21	4.92	2	0	2
	Big Creek	22	1660	75.45	21	4.50	0	15	110
	Canard River	53	5091	96.06	31	5.38	6	30	39
HEC	Detroit River	31	600	19.35	31	5.45	3	39	42
	Jeanette's Creek	45	3537	78.60	34	6.78	3	40	36
TILC	Ruscom River	30	4880	162.67	34	6.73	2	5	56
	St. Clair River	25	258	10.32	29	3.08	8	0	5
	Sydenham River	61	2936	48.13	32	4.59	11	24	23
	Thames River	66	7156	108.42	40	6.97	3	137	98
	Big Otter Creek	33	1856	56.24	31	3.42	8	0	2
	Cedar Creek	55	8171	148.56	29	6.42	3	38	50
	Grand River	64	3332	52.06	35	5.20	17	2	15
Erie	Kettle Creek	26	880	33.85	24	2.50	5	1	12
Lile	Long Point Bay	39	2085	53.46	30	7.49	3	0	15
	Nanticoke Creek	30	1454	48.47	31	5.83	4	0	26
	Rondeau Bay	46	3239	70.41	27	5.83	12	2	13
-	Welland River	36	1016	28.22	35	6.69	0	43	35
	Credit River	19	1306	68.74	22	4.37	0	0	44
	Duffins Creek	18	540	30.00	17	4.50	2	0	5
	Frenchman's Bay	12	217	18.08	10	3.83	3	0	25
Ontario	Humber River	29	830	28.62	25	3.69	10	0	7
	Jordan Harbour	50	3692	73.84	32	5.94	1	56	255
	Toronto Islands (Lake Ontario)	32	445	13.91	22	2.72	13	0	9
	Rouge River	21	300	14.29	15	3.38	4	0	0

Table 3 Summary of the species caught during the 2020 Asian Carp Program's early detection surveillance.

Common and scientific names according to Page et al. (2013). Status in capital letters refers to Species at Risk Act listing; lower case status refers to Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) assessment.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Number Captured	Status
Alewife	Alosa pseudoharengus	66	
American eel	Anguilla rostrata	1	thr
Banded Killifish	Fundulus diaphanus	44	
Black Bullhead	Ameiurus melas	4	
Black Crappie	Pomoxis nigromaculatus	676	
Blackchin Shiner	Notropis heterodon	58	
Blacknose Shiner	Notropis heterolepis	2	
Blackside Darter	Percina maculata	1	
Bluegill	Lepomis macrochirus	6120	
Bluntnose Minnow	Pimephales notatus	2214	
Bowfin	Amia calva	433	
Brook Silverside	Labidesthes sicculus	791	
Brook Stickleback	Culaea inconstans	6	
Brown Bullhead	Ameiurus nebulosus	1621	
Brown Trout	Salmo trutta	5	
buffalo	Ictiobus sp	434	
Burbot	Lota lota	1	
Central Mudminnow	Umbra limi	67	
Central Stoneroller	Campostoma anomalum	2	
Channel Catfish	Ictalurus punctatus	420	
Chinook Salmon	Oncorhynchus tshawytscha	53	
Common Carp	Cyprinus carpio	995	
Common Shiner	Luxilus cornutus	82	
Creek Chub	Semotilus atromaculatus	3	
Emerald Shiner	Notropis atherinoides	3323	
Fathead Minnow	Pimephales promelas	6	
Flathead Catfish	Pylodictis olivaris	13	
Freshwater Drum	Aplodinotus grunniens	172	
Ghost Shiner	Notropis buchanani	514	
Gizzard Shad	Dorosoma cepedianum	20379	
Golden Redhorse	Moxostoma erythrurum	53	
Golden Shiner	Notemigonus crysoleucas	728	
Goldfish	Carassius auratus	116	
Grass Carp	Ctenopharyngodon idella	1	
Grass Pickerel	Esox americanus vermiculatus	8	SC
Greater Redhorse	Moxostoma valenciennesi	14	
Green Sunfish	Lepomis cyanellus	74	
Greenside Darter	Etheostoma blennioides	3	

Hornyhead Chub	Nocomis biguttatus	20	
Johnny Darter	Etheostoma nigrum	1	
Lake Chubsucker	Erimyzon sucetta	6	END
Largemouth Bass	Micropterus salmoides	1979	
Least Darter	Etheostoma microperca	1	
Logperch	Percina caprodes	102	
Longnose Dace	Rhinichthys cataractae	1	
Longnose Gar	Lepisosteus osseus	121	
Mimic Shiner	Notropis volucellus	181	
Mooneye	Hiodon tergisus	1	
Muskellunge	Esox masquinongy	8	
Northern Hog Sucker	Hypentelium nigricans	2	
Northern Pike	Esox lucius	179	
Northern Sunfish	Lepomis peltastes	230	
Orangespotted Sunfish	Lepomis humilis	4	
Pugnose Minnow	Opsopoeodus emiliae	1	THR
Pugnose Shiner	Notropis anogenus	40	THR
Pumpkinseed	Lepomis gibbosus	3577	
Quillback	Carpiodes cyprinus	18	
Rainbow Darter	Etheostoma caeruleum	2	
Rainbow Trout	Oncorhynchus mykiss	1	
Rock Bass	Ambloplites rupestris	558	
Rosyface Shiner	Notropis rubellus	28	
Round Goby	Neogobius melanostomus	736	
Rudd	Scardinius erythrophthalmus	177	
Shorthead Redhorse	Moxostoma macrolepidotum	68	
Silver Lamprey	Ichthyomyzon unicuspis	4	
Silver Redhorse	Moxostoma anisurum	32	
Smallmouth Bass	Micropterus dolomieu	75	
Spotfin Shiner	Cyprinella spiloptera	125	
Spottail Shiner	Notropis hudsonius	129	
Spotted Gar	Lepisosteus oculatus	6	END
Spotted Sucker	Minytrema melanops	120	SC
Stonecat	Noturus flavus	1	
Striped Shiner	Luxilus chrysocephalus	86	
Tadpole Madtom	Noturus gyrinus	8	
Trout-perch	Percopsis omiscomaycus	1	
Tubenose Goby	Proterorhinus semilunaris	10	
Walleye	Sander vitreus	47	
Warmouth	Lepomis gulosus	12	end/SC
White Bass	Morone chrysops	189	
White Crappie	Pomoxis annularis	181	
White Perch	Morone americana	101	
White Sucker	Catostomus commersonii	368	

Yellow Bullhead	Ameiurus natalis	64	
Yellow Perch	Perca flavescens	1409	
bullhead	Ameiurus sp.	442	
Goldfish X Common Carp hybrid	Carassius auratus X Cyprinus carpio	10	
sucker	Catostomus sp.	29	
Sunfishes and basses family	Centrarchidae	16	
true Minnow family	Leuciscidae	47	
darter	Etheostoma sp.	2	
Goby family	Gobiidae	1	
lamprey	Ichthyomyzon sp.	2	
sunfish hybrid	Lepomis hybrid	18	
sunfish	Lepomis sp.	8431	
shiner	Luxilus sp.	377	
Temperate basses	Morone sp.	27	
redhorse	Moxostoma sp.	41	
shiner	Notropis sp.	1267	
crappie	Pomoxis sp.	21	
Unknown	Unknown	3	

\*END=Endangered; SC=Special Concern; THR=Threatened

Table 4 Summary of the catch data by gear type used in the 2020 Asian Carp Program's early detection surveillance.

								Mean							
								Number	Mean		Mean	Number			
								of	Catch		Number	of Sites	Number	Number	
							Number	Fishes	per	Number	of	with No	of	of	Surrogates
		Number of	Number of	Total	Mean Effort	Effort	of	Caught	Unit	of	Species	Fish	Buffalo	Commo	Captured
Gear Type	Acronym	Sites	Waterbodies	Effort	per Site	Units	Fishes	per Site	Effort	Species	per Site	Caught	sp.	n Carp	(%)
Boat Electrofishing	BEF	340	30	3444.12	10.22	minutes	30998	91.17	9.10	70	7.46	3	123	437	1.81
Hoop Net	HN	35	8	1623.58	46.39	hours	74	2.11	0.05	17	1.89	19	0	1	1.35
Mini Fyke Net	MFN	259	30	5623.81	21.71	hours	22706	87.67	4.11	65	5.59	6	12	23	0.15
Seine Net	SN	11	8	27.00	2.45	hauls	1983	180.27	104.59	25	8.36	0	0	0	0.00
Trammel Net	TRM	169	30	6939.00	41.06	minutes	685	4.05	0.08	15	1.34	92	262	364	91.39
Trap Net	TN	166	28	3765.99	22.69	hours	4801	28.92	1.34	35	5.15	18	37	170	4.31

Table 5 Summary of sampling effort by waterbody for boat electrofishing (BEF), hoop nets (HN), mini fyke nets (MFN), seine nets (SN), trammel nets (TRM) and trap nets (TN) during the 2020 Asian Carp Program's early detection surveillance.

		Box	at Electrofish	ing		Hoop Net		M	ini Fyke Ne	t		Seine Net	
			T. 4.1	Mean CPUE		T 1	Mean CPUE		T 1	Mean CPUE		T . 1	Mean CPUE
Great	Waterbody Name	Number	Total Effort	(catch per									
Lake		of Sites	(minutes)	minute)	of Sites	(hours)	hour)	of Sites	(hours)	hour)	of Sites	(hauls)	haul)
	Ausable River	10	95.17	6.36	0			11	225.52	5.90	2	4	50.25
	Bayfield River	6	60.00	2.50	0			5	93.6	4.64	2	5	30.67
	Coldwater River	10	110.00	3.73	0			8	165.06	0.48	0		
Huron	Maitland River	5	50.00	0.94	0			5	101.64	2.32	1	1	537.00
	Pine River	6	60.00	13.95	0			4	92.6	0.93	0		
	Sauble River	8	80.00	1.79	0			4	99.96	0.70	0		
	Sturgeon River	4	40.00	4.50	0			3	62.6	0.56	1	3	16.33
	Big Creek	7	60.00	23.40	0			7	147.37	0.90	0		
	Canard River	17	172.00	13.76	0			20	428.24	5.79	0		
	Detroit River	11	110.00	3.10	4	173.5	0.05	6	131.81	0.69	0		
HEC	Jeanette's Creek	14	140.00	15.35	2	92	0.00	16	331.7	3.67	0		
пес	Ruscom River	13	131.00	30.82	0			8	165.52	4.67	0		
	St. Clair River	15	148.00	1.70	2	39.26	0.10	2	39.95	0.10	0		
	Sydenham River	15	161.05	11.20	11	578.7	0.04	16	360.82	2.96	0		
	Thames River	24	255.17	16.50	5	219.13	0.09	14	297.53	9.16	0		
	Big Otter Creek	14	140.00	8.04	4	181.11	0.04	7	147.57	4.93	0		

Erie	Cedar Creek	16	162.83	32.28	3	155.65	0.02	16	338.64	6.83	0		
	Grand River	23	230.00	2.29	4	184.23	0.04	11	245.12	7.87	1	2	254.00
	Kettle Creek	10	100.00	8.05	0			6	126.22	0.52	0		
	Long Point Bay	15	152.00	7.00	0			11	228.34	1.35	2	6	69.50
	Nanticoke Creek	11	110.50	2.99	0			8	172.97	2.54	1	3	35.33
	Rondeau Bay	16	160.00	2.97	0			11	233.77	10.64	0		
	Welland River	13	110.60	4.10	0			12	282.9	0.90	1	3	7.00
	Credit River	7	90.00	0.84	0			7	152.61	7.52	0		
	Duffins Creek	4	40.00	1.70	0			6	139.1	1.79	0		
	Frenchman's Bay	4	40.00	2.25	0			3	70.5	0.21	0		
Ontario	Humber River	10	100.00	1.36	0			6	140.57	4.74	0		
	Jordan Harbour	16	173.80	10.31	0			13	301.46	3.90	0		
	Toronto Islands (Lake Ontario)	9	92.00	1.54	0			8	184.86	1.54	0		
	Rouge River	7	70.00	1.43	0			5	115.26	0.77	0		

			Trap Net		,	Trammel Net	į.
				Mean			Mean
				CPUE			CPUE
			Total	(catch		Total	(catch
Great		Number	Effort	per	Number	Effort	per
Lake	Waterbody Name	of Sites	(hours)	hour)	of Sites	(minutes)	minutes)
		_					
	Ausable River	9	367.28	0.59	5	214.00	0.01
Huron	Bayfield River	2	39.81	0.08	3	95.00	0.05
Tiuron	Coldwater River	6	123.29	1.01	1	10.00	0.00
	Maitland River	2	43.15	0.02	4	192.00	0.02

	Pine River	0			2	76.00	0.04
	Sauble River	0			3	141.00	0.00
	Sturgeon River	3	62.26	0.79	2	92.00	0.00
	Big Creek	3	62.91	0.58	5	251.00	0.25
	Canard River	9	188.63	1.65	7	348.00	0.03
	Detroit River	6	126.77	0.93	4	133.00	0.23
IIEG	Jeanette's Creek	9	182.41	0.81	4	189.00	0.10
HEC	Ruscom River	5	101.66	0.72	4	225.00	0.06
	St. Clair River	2	38.58	0.00	4	123.00	0.05
	Sydenham River	13	282.24	0.26	6	301.00	0.07
	Thames River	11	224.86	1.01	12	833.00	0.22
	Big Otter Creek	2	43.04	0.05	6	206.00	0.00
	Cedar Creek	14	309.77	2.42	6	353.00	0.05
	Grand River	8	173.07	2.10	17	595.00	0.01
	Kettle Creek	5	104.95	0.08	5	172.00	0.03
Erie	Long Point Bay	8	167.22	1.75	3	131.00	0.00
	Nanticoke Creek	5	108.09	4.94	5	205.00	0.08
	Rondeau Bay	7	148.78	2.01	12	484.00	0.00
	Welland River	6	140.69	1.27	4	226.00	0.18
Ontario	Credit River	2	45.78	0.89	3	95.00	0.22
	Duffins Creek	4	94.53	2.36	4	80.00	0.05
	Frenchman's Bay	3	70.91	1.62	2	40.00	0.00
	Humber River	4	91.34	0.26	9	180.00	0.00

Jordan Harbour	7	158.94	3.79	14	689.00	0.34
Toronto Islands (Lake Ontario)	7	162.83	0.09	8	160.00	0.00
Rouge River	4	102.2	1.20	5	100.00	0.01

Table 6 Summary of larval fish and egg sampling with bongo nets during the 2020 Asian Carp Program's early detection surveillance.

Waterbody Name	Gear Type	Number of Sites	Effort (minutes)	Number of Fish	Fish per Minute	Total Weight (g)
Ausable River	Bongo Net	21	63	2	0.03	0.01
Grand River	Bongo Net	15	45	0		
Jeannette's Creek	Bongo Net	1	3	0		
Sydenham River	Bongo Net	10	30	2	0.07	0.10
Thames River	Bongo Net	14	40	235	5.74	0.61
Welland River	Bongo Net	8	24	0		

#### **FIGURES**



Figure 1 DFO's Asian Carp Program's Early detection surveillance sites in Canadian waters of the Great Lakes.

#### **APPENDIX 1: GEAR DESCRIPTIONS**

Table A1.1 Descriptions of gear used in Asian Carp Program's 2020 Early detection surveillance.

Gear Type	Dimensions	Habitat	Standardized Effort	Notes
Boat Electrofishing	6.4-7.3 m (21-24') boat; dual boom; Midwest Lake Infinity control box	Nearshore to offshore areas in 3.5 m of water or less. Low to moderate flow. Little to heavy vegetation coverage. All substrate types.	600 seconds	

Hoop Net	1.5 m (5') diameter; 6.1 m (20') length; 2.5 cm (1") square mesh; treated; 2 funnels  0.91 m (3') diameter; 4.57 m (15') length; 2.5 cm (1") square mesh; 2 funnels	Deep (>3.5 m), fast flowing areas in midchannel/ thalweg. Clay, silt and sand substrates.  Depth range: 1.5-3.5 m	48 hours	
Mini Fyke Net	3 mm (1/8") ace mesh; 0.61 m x 4.6 m (2'x15') lead; 0.61 m (2') seines; 0.61 m x 1.22 m (2'x4') box	Nearshore, shallow areas (<2 m of water). Low or no flow; backbays and still shorelines. Little to heavy vegetation coverage. Clay, silt, sand and cobble substrates.	24 hours	Turtle exclusion netting added
Seine Net (bag)	6.3 mm (1/4") bag mesh; 6.3 mm (1/4") wing mesh; 9.1 m (30') length	Nearshore, wadeable areas up to 1.5 m in depth. Low to moderate flow. Little to moderate vegetation. Clay, silt, sand, cobble and bedrock substrates.	3 hauls	
Trammel Net	Trammel Net 10.1 cm (4") mesh; 4.3 m (14') height; 183 m (200 yd) long; 10.1 cm (4") square inner wall panels; 45.7 cm (18") outer wall panels	Nearshore areas up to 5 m in depth. Low or no flow. Little to moderate vegetation. All substrate types. Set near coarse woody debris recommended.	20 minutes	Site is disturbed by pounding the water, revving the engine, or with electrofishing to drive fish to net

Trap Net	2.9 cm (1-1/8") square mesh, 5.7 cm (2-1/4") stretch mesh; 1.2 m wide x 2.4 m long x 1.2 m deep (4' x 8' x 4') crib; 3 m wings; 25 m lead.	Nearshore areas up to 2.5 m in depth. Low or no flow. Little to heavy vegetation coverage. All substrate types.	24 hours	
Bongo Net	50 cm diameter ring openings; 2 m long conical nets; 500 micron mesh; 11 cm cod- ends	Slightly offshore to mid-channel, >1 m in depth. Low to moderate flow. Little vegetation coverage. All substrate types.	180 seconds	Flow is recorded to calculate discharge; 0.4- 0.6 m/s target velocity during tow

#### APPENDIX 2: MAPS OF ASIAN CARP SURVEILLANCE LOCATIONS

Table A2.1 Overview of site map label abbreviations.

Gear type	Abbreviation
Boat Electrofishing	BEF
Mini Fkye Net	MFN
Trammel Net	TRM
Hoop Net	HN
Trap Net	TN
Seine Net	SN

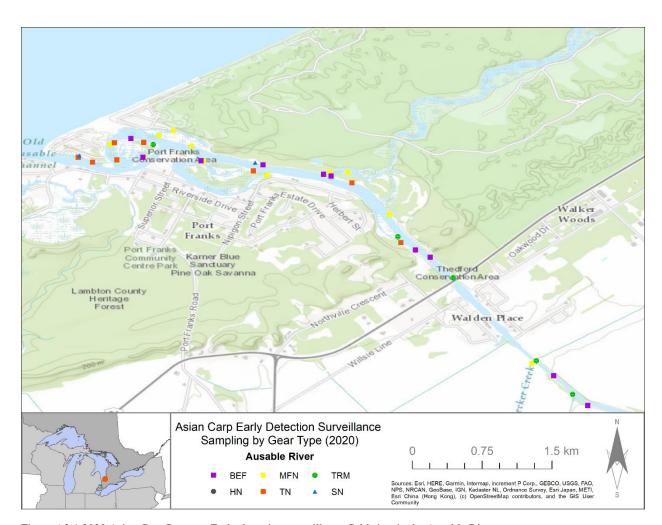


Figure A2.1 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in the Ausable River.

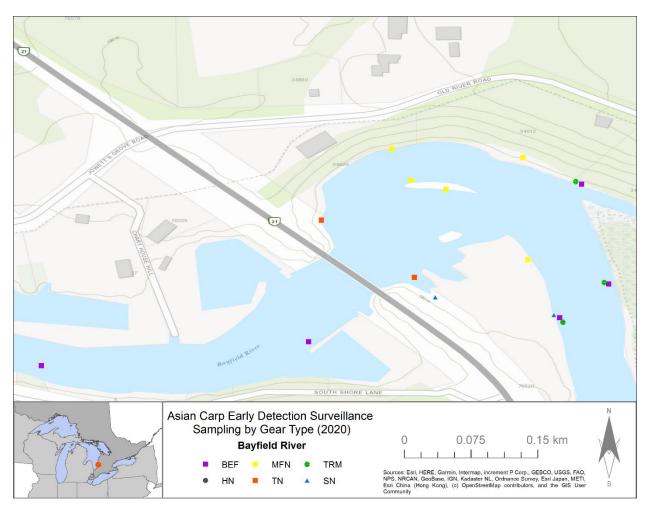


Figure A2.2 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in the Bayfield River.

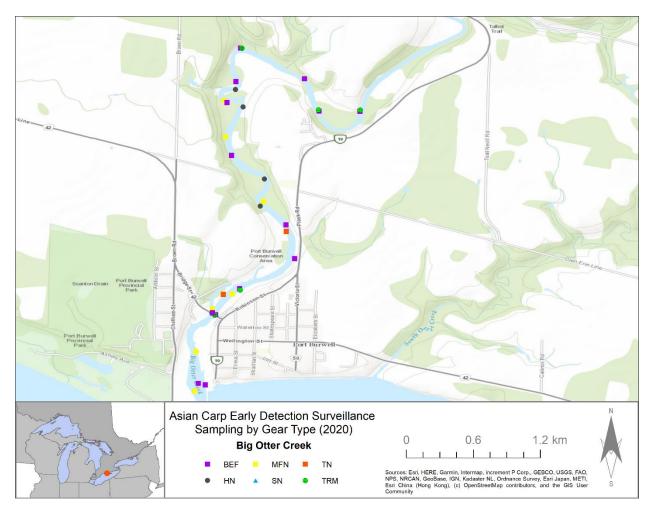


Figure A2.3 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in Big Otter Creek.

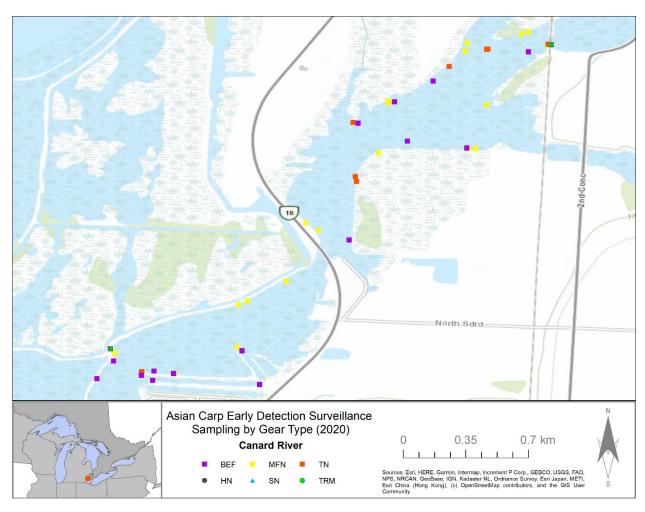


Figure A2.4 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in the Canard River.

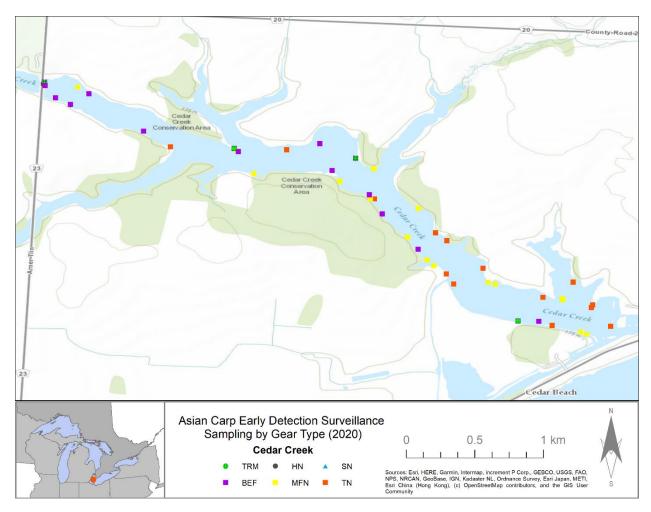


Figure A2.5 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in Cedar Creek.

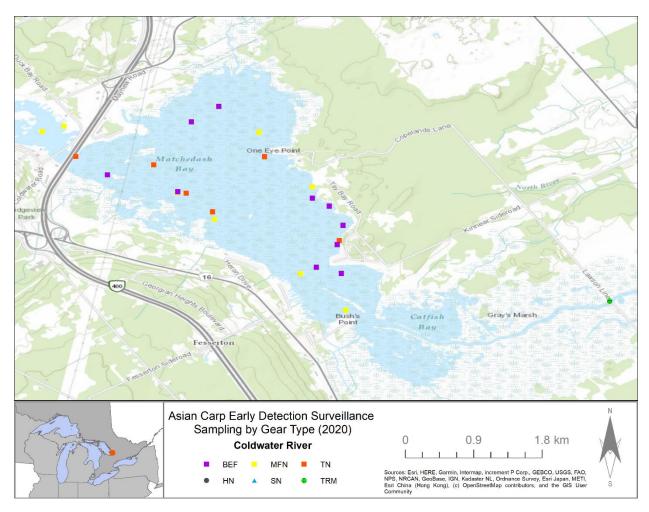


Figure A2.6 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in the Coldwater River.

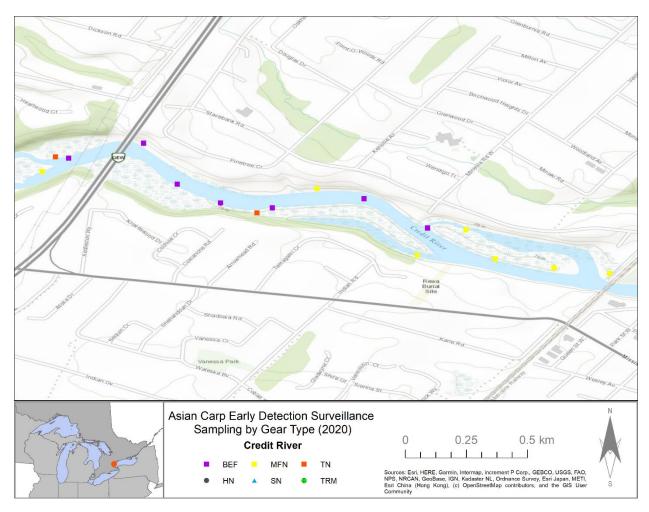


Figure A2.7 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in the Credit River.

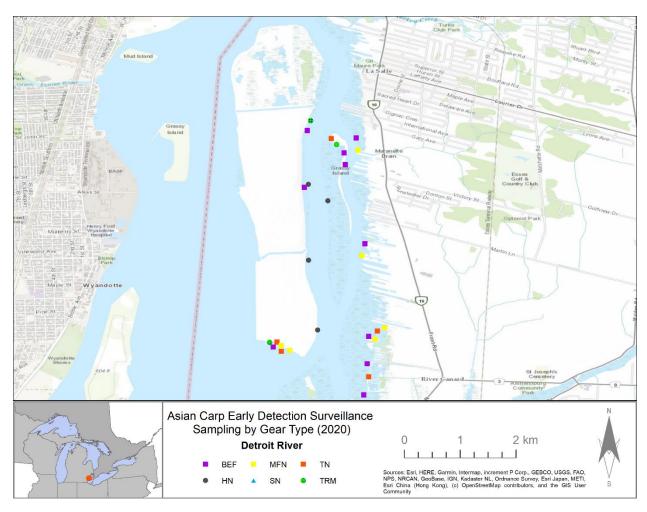


Figure A2.8 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in the Detroit River.

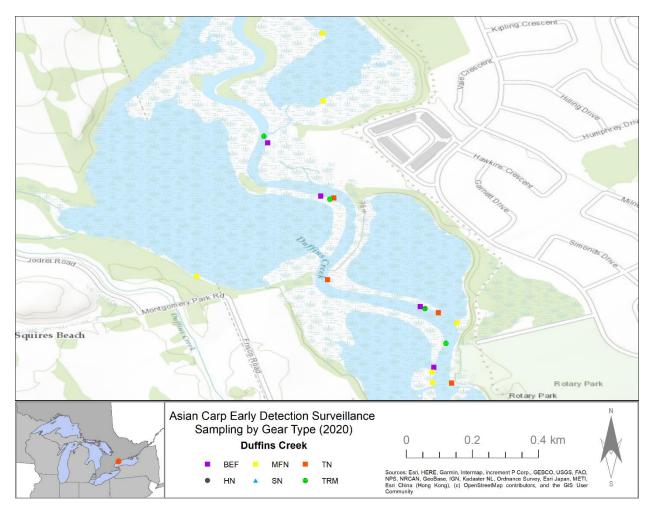


Figure A2.9 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in Duffins Creek.

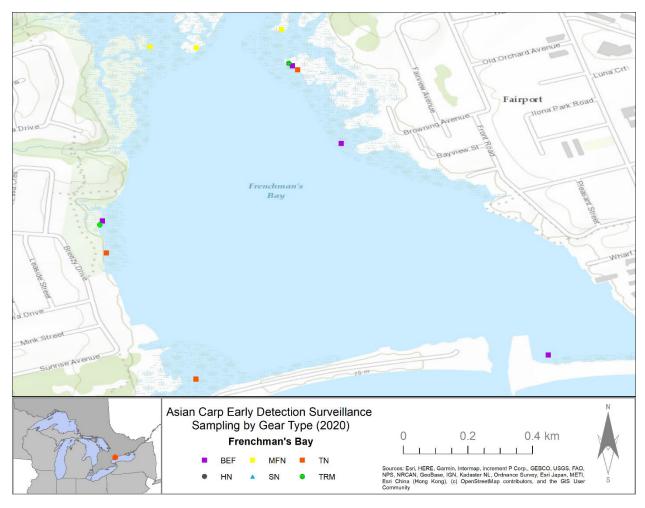


Figure A2.10 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in Frenchman's Bay.

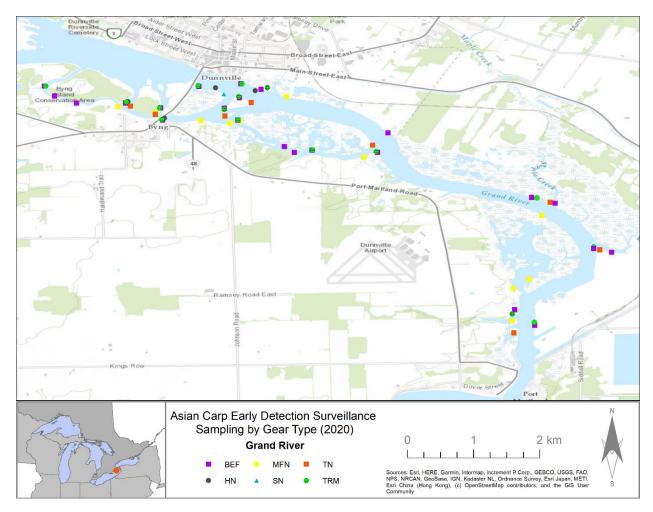


Figure A2.11 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in the Grand River.

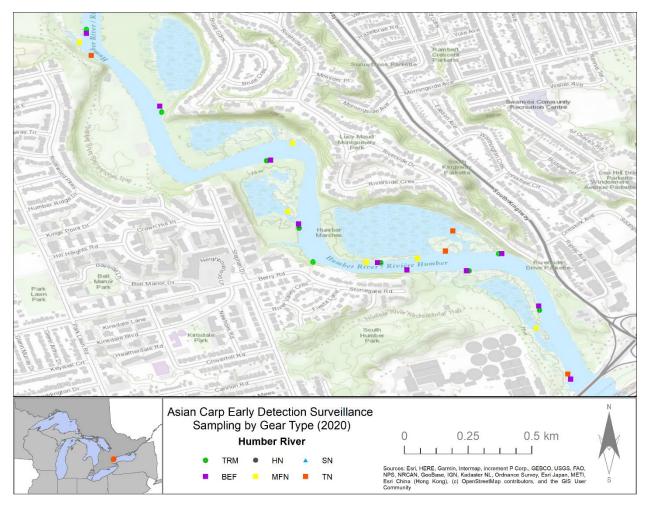


Figure A2.12 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in the Humber River.

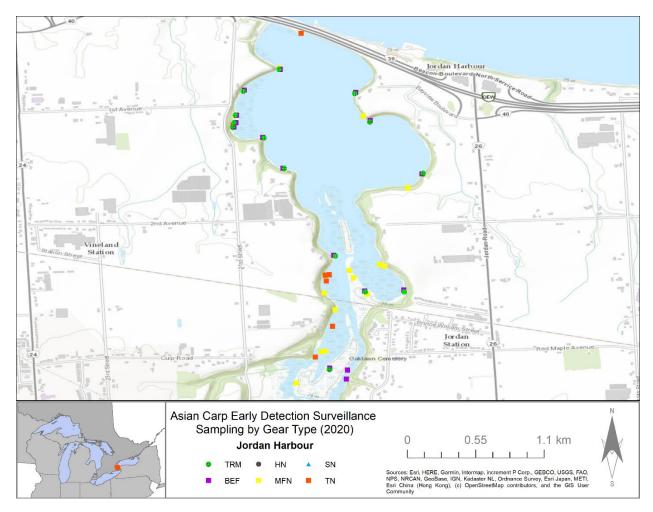


Figure A2.13 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in Jordan Harbour.

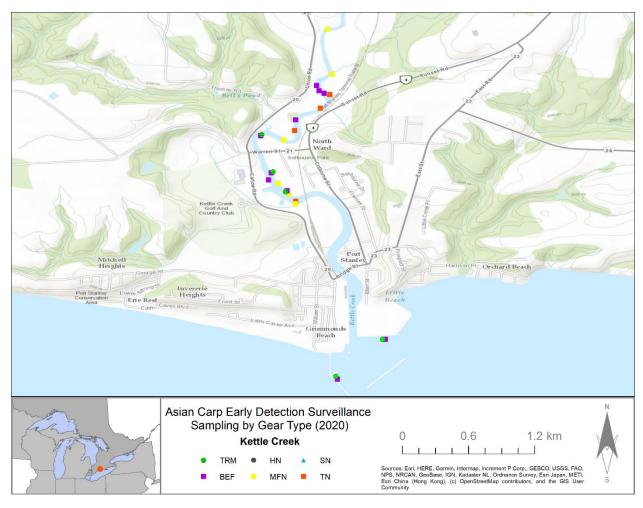


Figure A2.14 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in Kettle Creek.

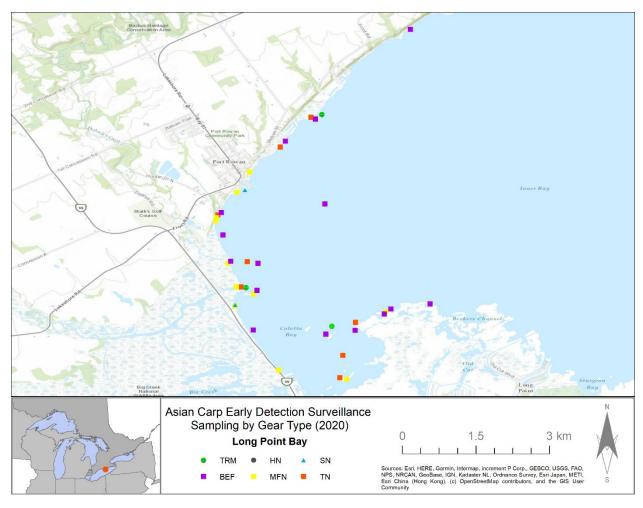


Figure A2.15 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in Long Point Bay.

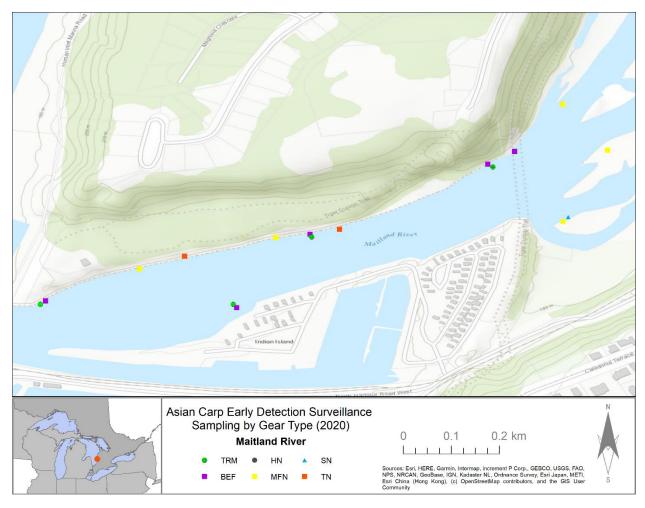


Figure A2.16 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in the Maitland River.

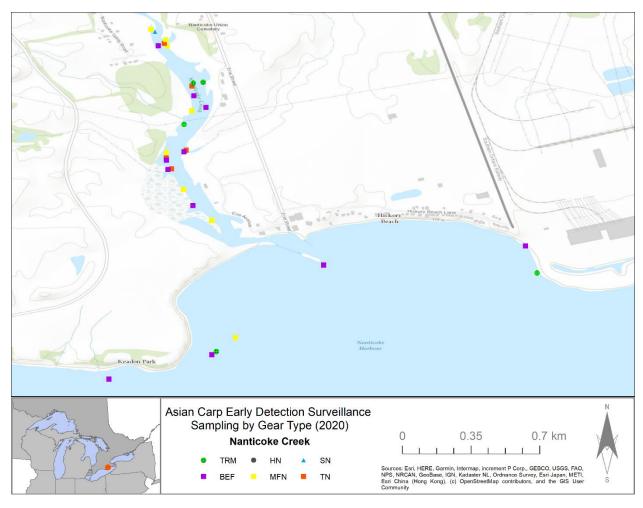


Figure A2.17 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in Nanticoke Creek.

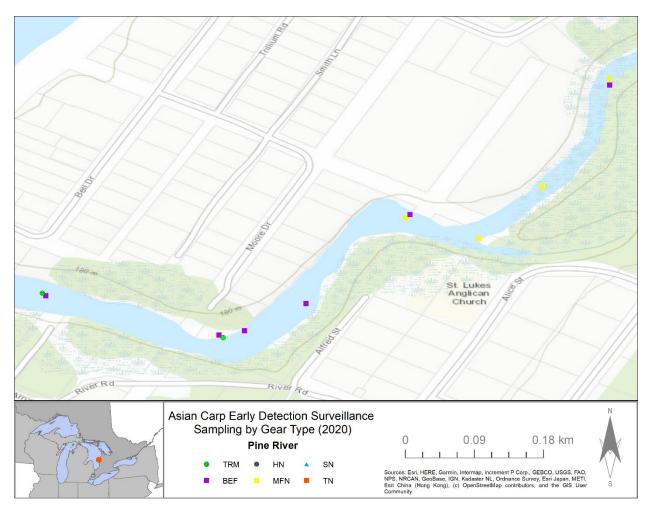


Figure A2.18 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in the Pine River.

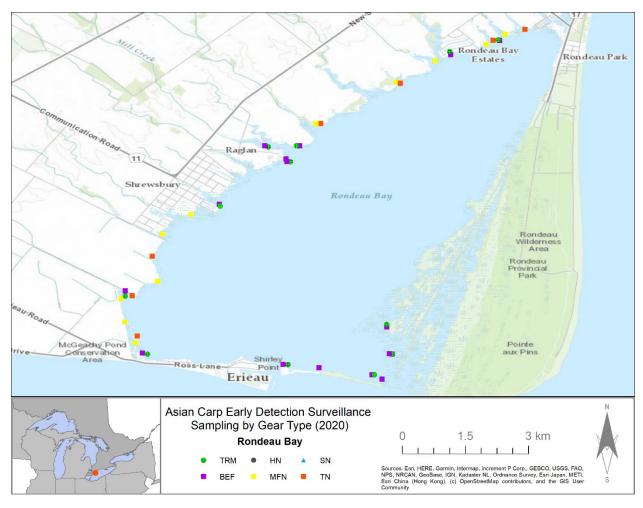


Figure A2.19 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in Rondeau Bay.

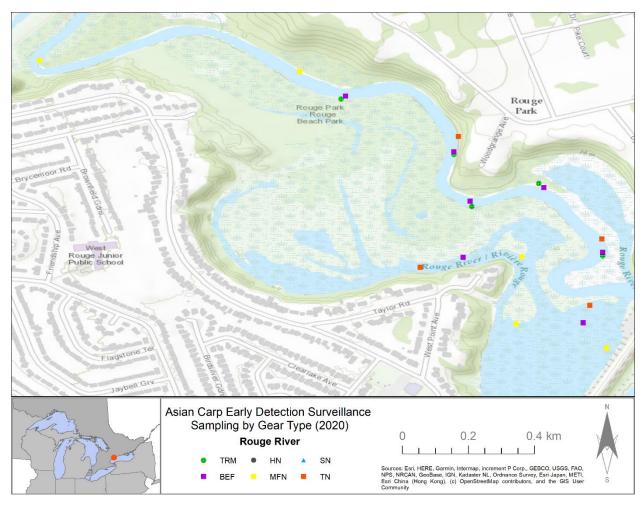


Figure A2.20 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in the Rouge River.

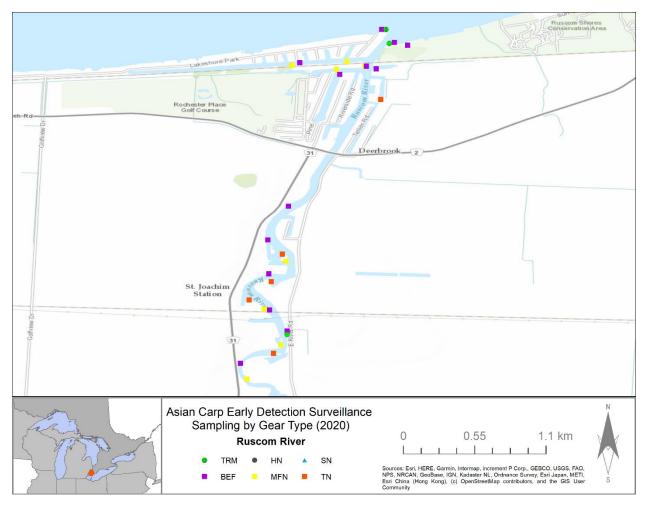


Figure A2.21 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in the Ruscom River.

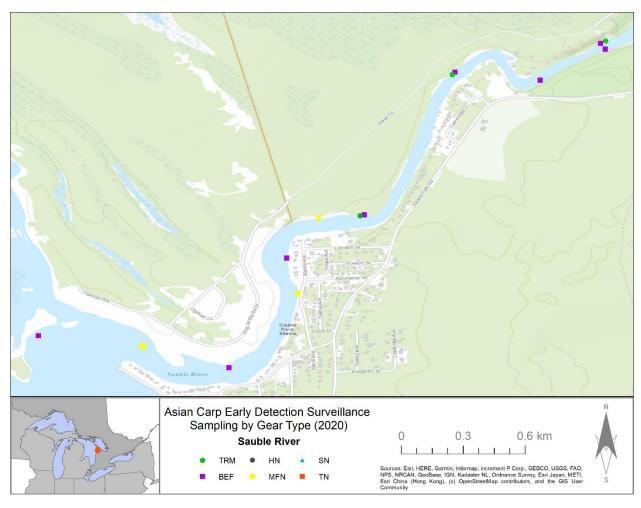


Figure A2.22 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in the Sauble River.

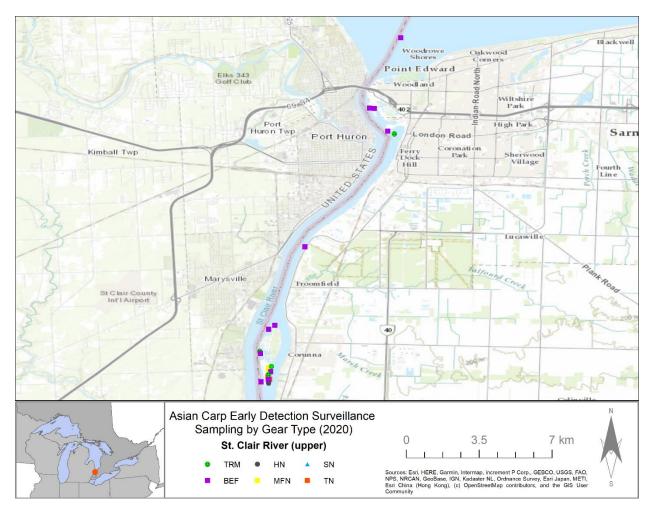


Figure A2.23 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in the upper St. Clair River.

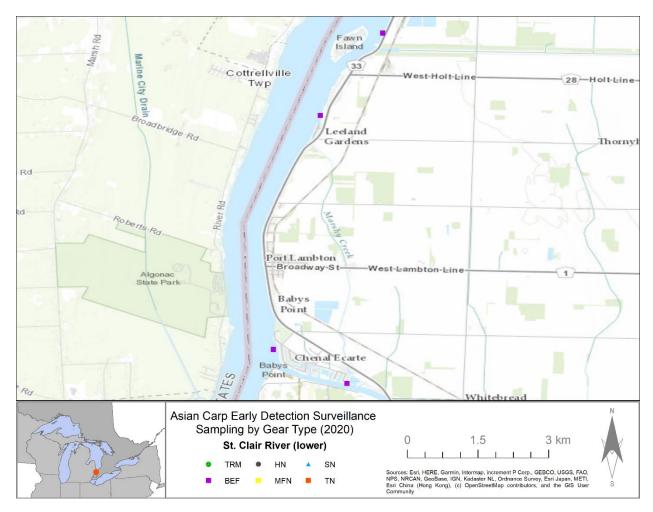


Figure A2.24 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in the lower St. Clair River.

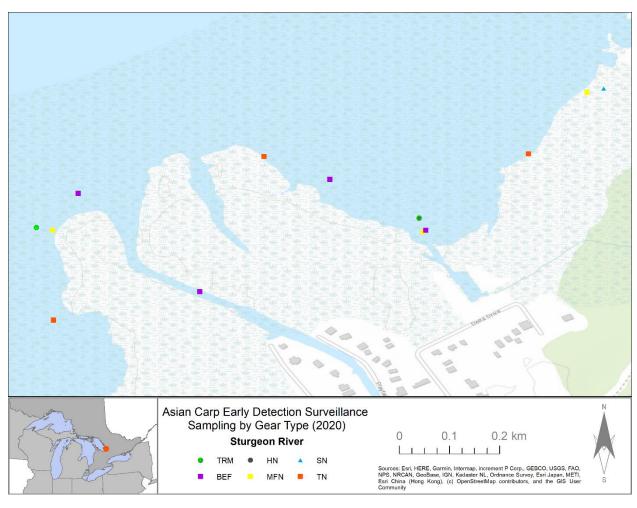


Figure A2.25 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in the Sturgeon River.

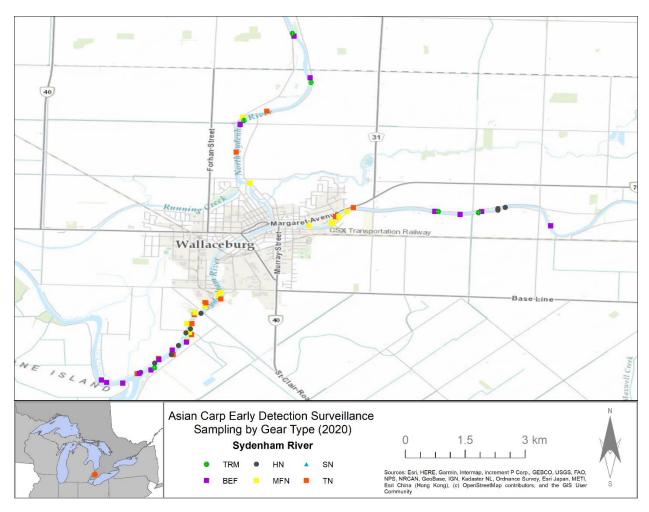


Figure A2.26 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in the Sydenham River.

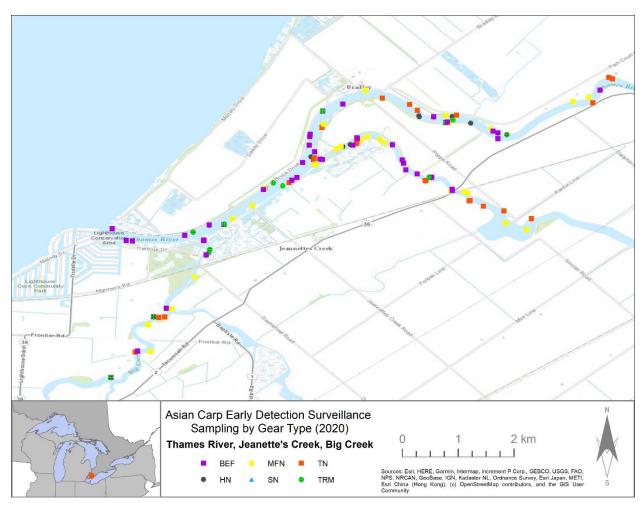


Figure A2.27 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in the Thames River, Jeanette's Creek, and Big Creek.

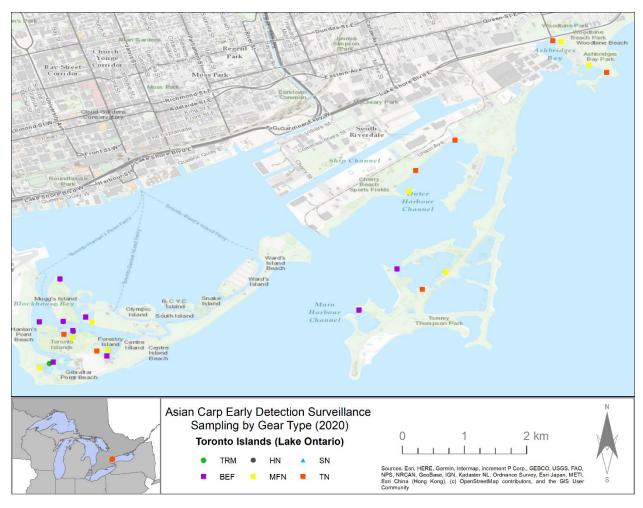


Figure A2.28 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field site around the Toronto Islands.

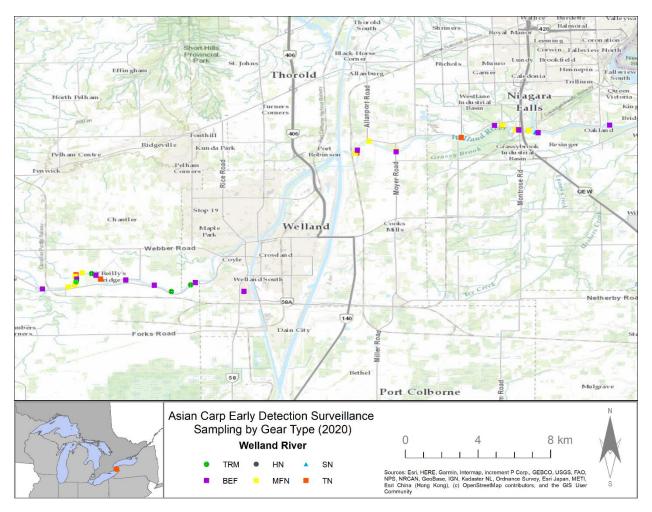


Figure A2.29 2020 Asian Carp Program Early detection surveillance field sites in the Welland River.

## APPENDIX 3: MAPS OF ASIAN CARP LARVAL SAMPLING LOCATIONS

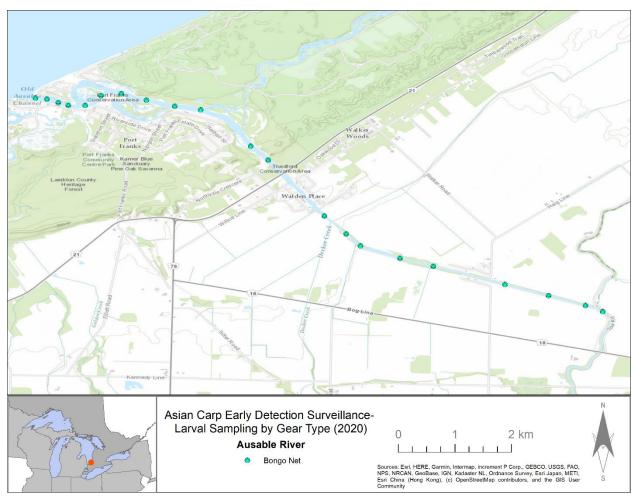


Figure A3.1 2020 Asian Carp Program larval Early detection surveillance field sites in the Ausable River.

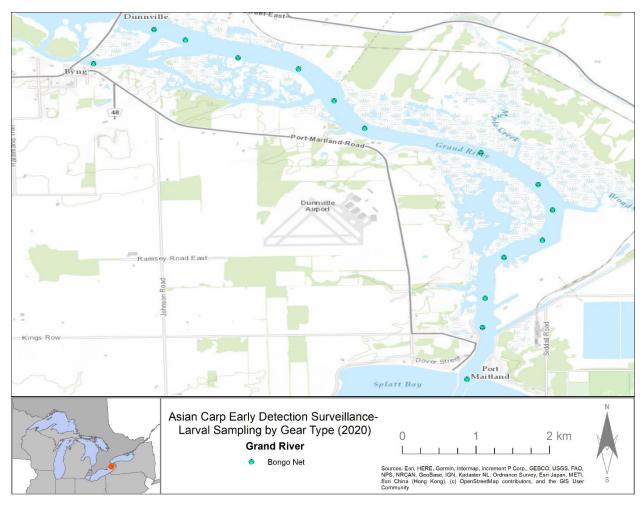


Figure A3.2 2020 Asian Carp Program larval Early detection surveillance field sites in the Grand River.

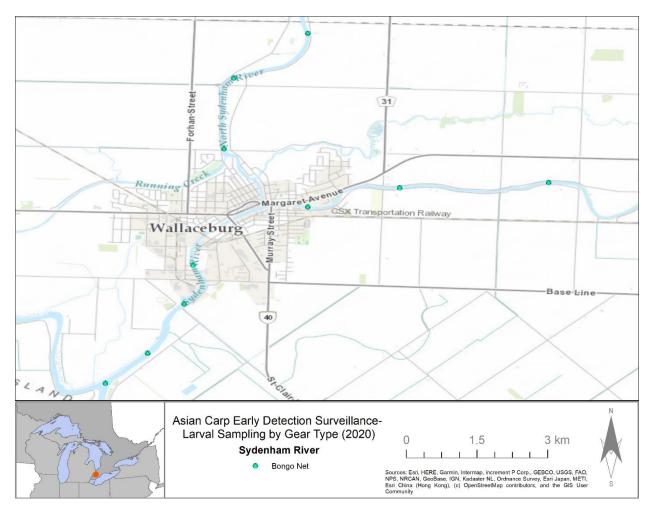


Figure A3.3 2020 Asian Carp Program larval Early detection surveillance field sites in the Sydenham River.

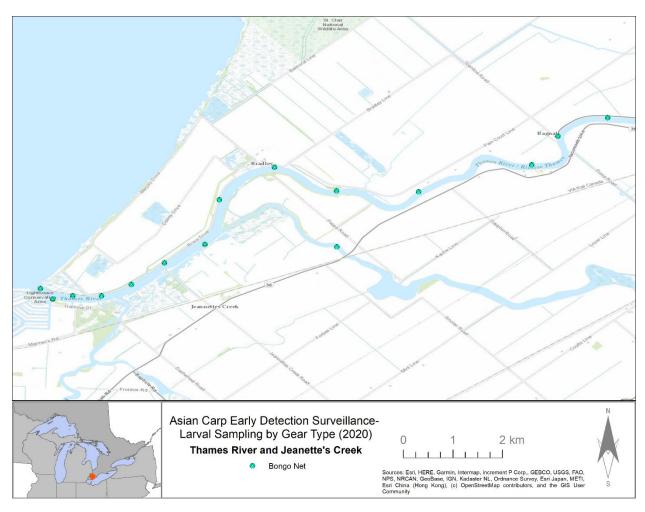


Figure A3.4 2020 Asian Carp Program larval Early detection surveillance field sites in the Thames River and Jeanette's Creek.



Figure A3.5 2020 Asian Carp Program larval Early detection surveillance field sites in the Welland River.