

THE SCOOP

on Lake Simcoe - the Carp Issue

July 17, 2008

Update on Carp Die-Off: Mixed messages about how safe it is to swim

We just posted a youtube video about the carp mess. If you haven't seen first hand what the die-off has meant for people around Lake Simcoe, you've got to see this. <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-38373084523693108&hl=en>

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) just identified the bacteria and viruses responsible for the carp deaths:

"The carp are being killed by a combination of factors. The carp have become stressed by spawning, rapidly fluctuating water temperature, and disease. Results found in carp tested to date have identified elevated levels of various bacteria and the presence of Koi Herpes virus." Read the MNR's statements: <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/LetsFish/2ColumnSubPage/239472.html>

The MNR continues to say it's safe to swim, but others, even within the Ministry, urge swimmers to be more cautious. The Innisfil Journal reports today, "Carp have been falling prey to pathogens such as aeromonas hydrophila, a bacteria found in both fresh and brackish water that causes illness in fish which may be passed on to humans through open wounds or ingestion and create gastroenteritis or septicemia, enterococcus, which can lead to bladder, prostate or epididymal infections, acinetobacter, a ministry spokesperson said." <http://www.innisfiljournal.com/innisfiljournal/article/111022>

The Lakewatch Society distributed an alert yesterday advising people not to come in to contact with the water or fish. [Please click here to read it.](#)

What to do?

- When cleaning up dead fish, use a shovel and wear gloves.
- Residents of Lake Simcoe are being urged to help clean up the dead fish washing up on their property by double-bagging them and placing them at the curb for garbage pickup.
- Simcoe County will pick up properly bagged fish on regular scheduled collection days.
- You can also bury them or take them to the local landfill site for disposal.
- There are also private companies who will remove the carcasses for a cost.
- The Ministry of Natural Resources has referred the following dead stock pick up companies to the Lagoon City Parks and Waterways Commission:

Robertson's Wildlife Removal 1-877-666-2287 www.wildliferemoval.ca
Shep's Nuisance Wildlife Control (Bracebridge) 705-645-9783

- For more information see: www.township.ramara.on.ca
- To report dead or dying fish please call the Ministry of Natural Resources at 1-866-929-0994.

Read the news about the Lake Simcoe Protection Act at:

<http://www.environmentaldefence.ca/campaignlakesimcoe/press/inthenews.php>

[Please Support Campaign Lake Simcoe – CLICK here to donate online](#)

Join the “Protect Lake Simcoe!” Facebook group

For instant updates, pictures and conversations. Sign up, or login at www.facebook.com Click on “groups”. In the search field enter “Protect Lake Simcoe”. Click “join this group”. And you're in!

The SCOOP is a bi-weekly update on Campaign Lake Simcoe, a partnership of Environmental Defence, Ontario Nature, and the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition.

Help Lake Simcoe by forwarding the SCOOP to your friends and networks. If you want to be added to the SCOOP email list, please email Claire at cmalcolmson@environmentaldefence.ca

****Occasionally, we will send you an email about Environmental Defence's other campaigns and urgent actions. If you do not want our updates, please reply to this email with “remove from list” in the subject, and specify if you don't want the SCOOP, or the Environmental Defence newsletter.****