

100% Great Lakes Fish

WHAT IS 100% GREAT LAKES FISH? The Great Lakes region is home to a sizeable commercial fishery for Lake Whitefish, Yellow Perch, Walleye/Pickerel and Lake Trout, as well as many aquaculture operations raising various species. People generally eat the fillet of the fish, and the other 60% of the fish is used for low-value animal feed or discarded. GSGP's goal is to identify new uses for all parts of the fish, such as protein and oil, collagen and leather to waste less of our region's fish.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER? Our region's fisheries are undervalued and underutilized. Using the entire fish can create significant economic returns for the Great Lakes region, create more jobs, and help rural economies develop.

HOW DID THIS GET STARTED? The Iceland Ocean Cluster pioneered the 100% fish idea with the Icelandic cod. 60% of the fish was once discarded, much like fish from the Great Lakes region. Today, more than 90% of the cod is being used – with the value of the products made from each fish increasing from US\$12 to over US\$5,000.

HAS THIS BEEN DONE IN THE GREAT LAKES BEFORE? This project is the first of its kind in our region. It builds on the successful experience of the Icelandic cod and with other species globally.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER TYPES OF FISH? The findings discovered from the species studied so far could potentially be applied to other fish in the Great Lakes, such as Smelt, Cisco or others.

WHO IS ON THE PROJECT TEAM?

- Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers
- Iceland Ocean Cluster and Matis
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Michigan Department of Natural Resources; Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources & Forestry; Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority; Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians; Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission; Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
- Great Lakes Fishery Commission
- Motor City Seafood; Ontario Commercial Fisheries' Association

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.gsgp.org

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