

Fish of the Credit River Watershed

Common Name	Scientific Name	G-Rank	S-Rank	COSEWIC	MNR	Water Temperature			Riverine Habitats	Lacustrine Habitats	Trophic Level	Habitat Requirements	Tolerance	Comments
						Cold Water	Cool Water	Warm Water						
Family Petrymyzontidae														
American brook lamprey	<i>Lampetra appendix</i>	G4	S3			P			P	X ²	I/H ⁴	S	M	Non-parasitic; prefers colder brooks and small rivers, never migrating to lake ¹ . Trophic Feeding level-Immature/mature ² . Adults do not eat ⁵ .
sea lamprey	<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	G5	SE			P			P ²	P ²	O	O	M	Parasitic; prefers larger rivers and lakes, not found in smaller streams as are brook lamprey ¹ . Immature/mature feeding levels ² . Anadromous; some landlocked in Lake Ontario; controlled by spawning barriers and larval positioning ³ .
Family Anguillidae														
American eel	<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	G5	S5			U	U ⁴	P	P	U ⁴	P/I ⁵	O	M	Found in tributary lakes and streams of Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River system ¹ . Mud bottomed rivers, streams and lakes ³ . Returns to Atlantic Ocean to spawn ⁴ .
Family Acipenseridae														
lake sturgeon	<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>	G3	S3	NAR		P			P ²	P ²	I	S	M-S	Prefers productive shoal areas of large lakes and rivers with high flow, over mud, or mud and gravel; bottom feeder ² . (Large) ²
Family Amiidae														
bowfin	<i>Amia calva</i>	G5	S4					P	U	P	I/P	G	U	Not found in lake Superior; prefers swampy, vegetated bays of warm lakes and rivers ¹ . Tolerates up to 35°C in stagnant water ³ .
Family Clupeidae														
alewife (gaspereau)	<i>Alosa pseudoharengus</i>	G5	SE			P ²			X	P ²	I	S	M	Prefers open water of Great Lakes moving inshore to feed at night; prefers shallow beaches for spawning ¹ . Marine species; move inshore to spawn; landlocked ³ . Mass die-off in spring (Lake Ontario) ⁵ .
gizzard shad	<i>Dorosoma cepedianum</i>	G5	S4			P			P ²	P ²	O	S	M	At northern range limit in Great Lakes; prefers deep open waters of large lakes and slow-moving rivers ¹ . May enter brackish water/swamps; can take over and dominate a reservoir ³ . No published reports of spawning in Canadian water; fully developed gizzard shad are herbivorous ⁵ .
Family Salmoninae														
pink salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus gorbuscha</i>	G5	SE			P ²			P ²	P ²	I/P ⁴	S	S-M	Prefers open water at surface ¹ . Enters rivers to spawn; spread to great lakes from Lake Superior ³ . Spawning streams usually small, not very coarse gravel; young prefer temperature 12-14°C, cannot survive above 29.3°C ⁵ .
coho salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>	G4	SE			P	U ⁴		P ²	P ²	I/P ⁴	S	M	Prefers upper strata of Great lakes; spawns in small to medium-sized, gravelly streams over shallows to deep pools ¹ . Not reproducing ² .
chinook salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	G5	SE				U ⁴		P ²	P ²	I/P ⁴	S	S	Prefer mid-water of deep-water areas in Great Lakes spawns in large tributary rivers in clean gravel near riffles ¹ . Enters larger rivers to spawn; stocked in the Great Lakes as a sportfish (largest Salmonoid in Great Lakes) ³ .
rainbow trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	G5	SE			P	U ⁴		P ²	P ²	I/P ⁴	S	M	Prefers shallow rivers with moderate flow, gravel bottom, alternating pools and riffles, moderately deep lakes with shallows, vegetation and tributary streams for spawning ¹ . Will tolerate temperatures to 24°C, but prefers below 20°C; lake populations run up streams and river populations run to headwaters to spawn; one of top few sportfishes in North America ³ .

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Atlantic salmon	<i>Salmo Salar</i>	G5	SX			P			P ²	U ²	I/P ⁴	S	S	Found in Great Lakes and tributary streams to spawn ¹ . Landlocked population; do not die after first spawning ³ . Not found in all Great Lakes, only Lake Ontario, due to stocking ⁴ .
brown trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i>	G5	SE			P	U ⁴		P ²	U ²	I/P ⁴	S	M-S	Spawns in shallow, gravelly headwaters, but can tolerate warmer water than brook trout ¹ . Introduced to Canada in 1884; will survive in water that is no longer suitable for brook trout ³ .
brook trout	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>	G5	S5			P	U ⁴		P ²	U ²	I/P ⁴	S	S	Prefers cold, clear well oxygenated streams and lakes; spawns in shallow headwaters over gravel beds with groundwater upwelling and moderate current ¹ . Hide under overhanging banks and vegetation and behind rocks ³ .
Family Osmeridae														
rainbow smelt	<i>Osmerus mordax</i>	G5	S5			P ²	U		U	P	I/P ⁵	S	M	Endemic to three Ottawa River tributary lakes, elsewhere introduced; pelagic lake species inhabiting rivers and streams only to spawn ¹ . Landlocked population will enter streams to spawn, even under the ice ³ . Sensitive to temperature and light; may spawn off-shore on gravel shoals ⁵ .
Family Esocidae														
northern pike	<i>Esox lucius</i>	G5	S5			U	U ⁴	P	P	P	I/P ⁴	G	M	Prefers clear, warm, slow, meandering, vegetated rivers or, warm, weedy shores of lakes and large ponds ¹ . Tolerates brackish water ³ . Spawn on heavily vegetated floodplains of rivers, marshes and bays of large lakes ⁵ .
Family Umbridae														
central mudminnow	<i>Umbra limi</i>	G5	S5				P	P		P	I	G	T	Prefers heavily vegetated, sometimes stagnant pools, ponds and upland swamps of creeks over bottoms of muck, peat or organic debris ¹ . Found further upstream than any other fish; spawn on flooded stream banks ⁵ .
Family Catostimidae														
white sucker	<i>Catostomus commersoni</i>	G5	S5			P	U ⁴	P	P ²	P	O	O	T	Prefers warmer, shallow lakes or warm, shallow bays and warm tributary rivers of larger lakes, and rivers and streams with bottom vegetation ¹ . Tolerant of polluted waters ³ . Spawn in gravelly stream, lake margins, and quiet areas in blocked stream mouths; bottom feeder ⁵ .
northern hog sucker	<i>Hypentelium nigricans</i>	G5	S4			P ²	P	P	P	U	I	O	S	Prefers riffles and pools of warm, clear, swift-moving, shallow streams with gravel to rubble bottoms, and sometimes shallow lakes near mouths of streams ¹ . Rare in lakes and intolerant of turbidity ³ .
Family Cyprinidae														
silver redhorse	<i>Moxostoma anisurum</i>	G5	S4			P ⁵					I	S	S	Needs swiftly flowing streams for spawning. Adults more common in slower moving, long, deep pools, without heavy silt, sedimentation or pollution ⁵ .
goldfish	<i>Carassius auratus</i>	G5	SE				U ⁴	U ⁴	X	P	O	O	T	Prefers warm, small, shallow lakes or ponds containing abundant vegetation; found in Southern Ontario ¹ . Tolerant of turbidity, polluted water and high temperatures ³ .
northern redbelly dace	<i>Phoxinus eos</i>	G5	S5			P	P	P	P ²	P	O ²	G	T	Prefers pools over silt in brown, slightly acidic waters; often occurs with brook trout ¹ . Found in quiet waters of beaver ponds, bog ponds, small lakes or pool-like expansions of streams ⁵ .
finescale dace	<i>Phoxinus neogaeus</i>	G5	S5			P	P	U	U	P	I ²	G	T	Prefers cool, stained, boggy waters ¹ . Schooling, prefers bogs, ponds, lakes and slow streams ³ .

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reside dace	<i>Clinostomus elongatus</i>	G4	S3	VUL		P	U		P		I	S	S	Found in cool, clear, hardwater streams with pool and riffle habitat and sand, gravel or stone bottom; limited to Lake Simcoe and Western Lake Ontario tributaries ¹ . Overhanging vegetation which supports insects ³ .
common carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	G5	SE				U ⁴	P	P ²	P ²	O	O	T	Thrive in highly eutrophied waters; prefer slow-moving portions of rivers, or weedy shallows of lake ¹ . (Large) ² Introduced in the late 19th Century; can tolerate moderate salinity, high temperature, turbidity and low oxygen; bottomfeeder ³ .
brassy minnow	<i>Hybognathus hankinsoni</i>	G5	S5					P ²	P	P	O	G	M	Prefers darkly stained cool, clear streams with sand/gravel bottom, lakes and shallow bays ¹ . Believed to spawn in quiet water over silt bottom ⁵ .
hornyhead chub	<i>Nocomis biguttatus</i>	G5	S4	NAR				P	P	P	O ⁵	S	S	Found in lakes in Algoma district and tributaries of lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron, and St. Clair; inhabit boulder and rocky pools in slower sections of streams ¹ . Found in pools and riffles, may hide under rocks ³ . Young seek vegetated areas ⁵ .
river chub	<i>Nocomis micropogon</i>	G5	S4	NAR				P ²	P		I	S	S	Found from Georgian Bay to Lake Erie and Western Lake Ontario; prefers pools and runs of warm, clear, clean water streams with gravel to boulder bottoms ¹ .
golden shiner	<i>Notemigonus crysoleucas</i>	G5	S5			P	P	P		P	O	G	M-T	Prefers clear, weedy, shallow, quite waters, with extensive shallow areas ¹ . Aquatic vegetation essential for spawning; midwater and surface feeder ⁵ .
emerald shiner	<i>Notropis atherinoides</i>	G5	S5			P	P ²	P	X	P	I	G	M	Pelagic or open water species; prefers clear water over sand and gravel bottoms for spawning ¹ . Schooling species ⁵ .
common shiner	<i>Luxilus cornutus</i>	G5	S5					P	P ²	U	I/H ⁵	G	M	Prefers cool, clear, rocky pools near riffles in streams and gravelly shoals in lakes ¹ . Food taken from surface ³ . May exclusively spawn in streams ⁵ .
blacknose shiner	<i>Notropis heteroiepis</i>	G5	S5					P	P ²		I	S	S	Prefers shallow, quiet, clear, vegetated streams over sand or gravel bottom, and weedy bays ¹ . Intolerant of turbidity ³ .
spottail shiner	<i>Notropis hudsonius</i>	G5	S5			P	P ²	P	P	U	I	G	M	Prefers shallow, low-flow water over sandy or rocky bottom with little vegetation ¹ . May enter brackish water ³ . Spawn over sandy shoals ⁵ .
rosyface shiner	<i>Notropis rubellus</i>	G5	S4	NAR		P	P	P	P	U	I	S	S	Prefers lower reaches of clear, moderate-flow rivers and streams over fine gravel or sand bottom ¹ . Intolerant of silt and turbidity ³ .
spotfin shiner	<i>Cyprinella spiloptera</i>	G5	S4			P		P	P	P	I	G	M	Found in Great Lakes, except Superior, and tributaries; prefers clean sand and gravel substrates ¹ . Tolerant of turbidity, siltation, high temperatures and pollution ³ . Adhesive eggs laid on underside of submerged logs and roots ⁵ .
mimic shiner	<i>Notropis volucellus</i>	G5	S5			P	P ²	P	P	U	I	G	S	Found south of 52 degrees latitude; prefers sandy pool of headwaters; somewhat silt tolerant ¹ . May also be found in fast current streams ³ .
sand shiner	<i>Notropis stramineus</i>	G5	S4			P	P ²	P	U	U	I	S	M	Not found west of eastern Lake Superior; prefers sandy or gravelly bottomed lakes and streams ¹ . Prefers sandy shallows of lakes and large rivers with sparse rooted aquatic vegetation ⁵ .

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redfin shiner	<i>Notropis umbratilis</i>	G4	S4	NAR		P ¹		P ¹	P		I	G	M	At northern range limit in tributaries of southeastern Lake Huron, eastern Lake St. Clair, northeastern Lake Erie, and also Bowmanville Creek ¹ . Tolerates some turbidity and silt; may be increasing range in Ontario as a result of increased siltation ³ . Spawn over sand and gravel bottoms in slow-moving sections of streams; when not spawning found in clear, quiet waters of weedy pools with abundant submerged or emergent vegetation ⁵ .	
bluntnose minnow	<i>Pimephales notatus</i>	G5	S5			P	P	P	P	U	O	G	T	Prefers sand/gravel shallows of clear lakes and ponds, rocky or gravelly streams and creeks ¹ . Avoids heavily weeded areas; bottom feeder ⁵ .	
fathead minnow	<i>Pimephales promelas</i>	G5	S5			P	P	P	P ²	P ²	O	G	T	Prefers warm and muddy, still waters of ponds to flowing waters of creeks, streams and rivers ¹ . Tolerates turbidity, high temperatures, pH variations, salinity and low oxygen ³ .	
blacknose dace	<i>Rhinichthys atratulus</i>	G5	S5			P ²	P ²	P ²	P	X	O	G	T	Prefers cool, small, clear, swift-moving waters with gravelly substrates; not in lakes ¹ .	
longnose dace	<i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i>	G5	S5			P	P	P	P	U	I	S	M	Prefers clean, swift-moving, gravel/boulder streams, rarely inshore waters of lakes over gravel/boulders ¹ . Young pelagic, adults bottom-dwelling ⁵ .	
creek chub	<i>Semotilus atromaculatus</i>	G5	S5				U ⁴	P	P	P	O	G	T	Prefers sand/course gravel pools of small, clear streams, and shore waters of small lakes ¹ . Spawn just above or below a riffle ⁵ .	
pearl dace	<i>Margariscus margarita</i>	G5	S5				P ⁴	P ⁴	P	P	I	G	T	Prefers cool, clear headwater streams, slow-moving bog streams, ponds, beaver ponds, and small lakes ¹ . Spawn on sand or gravel, in clear water, 18-24 inches deep, weak-moderate current ⁵ .	
Family Ictaluridae															
brown bullhead	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>	G5	S5					P ²	P	P	O ⁵	O	T	Prefers small lakes, shallow bays, and slow-moving streams with vegetation, and sand to mud bottom. ¹ Will burrow during adverse conditions; tolerant of pollution, low oxygen and high temperature ³ . Bottom feeder ⁵ .	
channel catfish	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>	G5	S4					P ²	P ²	P	U	O	O	M	Not found in Lake Superior; prefers cool, clear, deeper, less vegetated water than bullheads ¹ . Spawn in secluded, semi-dark nests, in holes, undercut banks, log jams or rocks; prefer sand, gravel or rubble bottom ⁵ .
stonecat	<i>Noturus flavus</i>	G5	S4			P			P	U	I	G	S	Found in Ottawa River, tributaries of lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron; prefers riffles/rapids over rocks ¹ . Lake margins with water movement by wave action ³ .	
Family Gasterosteidae															
brook stickleback	<i>Culaea inconstans</i>	G5	S5					P ²	P	P ²	P ²	I	O	M-T	Prefers clear, cool, well vegetated, streams, spring-fed ponds, swampy-margins and large lakes ¹ . Spawning may be inhibited if temperature is above 19°C; very tolerant of salt water ⁵ .
threespine stickleback	<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus</i>	G5	S4			P	U	U	P	P	I	O	M	Found in Ottawa River, Lake Ontario basin and lower reaches of Hudson and James Bay tributaries ¹ . Pelagic; inshore coastal waters of lakes, ponds, rivers and streams ³ . Nests in sandy areas of shallow water ⁵ .	
Family Percopsidae															
trout-perch	<i>Percopsis omiscomaycus</i>	G5	S5					P ⁴		U	P	I	G	M	Prefer large, clear lakes except when spawning in shallow turbid streams ¹ .

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Family Percichthyidae															
white perch	<i>Morone americana</i>	G5	SE					P ²	X	P	I/P ⁴	O	M	Found only in Lakes Ontario and Erie; prefer warm, shallow waters ¹ . No preference for bottom type when spawning ⁵ .	
white bass	<i>Morone chrysops</i>	G5	S4					P ²	U	P	I/P ⁴	G	M	Found only in Lakes Ontario, Erie, St. Clair, Huron and Nipissing, and Detroit River ¹ . Schooling surface water fish of large lakes and rivers ³ . Prefers clear water ⁵ .	
Family Percidae															
yellow perch	<i>Perca flavescens</i>	G5	S5					P ⁴		P	I/P ²	O	M	Found south of 50 degrees latitude; prefers clear, moderately vegetated, open water areas ¹ . Schools in lakes, ponds and rivers; low turbidity; tolerant of low pH and salinity ³ . Prefers lakes with bottoms of muck to sand and gravel ⁵ .	
rainbow darter	<i>Etheostoma caeruleum</i>	G5	S4					U ²	P		I	S	S-M	Prefers clear, shallow, rock/gravel riffles of Lake Ontario, Erie, St. Clair, and Huron tributaries ¹ . Extremely sensitive to chemical pollution and silting ⁵ .	
Iowa darter	<i>Etheostoma exile</i>	G5	S5				U ⁴	P	U ²	P	I	S	M	Prefers clear, vegetated, standing or slow-moving waters with bottom of organic debris, sand or peat ¹ . Intolerant of turbid, muddy waters ⁵ .	
fantail darter	<i>Etheostoma flabellare</i>	G5	S4				P	P	U ²	P	I	S	M	Prefers shallow, slow to medium current streams and rivers with gravel/boulder substrates ¹ . Riffles and raceways are often used by this species ³ . Less sensitive to moderate turbidity and silting than rainbow darter; overwinters in deeper downstream water ⁵ .	
johnny darter	<i>Etheostoma nigrum</i>	G5	S5				P	P	P	P	I	G-S	M-T	Not found in Abitibi River drainage; prefers moderate to no current over sand/gravel/silt bottom ¹ . Lakes, large rivers and streams (with relatively fast current) ³ . Do not inhabit weedy areas or gravel riffles of streams ⁵ .	
Family Centrachidae															
rock bass	<i>Ambloplites rupestris</i>	G5	S5					U	P ²	P	P	I/P ⁴	O	M	Prefers rocky, shallow areas in lakes, and the lower, warm reaches of streams ¹ . Found around rocks and docks, in groups ³ .
pumpkinseed	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>	G5	S5						P ²	P	P	I/P ⁴	O	M	Prefers warm, shallow, weedy bays of large lakes, small lakes, slow moving streams ¹ . Common and numerous, esp. around docks ³ . Prefers clear water and cover of submergent vegetation or brush; ranges over various bottom types ⁵ .
smallmouth bass	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>	G5	S5					P ²	U ⁴	P ²	P	I ² /P	G	M	Found south of 40 degrees latitude; prefer rocky and sandy shallows of lakes and rivers ¹ . Near rocks and logs; prefer temperature in 20°C's, cooler than largemouths ³ . Eggs susceptible to sudden temperature and water level changes ⁵ .
largemouth bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	G5	S5					U ⁴	P ²	U	P	I/P ⁴	G	M	Prefers shallow, small lakes, bays of larger lakes, and, rarely, larger, slow-moving rivers ¹ . Favours heavy aquatic vegetation and submerged logs; can survive in higher temperatures, up to 38°C ³ . Low tolerance of low oxygen conditions ⁵ .
black crappie	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>	G5	S4					U ⁴	P		P	I/P ⁴	G	M	Prefer areas with abundant weeds, and sandy or mucky bottoms ¹ . Schooling, found in still waters of lakes and ponds, or slow flowing large rivers with abundant cover; prefers lower temperatures than white crappie, and is less tolerant of turbidity ³ . Schooling species ⁵ .
Family Sciaenidae															

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freshwater drum	<i>Aplodinotus grunniens</i>	G5	S5					P ²		P	I/P ²	G	M	Found in Ottawa River and Great Lakes, except Lake Superior; prefers large, shallow bodies of water ¹ . Both clear and turbid waters are tolerated ³ . Bottom feeder ⁵ .
Family Cottidae														
mottled sculpin	<i>Cottus bairdi</i>	G5	S5			P			P	P	I	S	S	Prefers cool, low volume streams and rivers, and also, lakes ¹ . Sand or gravel substrates ³ .
slimy sculpin	<i>Cottus cognatus</i>	G5	S5			P			P	P	I	S	S	Prefers cold rocky and gravelly streams ¹ . Prefers deeper water of lakes and cooler streams ⁵ .