

2012 ONTARIO FISH IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS

If you are a fisheries biologist or a student registered in a fisheries biology program, the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) is providing an opportunity to improve your fish identification skills. The Department of Natural History, ROM, is offering 3-day workshops that will cover the broad array of families and provide an opportunity to develop specialized knowledge of a group of interest. In addition, we are offering a 2-day workshop on fish species at risk in Ontario. The workshops are designed primarily for professionals -- technicians, field biologists, and environmental consultants -- but other interested individuals are welcome.

Presentations and hands-on lab exercises will familiarize you with the characteristics that are used in distinguishing families, genera, and species. Exercises will develop your skills of counting, measuring, and examining the pertinent external and internal anatomical structures that are necessary to use keys to Ontario's fishes. Experienced individuals will be on hand to assist you with exercises, provide advice, and access the specimens housed in the reference collection.

Brief Agenda:

You can design your own program of specimen examination or follow ours. At least 60% of your time will be devoted to exercises, which can be done in any order. A reference collection of all Ontario freshwater fishes of a variety of sizes will be made available so that you can specialize in a group of your choice. Presentations will be provided on the following topics:

Day one:

- fish anatomy and identification tools
- family identification
- field identification of trouts and salmons, pikes, suckers and catfishes

Day two:

- minnow identification
- computer random access key to Ontario's minnows

Day three:

- field identification of sculpins, sunfishes, darters and perches
- optional Quiz

Two-day Species-at-Risk Workshop

This workshop will focus on the identification of fishes classified as Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern. Groups covered include gars, whitefishes, minnows, suckers, madtoms, darters, and sunfishes. Emphasis will be placed on how to assess the distinguishing characteristics and comparison with similar species. **Completion of a 3-day workshop is required for participation in this workshop.** Presentations will include information on habitat. Jason Barnucz of Fisheries and Oceans Canada will be a guest instructor for this special workshop.

Handouts

Workshop registration includes a copy of *The ROM Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Ontario*. In addition, you will be provided with a CD containing the computer minnow key, PDFs of the Powerpoint presentations, and digital copies of some of the handouts. These handouts include:

- Fish anatomy and methods of counting and measuring
- Drafts of revised identification keys to the families and species of freshwater fishes of Canada prepared by E. Holm
- Guides to groups such as the redhorses and juvenile salmonids
- Ontario Cyprinidae: Diagnostic Characters and Habitat Preferences

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- Ontario Fish Names and Species Codes
- Selected bibliography useful in the identification of Ontario's fishes
- List of companies that supply equipment and supplies for collecting, identifying and documenting collections
- Useful fish-related websites
- Exercise and answer sheets

The fish species at risk workshop will include an additional CD and hardcopy handouts of illustrated guides to the identification of fishes at risk and other fishes that can be confused with them.

Time & Place

Three regular and one species at risk workshops have been scheduled:

1. 17-19 April 2012 (regular 3-day workshop)
2. 24-26 April 2012 (regular 3-day workshop)
3. 30 April - 2 May 2012 (regular 3-day workshop)
4. 3-4 May 2012 (2-day fish species at risk workshop)

Place: University of Toronto, Ramsay Wright Building, Room 205, 25 Harbord Street (see map below).

Time: All workshops will begin promptly at 9AM and end at 5PM.

Resource Staff

- Erling Holm, Assistant Curator
- Mary Burridge, Assistant Curator
- Jason Barnucz, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

What to Bring

University of Toronto microscopes and a limited number of dissecting tools will be made available for your use. You are urged to bring your own dissecting tools if you have some. You are also welcome to bring some of your own collections of fishes. We will endeavour to assist you as much as possible to make positive determinations.

Food

There are a variety of restaurants and take out wagons in the area.

Suggested Accommodation

- Holiday Inn Midtown located at 280 Bloor Street West. Toll-free reservations: 1-877-660-8550 (416) 968-0010; FAX: (416) 968-7765 (ask for ROM corporate rate (approximately \$135 + HST), but only if calling to the hotel directly)
- Howard Johnson, Yorkville, 89 Avenue Road. Toll-free reservations: 1-800-446-4656, Toll-free to hotel: 1-877-967-5845; (416) 964-1220 (ask for corporate rate, which is approximately \$100+HST, but may change)

Cheaper accommodations may also be available at hostels (search Google for Toronto Hostels)

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Travel Information

If you are driving into Toronto, allow ample time to drive through the rush hour, which starts around 6:00 AM. Parking in Toronto is expensive and the City of Toronto has a very active tow-away policy. The most economical way to travel in the city is by public transit (TTC). Single fares are \$3.00, but it is less expensive to buy several at a time. There are token machines at most subway stations. Buses and streetcars require tickets, tokens, or exact change.

Registration/Cancellation

To inquire about availability or reserve a spot contact Cathy Dutton by phone or email (see below). Print a copy of the registration form and email, FAX, or mail it to:

Cathy Dutton, Department of Natural History
Royal Ontario Museum
100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario
CANADA M5S 2C6
Telephone: 416-586-5894
E-mail: cathya@rom.on.ca
FAX: 416-586-5553

If you need to cancel your registration, the registration fee will be refunded to you minus a \$50 administration charge if you cancel up to within two weeks of the workshop. None of the registration fee will be refunded if you cancel less than two weeks before the date of your workshop.

Additional Information:

For information about course content or matters other than registration, contact:

Erling Holm or Mary Burrige
Department of Natural History (Ichthyology)
Royal Ontario Museum
100 Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
CANADA M5S 2C6
Telephone: 416-586-5760 (Erling), 416-586-5531 (Mary)
FAX: 416-586-5553
email: workshop-ichthyol@rom.on.ca

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Campus Map with Ramsey Wright Building highlighted in red

