



100% Sportfish

Every year, anglers harvest millions of pounds of sportfish including Lake Whitefish, Lake Trout, Salmon, Yellow Perch, and Walleye from the Great Lakes region. Typically, they keep the fillets and dispose of or leave behind heads, frames, skins, and other fish byproducts. At sportfish cleaning stations, the material is costly to manage and can create problems related to odor and sanitation. The 100% Sportfish initiative helps fish cleaning stations find productive alternative uses for fish byproducts such as compost, fertilizer, bait, pet treats, feed, and other value-added products. This approach reduces costs, improves environmental outcomes, and creates a better angler experience.

The 100% Great Lakes Sportfish Opportunity

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| 25 million pounds/year Great Lakes recreational fish harvest | 15 million pounds/year Non-fillet “waste” material | \$1.6 million (US) Annual disposal cost if landfilled |
| 5.9 million pounds/year CO2 avoided by diverting fish material from landfill | 200,000 pounds/year Methane avoided by diverting fish material from landfill | \$16.5 million (US) Potential value of goods made from non-fillet “waste” material |

The Conference of Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers (GSGP) helps fish cleaning stations improve how fish material is handled, stored, and transported so that it can be beneficially reused.

GSGP’s approach

- Assess site and review material handling
- Estimate volumes
- Identify potential material uses and partners
- Plan handling, storage, transport, and logistics
- Create angler engagement strategy
- Design implementation plan

Ways to Get Involved

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| Join the 100% Great Lakes Fish Pledge The Pledge is a commitment to stop disposing of fish “waste” and instead work toward full utilization. |
| Participate in GSGP’s 100% Fish Programming Bimonthly newsletters, educational webinars, workshops, and conferences. |
| Work with GSGP on a station project GSGP staff and its network of experts can design a site-specific plan to end sportfish “waste” disposal. |

Why it matters

GSGP’s 100% Great Lakes Fish initiative has worked with the region’s commercial fish industry to effectively end the landfilling of commercial fish byproducts. Sportfish anglers harvest a similar volume of fish from the Great Lakes each year. Working together, we can similarly reduce waste and create local environmental and economic benefits. In the process, sportfish cleaning stations will become cleaner, more efficient, and better connected to local reuse opportunities.

Interested in becoming a 100% Sportfish partner?

Contact [GSGP](#) or visit www.gsgp.org