

TMI_131-FH(1)-10_Table_1

Waterbody/ Watercourse	Fish habitat and fish community summary
Area that was formerly part of Wabigoon Lake at mouth of Blackwater Creek	Sheltered wetland with abundant aquatic vegetation. Potential spawning and nursery habitat for a number of coolwater species that occur in Wabigoon Lake including Northern Pike, Muskellunge and Yellow Perch, as well as a variety of bait species. Probably feeding habitat for individuals of most or all coolwater species that occur in Wabigoon Lake. Noted as important habitat by First Nations.
Blackwater Creek and tributaries	Low gradient watercourses with predominately clay and silt substrate. Only known areas of coarse substrate are at road crossings and at the Transcanada Pipeline, where cobble was placed in a short realignment. Supports common, small-bodied fish species (Northern Redbelly Dace, Finescale Dace, Brook Stickleback, Pearl Dace, Fathead Minnow) and provides habitat for all life stages of these, with largest numbers probably occurring in beaver ponds. White Sucker are also present and a few spawning individuals were observed in one year on gravel at a road crossing, but not in two other years. The White Sucker are thought to be resident; there is no evidence of a migratory spawning population from Wabigoon Lake. There is no walleye spawning run in Blackwater Creek. A single juvenile Burbot was caught on two occasions in the cobble reach at the pipeline crossing. Extensive beaver activity, including dams and ponds, is evident along the main creek and tributaries and the riparian vegetation reflects that.
Hoffstrom's Bay Tributary (to Thunder Lake)	Lies within the glaciolacustrine plain and substrate is thought to be exclusively fine. Only Northern Redbelly Dace, Finescale Dace, and Brook Stickleback were captured in this watercourse. Habitat for all life stages of these species is present. There is potential Northern Pike spawning in the wetland at its outlet to Thunder Lake. Yellow Perch, Rock Bass and Mottled Sculpin were captured in Thunder Lake at the mouth of this creek.
Thunder Lake Tributaries 2 and 3	These two tributaries (Tributary 3 is a branch of Tributary 2) flow through a sandy outwash area north of the project and the substrate is predominantly fine sand. Both tributaries have dams that are barriers to upstream fish migration within a former tree nursery, with ponds upstream from the dams. There is a waterfall a short distance downstream from the dam on Tributary 2 that is also a complete barrier to upstream fish migration. There is an area of coarse substrate (gravel/cobble) for a short distance downstream from the waterfall on Tributary 2 and for a short distance downstream from the dam on Tributary 3. The streams are low gradient from those locations downstream to Thunder Lake. The fish community is dominated by Northern Redbelly Dace, Finescale Dace, Brook Stickleback, Pearl Dace, Fathead Minnow. Other small-bodied species present include Central Mudminnow, Creek Chub, Blackchin Shiner, Iowa Darter, and White Sucker. Habitat for all life stages of these species is present, but potential

White Sucker spawning habitat is limited to the areas of coarse substrate mentioned above. There are no known spawning migrations of Walleye or White Sucker from Thunder Lake. The wetland habitat adjacent to Thunder Lake is potential pike spawning habitat.

Little Creek (Tributary to Thunder Lake)	Small tributary to Thunder Lake within the glaciolacustrine plain with beaver activity. The fish community includes the common small-bodied species Fathead Minnow, Northern Redbelly Dace and/or Finescale Dace and Brook Stickleback. Habitat for all life stages of these species is present.
Nugget Creek (Tributary to Wabigoon Lake)	Nugget Creek supports a Walleye spawning run and is a fish sanctuary. It was not characterized during the study but was used as a reference site to confirm timing of Walleye and White Sucker spawning.
Thunder Creek	Thunder Creek flows from Thunder Lake to Wabigoon Lake and flow in Thunder Creek is controlled by a dam which is a barrier to upstream fish migration. There is also a falls on Thunder Creek that is a barrier to upstream fish migration. Thunder Creek was not characterized during the study but was used as a reference site to confirm timing of White Sucker spawning.
East Bays of Thunder Lake	The east bays of Thunder Lake receive Little Creek, Hoffstrom's Bay Creek and Thunder Lake Tributary 2. Wetlands at the mouths of the creeks are potential pike spawning habitat. There are Lake Whitefish and potential Lake Trout spawning areas on coarse substrate in these bays. All fish species that occur in Thunder Lake may utilize these bays during some seasons for foraging. Coldwater species would be restricted to seasons when water temperatures are suitable.
Keplyn's Bay of Wabigoon Lake	The north and south shorelines of Keplyn's Bay are mainly composed of sand, silt and gravel. The shoreline of the rail causeway that forms the East shore of the bay is composed of rip-rap and boulder/cobble. The bay has a soft bottom composed of a mix of sand, silt, gravel and organic material with sparse submergent vegetation. Beds of aquatic vegetation are present and potential muskellunge spawning habitat has been identified. The shoreline of Christie Island, just outside of Keplyn's Bay, is a walleye spawning area and fish sanctuary. All fish species that occur in Wabigoon Lake may utilize these bays during some seasons for foraging and and nursery habitat.