

The Atlantic Whitefish Recovery Project

The Facts

- The Atlantic whitefish (*Coregonus huntsmani*), previously known as the Acadian whitefish, is a member of the Salmonidae family along with salmon and trout.
- Atlantic whitefish have silver sides, a silver to white belly, and a dark blue to dark green back. Their body is elongated and their mouth is at the end of the snout. Typical adult length ranges from 18 to 40 cm.
- Historically, they occupied the Tusket River watershed; however, this population has since been extirpated due to dams, acidification, being misidentified with lake whitefish, and invasive species such as smallmouth bass.
- Currently, only land-locked populations of Atlantic whitefish found in Petite Rivière, NS are believed to exist. Anadromous populations have been reduced due to the lack of available fish passage from freshwater to saltwater.

The Atlantic whitefish is only found in the Petite Rivière watershed, NS. They live in the Town of Bridgewater's water supply lakes which include Milipsigate, Minamkeak, and Hebb Lakes.



Photo: Bob Semple

What can you do to Help?

- Anglers can play an important role in Atlantic whitefish stewardship by sharing information about sightings and reporting issues that may set back their recovery.
- Talk about the Atlantic whitefish with others in your community.
- Learn to distinguish the Atlantic whitefish from the lake whitefish.
- Do not introduce new species into the watershed. It is illegal and it could also harm the natural balance of nature within these valuable ecosystems.
- If you accidentally catch an Atlantic whitefish, carefully release it back into the water and report it to your local DFO office. Under the Species at Risk Act it is an offense to kill, harm, or take an Atlantic whitefish.

Activities found on back!



Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk

Canada

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- Lake
Minamkeak
Milipsigate
Hebb
- Landlocked
Fishing
Bass
Whitefish
- Nest
Petite Rivière
Endangered
Dam

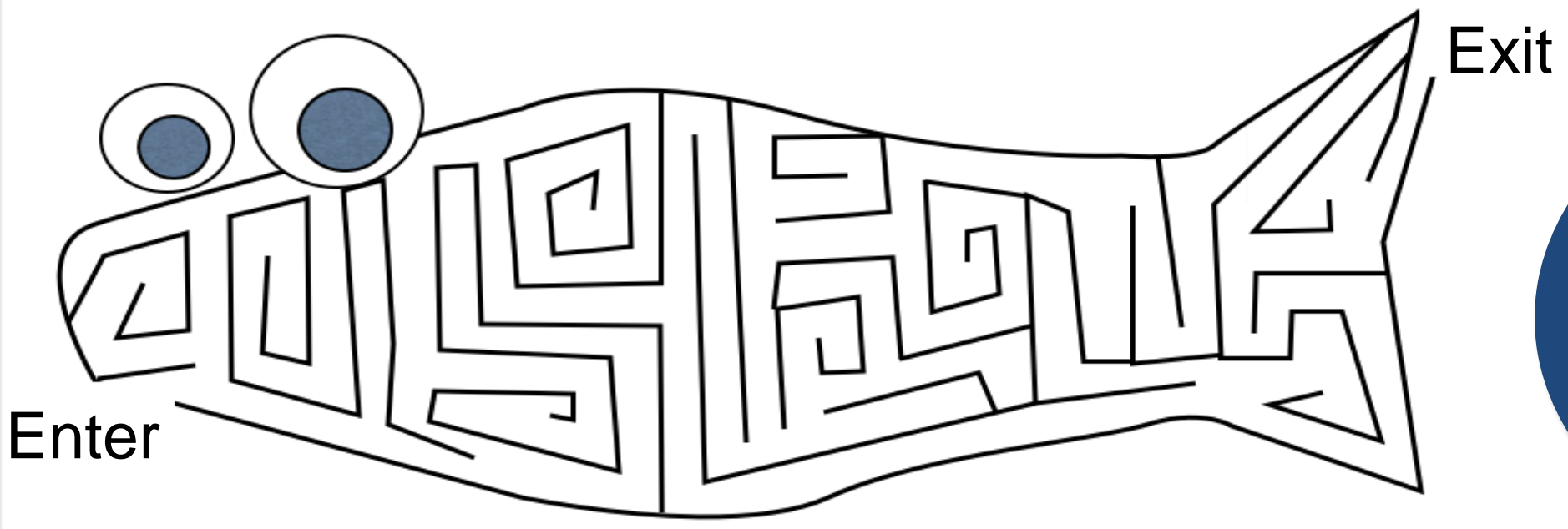
The Atlantic Whitefish Recovery Project (AWRP) is directed by the Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation (BCAF), a non-profit charitable organization committed to addressing environmental concerns within Lunenburg County, NS.



Photo: Kelly Bentham, DFO

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