



**Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters /
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources**



2013/2014 Final Report

Prepared by the OFAH
April 15, 2014

Introduction

Community based fish culture is built on a foundation of passion, dedication and genuine concern for resource management. In the past, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) administered funding to community fish and wildlife projects through the Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program (CFWIP). Since March 2013, CFWIP has been replaced by the Land Stewardship & Habitat Restoration Program (LSHRP) and the Community Hatchery Program (CHP). The CHP is administered by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) who have partnered with the MNR to deliver this new program.

The CHP allocates funding and technical support to community based fish culture and/or fish stocking programs. Through a network of knowledge transfer, the OFAH will assist community hatcheries with addressing government requirements and support hatcheries in fish health, proper egg collection, rearing and stocking of fish. Community hatcheries directly support the rehabilitation of fish stocks and create additional recreational angling opportunities in Ontario.

Report Sections:

Year One Program Focus - details on program development and accomplishments during the CHP's inaugural year.

Program Responsibilities and Deliverables - progress towards fulfilling program responsibilities and achieving CHP annual deliverables.

Fish Stocking Summary – summary of reported fish stocking by the 2013 CHP funded community hatcheries.

Accomplishments, Challenges and Future Directions:

Within this report the main highlights, challenges and future directions will be summarized in text boxes. This will allow readers to gain quick access to highlights of the program's progress, accomplishments achieved, challenges to overcome and future directions.

Year One Program Focus

Hire a CHP Coordinator

The OFAH hired Shane Wood as the Community Hatchery Program Coordinator in May of 2013. Shane will carry out the delivery of the CHP and work with the MNR, hatcheries, and other stakeholders to improve the program.

CHP administrative procedures

As the program transitions from the CFWIP to the CHP, procedural changes will be required. Administration will shift slightly to address the demands for the initial year, and evolve in future years as the program becomes established.

Support material and guiding documents

The OFAH, in cooperation with the MNR, has produced CHP support material to guide community hatcheries through the new application process, clarify roles and provide answers to frequently asked questions.

Support material and guiding documents developed in year one of the CHP:

- Community Hatchery Program 2013 Questions & Answers
- 2013 CHP Funding Application
- 2013 CHP Report
- 2014 CHP Funding Application
- CHP Application Guidelines
- CHP webpage www.ofah.org/CHP

Accomplishments:

- worked with community hatcheries and the MNR to successfully implement transitional administrative procedures

Challenges:

- developing an administrative process that works for year one and beyond
- hatchery expenses from January- March are not eligible for CHP funding

Future Directions:

- develop an annual administration process timeline that best suits the needs of community hatcheries while still enabling the OFAH to meet their program deliverables
- work with community hatcheries to build their internal accounting skills to minimize the effects of the non-eligible expense time window

CHP funding allocation methods

Year one “2013”

The OFAH used a hybridized funding formula to determine the amount of 2013 CHP funds allocated to each eligible community hatchery. In addition to CHP funding, each community hatchery was awarded a Capital Supplies and Energy Grant (CSEG) based on \$1,000 per species raised. This CSEG was issued in 2013 to help transition from the CFWIP funding allocation system to the new funding allocation system being developed for the CHP.

Year two and beyond

OFAH and MNR collaborated on the development of a new funding formula which focuses on fair and equitable allocations based on the time, effort, and expenses that community hatcheries actually incur. This production-based funding formula will consider the species, number of fish, and the developmental life stage that the MNR has approved for them to stock. CHP funding will be allocated to hatcheries to help cover general operating expenses. General operating expenses are those costs that are annually re-occurring or essential for hatchery operations. Every community hatchery who meets the eligibility requirements will receive CHP funding.

New in 2014, community hatcheries will not only be able to apply for CHP funding but can apply for a CHP Capital Improvement Grant through the CHP application form (i.e. not automatically distributed like the CSEG was in 2013). A pool of money has been established to aid community hatcheries with capital improvement projects that will improve their hatchery operations. Every community hatchery who meets the eligibility requirements for CHP funding will also have an opportunity to apply for a CHP Capital Improvement Grant; however, not every hatchery that applies will be successful in receiving this grant. A committee comprised of OFAH and MNR staff will review grant applications. Project applications that are deemed to have the highest overall projected benefit to Ontario’s community fish culture operations will be funded each year. A CHP Capital Improvement Grant may be awarded to cover a portion of the costs associated with a capital improvement project. In these cases, the community hatchery may be required to demonstrate that they have secured additional funding support to complete the project before the CHP Capital Improvement Grant is awarded.

Accomplishments:

- designed a transitional year CHP funding formula
- developed, in cooperation with the MNR, a new funding formula for 2014
- established a CHP Grant to help hatcheries with capital improvement projects

Challenges:

- designing a CHP funding formula that is fair and equitable for all community hatcheries

Future Directions:

- maintain flexibility to meet the needs of community hatcheries now and in the future
- continue to collaborate with the MNR on CHP Capital Improvement Grant allocations

2013 CHP funding allocations made to community hatcheries

Application summary

On June 7, 2013 the OFAH distributed 2013 CHP Funding Application packages to the 56 known community hatcheries that are, or have recently been operating in Ontario.

A total of 44 funding applications were submitted to the OFAH.

On August 23, CHP Notice of Approval letters were mailed out to hatcheries that applied to the CHP to inform them of the level of funding they were awarded along with clear instructions on the CHP reporting requirements.

2013 CHP funding allocation and disbursement summary

In the program's inaugural year, 41 community hatcheries (Figure 1) received \$141,280.02 in total CHP funding.

Fish health testing

There has been a growing concern with the spread of fish pathogens since viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) was detected in 2005. It has been suggested that fish pathogens may be transferred by fish culture and fish stocking activities. Community hatcheries needing fish health testing were informed that expenses incurred would be reimbursed by the CHP (for 2013 only). In 2014 and beyond, the OFAH will work with the MNR and community hatcheries to determine the feasibility of developing fish health testing procedures where necessary/needed.

Accomplishments:

- 44 CHP applications were received in 2013
- 41 community hatcheries received a total of \$141,280.02 in CHP funding
- an additional \$3,300 was provided to cover fish health testing costs

Challenges:

- remaining in contact with appropriate hatchery volunteers
- obtaining MNR Project Approval Forms for each community hatchery
- small scale hatcheries spending their total CHP funding allocations

Future Directions:

- provide hatcheries with longer application periods
- have hatcheries provide information for alternative contacts and preferred mailing address to receive CHP correspondence
- continue to inform hatcheries of opportunities or ways to spend CHP funding that would improve their operations

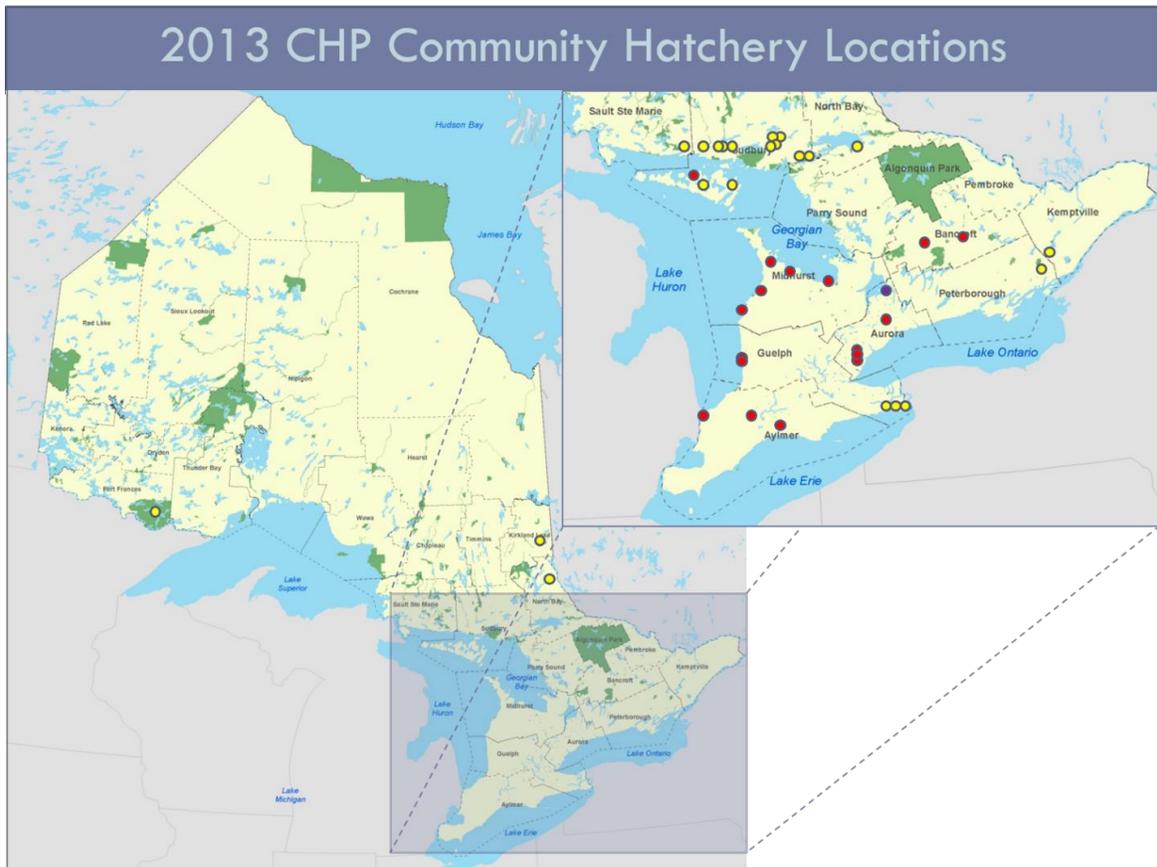


Figure 1: Ontario community hatcheries that received CHP funding in 2013. Yellow dots indicate Walleye-rearing hatcheries, red dots indicate Salmon and Trout-rearing hatcheries and purple dot indicates Muskellunge restoration.

Community hatchery expenses summary

Any hatchery related expense was eligible for funding through either the CHP funding or the CSEG. Hatcheries were required to supply proof of all expenses by submitting receipts or invoices. The *2013 CHP Report* divided hatchery expenses into four categories. Community hatcheries spent 51% of their total CHP funding on equipment, materials and supplies (Figure 2).

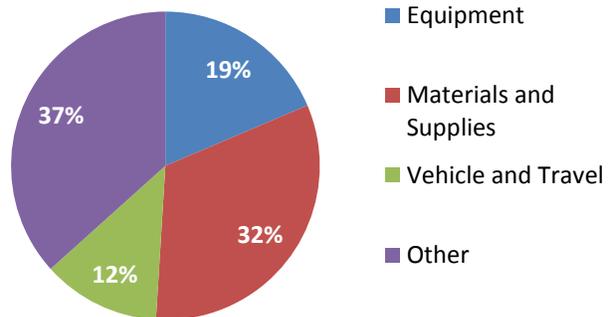


Figure 2: Breakdown of how community hatcheries spent their total awarded 2013 CHP funding (CHP funding + CSEG).

Develop program partner relationships to achieve desired program outcomes

MNR

OFAH and MNR staff collaborated to develop a plan on how the program would be implemented in its transitional year from CFWIP to the new CHP.

The OFAH held a CHP workshop for OFAH and MNR staff at the OFAH|Mario Cortellucci Hunting and Fishing Heritage Centre to discuss possible improvements to the CHP and identify any issues in need of resolution. The OFAH continues to build a strong working relationship with the MNR.

New for 2014, community hatcheries will be required to obtain an Aquaculture Licence. The OFAH has worked directly with the MNR to help develop a new 3-in-1 application process for community hatcheries to obtain their aquaculture-related licences. This new process should make it easier for community hatcheries to get MNR approvals and provide longer term certainty for their operations.

Community Hatcheries

The OFAH visited a number of hatcheries to meet volunteers, participate in egg collections, egg picking and gain a better understanding of their hatchery operations. The OFAH and volunteers from Muskies Canada Inc. also attended a production planning meeting and hatchery tour at Fleming's Muskellunge hatchery. The OFAH plans to visit more community hatcheries in 2014 and beyond to gain a better overall understanding of how these community hatcheries operate and how the CHP can better meet their needs.

Accomplishments:

- OFAH held a CHP workshop
- MNR Fish Culture Section will assist in the development of a new CHP funding formula
- OFAH has established positive relationships with all community hatcheries
- Shellout Productions "Match the Hatch" will host charity golf tournament

Future Directions:

- continue to visit community hatcheries and work alongside their volunteers
- strive to eventually visit every community hatchery
- maintain the strong working relationship between the OFAH and the MNR
- continue to explore and build relationships with other potential program partners

Community Hatchery Visits:

July 24, 2013
North Hastings and
Haliburton Highlands
Outdoors Association
Hatchery

October 16, 2013
Haliburton Highlands
Outdoors Association
Hatchery

February 19, 2014
Credit River Anglers
Association and
Islington Sportsmen's
Club



September 20, 2013
Muskie's Canada
(Fleming College
Hatchery)

December 6, 2013
Metro East Anglers
Association (Ringwood
Fish Culture Station)



Haliburton Highlands Outdoor Association
Caption: Volunteers assisting with the Lake Trout wild egg collection on Redstone Lake



Credit River Anglers Association
Caption: Salmon and Trout rearing



Metro East Anglers
Caption: delayed fertilization of eggs



Islington Sportsmen Club
Caption: picking Atlantic Salmon
swim-up fry mortalities



Metro East Anglers
Caption: picking
fry mortalities from
incubators

Other Program Partnerships

Shellout Productions will host the first ever Match the Hatch Charity Golf Tournament at Wooden Sticks in Uxbridge Ontario on April 26, with all proceeds being donated to the OFAH Community Hatchery Program (CHP). Visit <http://matchthehatchgolftourny.com> for more information. The OFAH will continue to build a relationship with Shellout Productions to generate additional funding to support community hatcheries.



SATURDAY APRIL 26TH, 2014
WOODEN STICKS - UXBRIDGE, ON

FOUR MAN SCRAMBLE
REGISTRATION / LUNCH 12:00 PM
TEE OFF 1:00 PM

\$200 INCLUDED IN YOUR ENTRY FEE: LUNCH, 18 HOLES OF GOLF WITH POWER CART, DINNER, AWARDS CEREMONY, SILENT AUCTION, COMPETITIONS. (ALL PRICES PLUS HST) **\$200**

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION:
REGISTER BEFORE MARCH 15TH AND YOU WILL RECEIVE \$125 IN FREE GIFTS

* ONE LUCKY GROUP WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE \$1,000,000 / \$100,000 SHOOTOUT (100 PARTICIPANTS REQUIRED)



EMCEE: MIKE MILLER
ANGLER & HUNTER TV

100% OF PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS, COMMUNITY HATCHERY PROGRAM.



FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER PLEASE VISIT:
MATCHTHEHATCHGOLFTOURNY.COM

Program Responsibilities and Deliverables

Community of Practice

Community of practice (CoP) is a concept which brings together groups of people with a shared interest to problem-solve, interact, network and learn. It is a process involving the sharing of resources and knowledge over time, with a common goal in mind. The CHP operates with this concept in mind as community hatcheries across the province are constantly improving their fish culture practices by working with each other. The CHP is facilitating a community of practice delivery mechanism by soliciting feedback from hatcheries on the type of support they require and the way that support is received. Some examples of the evolving CoP include:

- Sharing of unused equipment among community hatcheries
- Community hatcheries sharing fish rearing and husbandry methods with other hatcheries
- Development of a CHP website to distribute information and act as a hub for knowledge transfer
- Annual workshops and meetings

Community Hatchery Workshop

The OFAH distributed the *2013 CHP Questionnaire*, which solicited responses from community hatcheries on an annual workshop. The OFAH will hold an annual CHP workshop in year two of the program. Despite not formally organizing a workshop during the inaugural year, the OFAH has worked with two groups (United Walleye Clubs and the Lake Huron's Hatchery Managers) that currently hold annual workshops/meetings.

2014 Cool Water Fish Culture Workshop

In January, the OFAH attended the annual Cool Water Fish Culture Workshop held in Syracuse, NY. The cool water workshop provides private and public aquaculturists with an opportunity to interact and share information. The OFAH attended this event to gain knowledge of fish culture operations outside of Ontario, as well as observing how a successful annual workshop is run/organized. One of the main attractions of this workshop is the sharing of experiences and technical information. The OFAH will use this knowledge and experience when organizing CHP workshops.

Accomplishments:

- the CHP Coordinator attended the 2014 Cool Water Fish Culture Workshop
- provided administration and financial support for the Lake Huron's Hatchery Managers Meeting
- explored options to provide support for the United Walleye Clubs annual workshop

Challenges:

- establish an annual CHP workshop that is accessible to all community hatcheries
- determine a date and location to host a workshop that does not alienate community hatcheries based on their location or schedules

Future Directions:

- organize a CHP workshop in the 2014/2015 fiscal year
- explore opportunities for the CHP to support individual groups hosting their own workshops/meetings

Lake Huron's Hatchery Managers Meeting

Representatives from five community hatcheries on Lake Huron (Lake Huron Fishing Club, Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association, Bluewater Anglers, Georgian Triangle Angler's Association, and the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association) met annually to discuss production planning and to share information. The OFAH worked with this year's hosting club to arrange a guest speaker to present on common diseases in coldwater fishes. Dr. Veronique Lepage from the Ontario Veterinary College, who has over 10 years of experience working alongside the aquaculture industry will be presenting at this year's meeting. The OFAH will continue to work with the Lake Huron Hatchery Managers and provide support in organizing future events.

CHP Administrative Procedures

The OFAH has made some minor changes to the CHP's administrative procedures for 2014 (Figure 3). Community hatcheries now have a choice in the method used to complete CHP applications (hard copy or digital). New this year, hatcheries will be able to submit CHP reporting documentation immediately after receiving their notice letters. Many hatcheries have stocked all their fish and have incurred the majority of their expenses by this time. This will give hatcheries a larger reporting window and an opportunity to receive their CHP reimbursement when the funding is needed most.

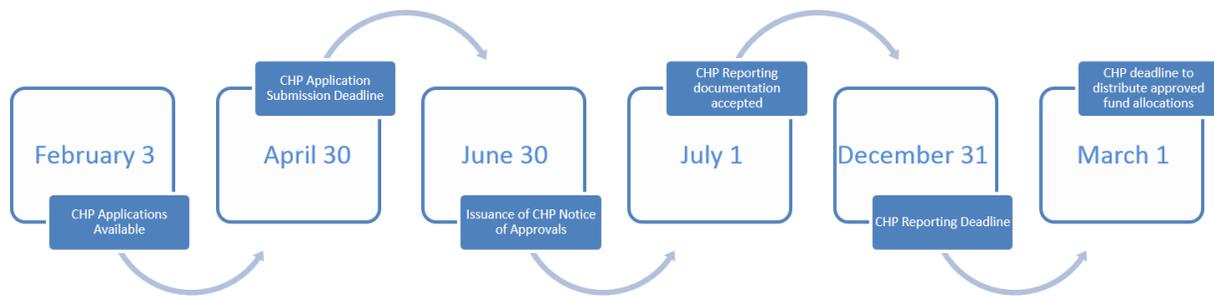


Figure 3: 2014 CHP funding administrative procedures timeline.

Communication

The OFAH has used various forms of media to showcase the Community Hatchery Program.

Some examples include:

- Developing and maintaining a [CHP web page](#) on www.ofah.org
- Creation of a CHP branding graphic (right)
- Coordinating an interactive map of CHP locations and profiles
- Numerous articles in Angler & Hunter Hotline (Ontario OUT OF DOORS magazine)
- Articles in Sportsmen's Outdoor Annual magazine
- [Angler & Hunter Radio feature](#)



Future communications efforts will include:

- Launching a [stand-alone website](#) specifically for the CHP
- CHP promotion through social media
- CHP brochure development
- CHP pull up banners for events



Fish Stocking Summary

All 2013 CHP funded community hatcheries were required to submit detailed stocking information for all fish stocked from April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014. This section will provide a summary of these reported fish stockings. A total of 13,659,693 fish were stocked by 2013 CHP funded hatcheries (Table 2).

Table 2: Stocking summary from the 2013 CHP Funded Community Hatcheries

Species	Developmental Life Stage	Numbers Stocked
Atlantic Salmon	fry	76,589
	fall fingerling	20,000
		96,589
Brook Trout	fall yearling	14,150
	sub-adult	530
		14,680
Brown Trout	spring fingerling	35,000
	fall fingerling	104,944
	late fall fingerling *	60,296
	spring yearling	63,475
	fall yearling	16,550
	adult	3
	sub-adult	6,700
	286,968	
Chinook Salmon	spring fingerling	231,687
		231,687
Coho Salmon	fall fingerling	50,000
	spring fingerling	8,700
		58,700
Lake Trout	fry	12,000
	fall fingerling	10,000
	spring yearling	18,580
	sub-adult	24
		40,604
Muskellunge	fall fingerling	133
	yearling	3
		136
Rainbow Trout	fry	150,000
	spring fingerling	65,000
	fall fingerling	92,212
	spring yearling	160,917
	fall yearling	66,872
	sub-adult	35,250
	adult	124
	570,375	
Walleye	eyed eggs	60,000
	fry	11,776,000
	summer fingerling	522,950
	fall fingerling	1,004
		12,359,954
Stocking total		13,659,693

* fall stocking of fish that are 10-12 months of age