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Managing Stormwater Ponds:

A Comprehensive Approach to Fish 'Rescues'

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Groundwater Environmental Management Services
(GEMS)



Background

- ❑ Master's of Science in stormwater pond and wetland ecology
 - ❑ Specializing in herpetology and fisheries
- ❑ Ecologist and Project Manager at GEMS
- ❑ Environmental specialists for the construction industry
- ❑ Involved in a variety of different projects
 - ❑ Environmental Impact Studies
 - ❑ Wildlife and Species at Risk
 - ❑ Fish and Wildlife Rescues





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What is a Fish Rescue?

❑ Removing or *Rescuing* fish and wildlife from construction areas



Fish Rescues in SWM Ponds

- ❑ Contract obligation for SWM Pond Maintenance
- ❑ Considered *Ontario Waters*
 - ❑ Connected to natural watercourses
- ❑ Fish and Wildlife introductions
 - ❑ Natural watercourse connection
 - ❑ Unlawful introduction from public
- ❑ Each SWM Pond will be assessed by MNRF



Largemouth Bass

“Wildlife”

Part of the Rescue

- Herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians)
 - Snapping Turtles
 - Painted Turtles
 - Green Frogs/Tadpoles

Not Part of the Rescue

- Muskrats and Beavers
- Ducks and other Waterfowl



Common Snapping Turtle

Prior to the Rescue

1. Permit Acquisition

- Fish and Wildlife Collection Permits
- Turn around time is variable (~2-4 weeks)
- Mandatory reporting the Ministry

2. Preparing the Pond

- Plan for dry weather
- Dewater pond 1-3 feet



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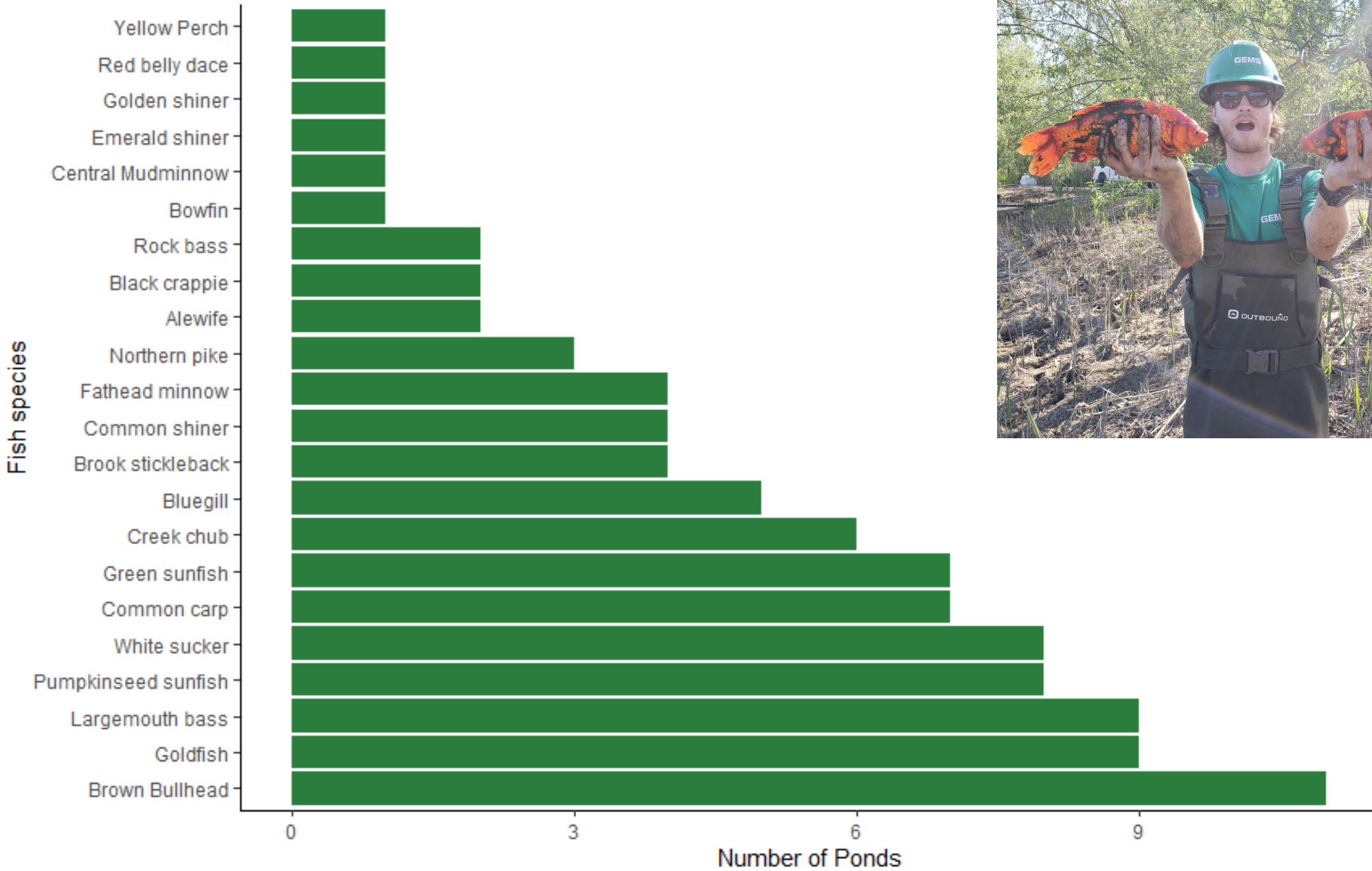


Performing the Fish Rescue

- ❑ Qualified professionals
- ❑ Seine and dip nets or electrofisher
- ❑ Relocate wildlife (Herpetofauna)
- ❑ Euthanize fish







Euthanization

- ❑ *Sewage Works*
 - ❑ Not Habitat
- ❑ Introduced species
 - ❑ Predator influx
- ❑ Contamination



Northern Pike

SWM Pond Cleanout Issues

- Species at Risk
- Pre-screening survey and report
- Unsafe conditions
- Works outside the window
- Resident concerns



Blanding's Turtle

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