

# STAFF REPORT

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG



<b>Report to:</b>	Mayor and Council Members	<b>Priority:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low
<b>Submitted by:</b>	Julie Behan-Jones Assistant Manager Waterfront Operations <a href="mailto:jbehanjones@cobourg.ca">jbehanjones@cobourg.ca</a>	<b>Meeting Type:</b>	Open Session <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed Session <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	June 21, 2021		
<b>Report No.:</b>	Community Services-045-21		
<a href="#">Submit comments to Council</a>			

**Subject/Title:** Amendment to By Law No. 022-2016 – Fish Cleaning

## RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council support and endorse the Amendment to By Law No. 022-2016 which would prohibit the cleaning and disposal of waste from preparing fish on Municipal property;

FURTHER; that the Amendment of By Law No. 022-2016 shall govern Waterfront Grounds and Infrastructure, Municipal Parks, Properties and Bridges;

## 1. STRATEGIC PLAN

The Town of Cobourg Strategic Plan Components (2019 – 2022) includes the following Strategic Actions:

- People: The Town supports and cares for the social and physical wellbeing of its citizens;
- Programs: Implement a comprehensive management plan for all of the Town's assets;
- Partnerships: The Town engages in strong, sustainable public-private partnerships to improve the quality of life for everyone

## 2. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Municipal staff surveyed Marinas, Municipalities and Anglers for feedback with regards to their best practices.

### 3. PURPOSE

Amend the current Parks By Law No.022-2016 to include prohibiting the cleaning and disposal of waste from preparing fish on Municipal Properties.

### 4. ORIGIN AND LEGISLATION

The existing By Law No. 022-2016 includes:

#### 31.0 PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE

31.1 In regards to the Ontario Ministry of natural Resources and Forestry Provincial mandate, no person while in a park, unless approved by a permit or treaty:

B) Fish from any pier, dock berthing slip or walkway in the Cobourg Harbour

FURTHER;

#### 40.0 GENERAL REGULATIONS

40.7 No person shall fish, swim, snorkel or scuba dive, kiteboard or hover board in the waters included within the Cobourg Harbour, excluding the west headland beach limits without the authorization of the Director.

### 5. BACKGROUND

Lake Ontario is becoming famous for prosperous fishing which has resulted in both personal and chartering anglers discovering Cobourg Marina, as a gateway to the open water. The fishing community has increased to such an extent that one of our docks has become home to several seasonal charter boats and the transient fishing boat numbers have doubled in three years.

Although welcoming Anglers to the Cobourg Marina and Waterfront has been beneficial both in terms of recreational options for guests and financial gains to the Marina, it has not come without some opportunities for growth and improvement.

The existing Fish Cleaning Station is a single use unit wherein there are no means of disposing of the refuse. In recent seasons anglers have begun cleaning their catch on docks, ramps and lawns around the marina and disposing of their cuttings in the municipal bins along the waterfront or dropping them into the harbour.

This current practice is causing unpleasant situations for guests, residents and staff alike.

### 6. ANALYSIS

During a Delegation on September 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2019, Mr. Roger Magnan presented to council on behalf of the angling community that share the Cobourg Harbour. Following that delegation staff worked towards resolving the issues identified. One observation that has stood out is the growing issue of fish cutting refuse.

In order to obtain information on “Best Practices” Waterfront Staff reached out to over twenty sources including Marinas, Municipalities, Anglers and Derby organizers. The responses were indicative of the need for a change in practice.

Many sources have experienced similar issues to those that Cobourg Waterfront Staff have seen worsening in the past few seasons and to that end, we feel that a policy

change is required to fall in line with the changing trend.

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/BUDGET IMPACTS

Signage – \$100 from Marina Operations. Editing existing signage and/or adding small signs in pertinent areas.

Promotion and Education - through social media and web pages.

Verbiage – Can be added to receipt at check in.

Decommission – Waterfront Staff will remove the current fish cleaning station in an environmentally responsible manner.

## 8. CONCLUSION

**That Council endorse and approve the Amendment to By Law No. 02-2016 to include:** “Fish Cleaning/Gutting/Descaling is Prohibited within the Cobourg Harbour Waters, Marina and Waterfront Property, Municipal Parks and Infrastructure”.