



ANISHINABEK / ONTARIO
FISHERIES RESOURCE CENTRE



NEWS RELEASE

July 2017

Curve Lake First Nation

PIGEON LAKE WILD RICE AND FISH HABITAT SURVEY

The Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre (A/OFRC), in partnership with Curve Lake First Nation, will be conducting the fisheries assessment portion of the Wild Rice and Fish Habitat Study on Pigeon Lake to determine how heavily wild rice is used by different fish species. The fisheries assessment portion will be conducted from July 24 – 28, 2017.

The goal of this project is to capture fish utilizing the wild rice beds in their day to day activities.

Large and small mesh Broad Scale Monitoring (BSM) gill nets will be utilized along the edges of the wild rice beds to capture larger game fish using the rice beds as cover, as well as capture the smaller fish they are pursuing. Small mesh BSM nets are 25 m long, 1.8 m high, with 2.5 m panels of 13 mm, 19 mm, 25 mm, 32 mm, and 38 mm mesh. Large mesh BSM nets are 49.6 m long, 1.8 m high, with 3.1 m panels of 38 mm, 51 mm, 64 mm, 76 mm, 89 mm, 102 mm, 114 mm, and 127 mm mesh. A/OFRC crews will also be utilizing half-height BSM nets which are the same in every respect apart



A young Muskellunge, one of the species that uses the wild rice beds as important hunting grounds, as well as a rearing area for larval and juvenile Musky

from their 0.9 m height. Nets will be set for 1 – 2 hours at a time depending on conditions. In addition to

gill nets, standard minnow traps will also be used to capture forage fish within the wild rice beds where setting a gill net isn't practical. Traps will be baited with dog kibble and left to fish overnight.



Gill nets will be marked at each end with a flag similar to this

All sport fish will be fully biologically sampled for length, weight, ageing structures, and sex and maturity when possible. All non-sport fish will be tallied by fork length. All captured fish will be live released when possible.

The A/OFRC has conducted five (5) fisheries assessment on Pigeon Lake to date. They include Fall Walleye Index Netting in 2000 and 2004, End of Spring Trap Netting in 2004, Near Shore Community Index Netting in 2005, and a Fish Habitat Assessment in 2011.

The A/OFRC is a not-for-profit organization that serves as an independent source of information for communities within the Anishinabek Nation. The Centre provides information and recommendations for sustainable fisheries management, reports of stock status, evaluates stresses on fish populations and habitats, and offers technical support.

For more information, contact:

Heidi Manitowabi, Community Liaison Specialist

Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre 755 Wallace Road Unit 5 North Bay, Ontario P1A 0E7

Phone: 705-472-7888 ext. 5 Email: hmanitowabi@aofrc.org