

A/OFRC PROJECT UPDATE BEAUSOLEIL FIRST NATION

September 2015

FISH COMMUNITY INDEX NETTING (FCIN)

INTRODUCTION

In August 2015, the Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre (A/OFRC), in partnership with Beausoleil First Nation, set out to determine the health and abundance of fish stocks around Beausoleil First Nation. A Fish Community Index Netting (FCIN) protocol was used as a standardized methodology.

METHODS

Over the course of 6 days, from August 10th—16th, a total of 32 gill nets were laid in the waters surrounding the island. The nets were laid in three depth strata (0-20 m, 20-60 m and 60+ m) to target a variety of fish species. The nets were between 325—425 m in length and consisted of mesh between 1.5"–6". All target species (Lake Whitefish, Walleye and Lake Trout) that were captured were sampled



*A Lake Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) on a fish board to be measured for length.*

for ageing structures, weight and length.

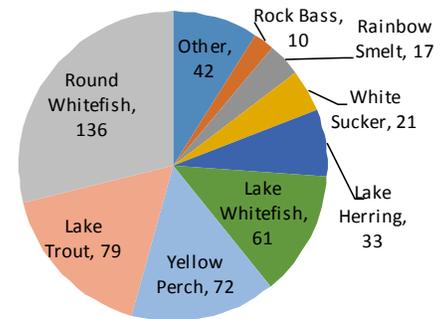
RESULTS

The majority of the fish species caught were Lake Trout, Lake Whitefish, Yellow Perch and Round Whitefish. In total, 79 Lake Trout and 67 Lake Whitefish were caught. Twenty different species of fish including a Lake Sturgeon and a Longnose Gar were also caught. A wide variety of ages and sizes were

captured, which will enable us to construct an accurate picture of the age and health of the fish stocks. A noteworthy observation was a noticeable absence of walleye in the study area.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, there are populations of Lake Trout and Lake Whitefish around Beausoleil First Nation. A detailed report of the findings of this field study will be produced and released in the Fall of 2015.



Fish species caught (# of individuals) during the August 2015 FCIN project at Beausoleil First Nation.



*Sarah Couchie, A/OFRC technician, holding a Longnose Gar (*Lepisosteus osseus*) caught next to Beausoleil First Nation*



Kyle Crans, A/OFRC biologist, and Beausoleil community member, Nancy King, setting a gill net



*A juvenile Lake Sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*) on a fish board to be measured for length*



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