

A/OFRC PROJECT UPDATE

OJIBWAYS OF THE PIC RIVER

September 2015

FISH COMMUNITY INDEX NETTING (FCIN)

INTRODUCTION

In August 2015, the Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre (A/OFRC), in partnership with the Ojibways of the Pic River, set out to determine the health and abundance of fish stocks in Lake Superior off the mouth of the Pic River. A Fish Community Index Netting (FCIN) protocol was used as a standardized methodology.

METHODS

This project took place from August 24th—28th, 2015. Eleven gill nets were laid in Lake Superior and were retrieved after 24 hours. The nets were laid between 20—200 m deep. They were 450 m in length and consisted of mesh panels between 2.0" - 6.0". All target species (Lake Trout, Lake Whitefish, Walleye and



A close-up of a Lake Trout (Salvelinus namaycush) being live-released after sampling had occurred

Lake Sturgeon) that were captured were sampled for ageing structures, weight and length.

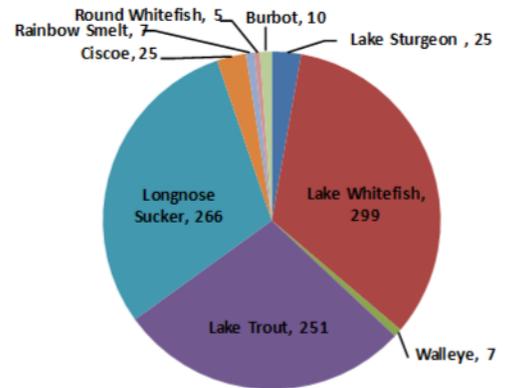
RESULTS

In total 895 fish were caught, of which 582 were sampled. The majority of the fish species captured were Lake Trout, Lake Whitefish and Longnose Sucker. Throughout the project, 9 different species were caught, including 25 Lake Sturgeon. A wide variety of ages and sizes

were represented, which is useful in constructing an accurate picture of the populations health.

CONCLUSION

There are abundant populations of both Lake Whitefish and Lake Trout in Lake Superior in the Pic River. A lack of walleye species was observed, but may have been due to a very deep average depth of the A/OFRC net sets. A detailed report will be released in the fall of 2015.



A representation of the species and # of Individuals of each species caught during the FCIN netting survey at Pic River



Community member Shelby Starr, A/OFRC intern Lucas Beaver and A/OFRC biologist Curtis Avery pulling in a gill net



A/OFRC employees distributing fish that were lethally sampled to community members at the Ojibways of the Pic River Band Office



A/OFRC biologist, Curtis Avery, recording data on caught fish including species, weights and lengths



For more information on this or other fisheries projects please contact:

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