

A/OFRC PROJECT SUMMARY

SAGAMOK ANISHNAWBEK

February 2015

PIKE SPAWNING ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Anishinabek/ Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre (A/OFRC) successfully completed the second consecutive year assessing Northern Pike spawning in Sagamok Anishnawbek traditional territory in the spring of 2014. The netting survey took place in four main bays: the Pow Wow Grounds, John's Bay, Perch Bay, and Oak Bay.

METHODS

This Northern Pike Spawning Study used 6' trap nets as a live-catch-sample-release method. One trap net per site was set, with each location determined based on shoreline slope, substrate composition, and the likelihood of capturing Northern Pike as they entered backwater spawning grounds. Trap nets were set overnight and retrieved every morning. All Northern Pike and sport fish species that were present were sampled for fork length (mm), total length (mm),



A/OFRC Fisheries Technician Keith Nahwegahbow processing a small Northern Pike caught in John's Bay

round weight (g), species specific ageing structures, external identification of sex and maturity, and were externally tagged with a white FLOY tag. Non-target fish species were enumerated by size class based on their fork length (mm) and were live released.

RESULTS

A total of 612 fish were captured throughout the study, representing 13 different species. 84 Northern Pike were captured during the 2014 study, 74 of which were equipped with an external FLOY tag. A total of 103 Northern Pike have been tagged since 2013. There were no recaptures from previous years during the 2014 study.

One tagged Northern Pike from the 2014 project was recovered on July 21, 2014. The Northern Pike with the FLOY tag 2082 was tagged in John's Bay on May 6, 2014, and its capture location was approximately 12 km away in Oak Bay.

CONCLUSION

A total 84 of Northern Pike were caught in the waters of Sagamok Anishnawbek in 2014, with a total of 141 Northern Pike caught since 2013. 74 Northern Pike were equipped with a FLOY tag in 2014, resulting in 103 North Pike being tagged since 2013.

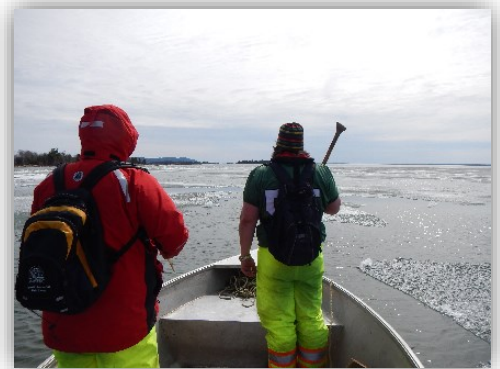
This was year 2 of a 3 year study. The final portion of this project will be undertaken in the spring of 2015. By sampling for multiple and consecutive years, the likelihood of unique weather conditions impacting the overall results is decreased.

Future studies will also employ the use of fyke nets in the channels and areas around the current study sites to obtain accurate representation of Northern Pike spawning and migration.

The A/OFRC has a full technical report available. Please email reports@aofrc.org to request a copy.



A/OFRC staff setting a trap net in John's Bay



Breaking ice on the way to the Pow-wow Grounds



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

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

phone: (705) 472-7888 fax: (705) 472-6333 website: www.aofrc.org email: aofrc@aofrc.org