

# A/OFRC PROJECT UPDATE

## WAHNAPITAE FIRST NATION

May 2015

### NORTH WAHNAPITAE RIVER WALLEYE SPAWNING STUDY

#### INTRODUCTION

The Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre (A/OFRC) in partnership with Wahnapiatae First Nation completed year one of a two year study on spawning walleye in the North Wahnapiatae River in Spring 2015.

#### METHODS

A/OFRC field crews set a total of 28 trap nets and 17 short-set gill nets in the North Wahnapiatae River. Trap nets were used for catch-and-release-method. Trap nets require a lot of effort, however this method eliminates fish kill. The North Wahnapiatae River was not very suitable for trap net use. The short set gill nets were set for a maximum of two-hour intervals to reduce fish kill.



*Wahnapiatae First Nation crew members  
Aimee Robert and Josie-Ann Langelier*

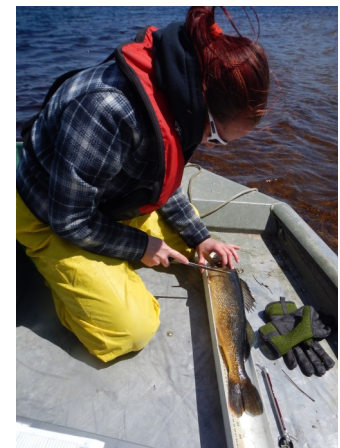
#### RESULTS

Field work took place from April 27—May 7, 2015. The total catch for the study was 349 fish of various species (see graph). A total of 42 walleye were captured and 41 walleye were fitted with an external FLOY Tag. The trap nets produced a catch of 23 walleye and a catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) of 0.82. The short-set gill nets produced a catch of 19 walleye and a CPUE of 1.11.

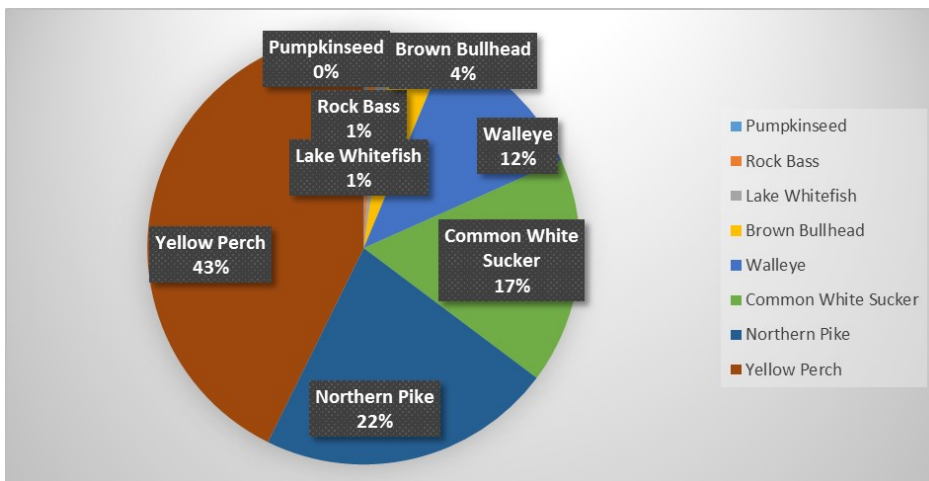
#### CONCLUSION

The catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) for the 2015 walleye spawning study was slightly lower than the CPUE for the 2014 walleye spawning study which could indicate a downward trend. The Walleye Benchmark Classifications indicate that the North Wahnapiatae River walleye populations may be stressed/unstable.

A reminder to community members that if a tagged fish is caught, they are encouraged to call the A/OFRC to report its tag number, location, length, and weight.



*Wahnapiatae First Nation crew member  
Josie-Ann Langelier sampling a walleye*



*Total Catch Summary for the North Wahnapiatae River Walleye Spawning Study*

The Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre recommends that the 2016 Walleye Study should direct its effort towards short gill nets in the North Wahnapiatae River mouth to maximize the walleye catch. A full technical report will be completed in Fall 2015 when data has been analyzed.



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

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