A/OFRC PROJECT SUMMARY
SAGAMOK ANISHNAWBEK

May 2015

NORTHERN PIKE SPAWNING ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre, in partnership with Sagamok Anishnawbek successfully completed a third year of the Sagamok Northern Pike Spawning Assessment. The Assessment took place from April 27—May 8, 2015.

Ice conditions in the North Channel as seen from Perch Bay's entrance

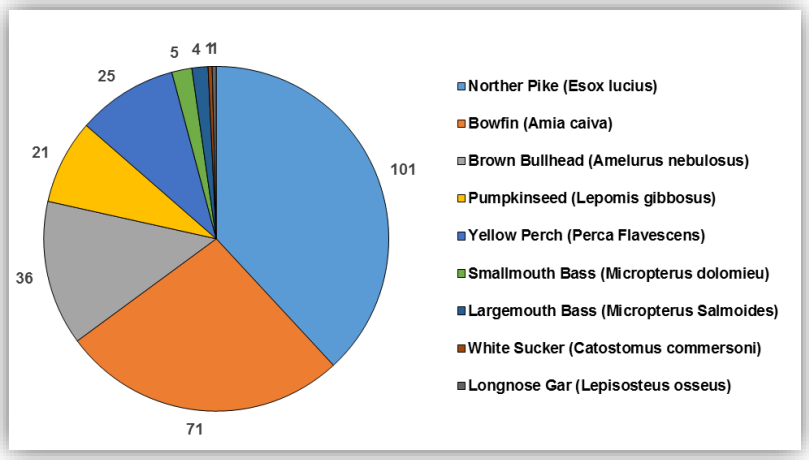
METHODS

A total of 30 trap nets were set throughout the four backwater bays within Sagamok Anishnawbek's traditional waters. Trap nets were strategically placed around channels and entrances of the bays to capture migrating Northern Pike. Fyke nets were used and deployed in the shallow channels located between the North Channel and the Pow Wow Ground where depth prohibited the deployment of trap nets.

RESULTS

Overall, 101 Northern Pike were biologically sampled, and 21 individuals were large enough to be tagged. An attempt was made to release all Northern Pike.

In total, 265 fish were captured, representing nine different species including Bowfin (71), Brown Bullhead (36), Pumpinseed (21), Yellow Perch (25), Smallmouth Bass (5), Largemouth Bass (4), White Sucker (1) and Longnose Gar (1).



Species composition of trap and fyke nets catches for the Northern Pike Spawning Assessment near Sagamok Anishnawbek, 2015

Surface water temperatures within the bays ranged from 5°C to 16°C. Water temperatures within the North Channels ranged from 3.5°C to 13°C.

Lucas Beaver holding a recaptured Northern Pike from a previous year

CONCLUSION

The information obtained from this study will be analyzed in Fall 2015 to assess the dynamics of the Northern Pike populations that utilize the backwater bays for spawning grounds. Factors such as abundance, growth, and conditions will be used to compile baseline data on the Northern Pike population residing in the traditional waters of Sagamok Anishnawbek. This preliminary study will also be used to develop and undertake additional Northern Pike studies in the near future for Sagamok Anishnawbek.

A full technical report will be completed by December 2015. For more information about this project, please contact Curtis Avery, Fisheries Biologist at cavery@aofrc.org.

A/OFRC

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