

A/OFRFC PROJECT UPDATE

LONG POINT BAY

October 2020

ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION OF THE EFFECTS OF COMMERCIAL FISHING ACTIVITIES ON AQUATIC SARs IN LONG POINT BAY WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE STATUS OF SPOTTED GAR

INTRODUCTION

In October 2020, with funds secured from the Species at Risk Stewardship Program, the Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre (A/OFRFC) field staff accompanied a commercial hoop net fisher on Long Point Bay to observe fish caught in the nets with special emphasis on Spotted Gar and other Species at Risk (SAR).

METHODS

Hoop nets were set for between 24 and 72 hours. 87 net lifts were completed over the course of 3 days. Total fishing time for the nets was 4872 hours. Any Species at Risk or harmful Invasive Species were recorded. Captured Spotted Gar



A Spotted Gar captured in commercial hoop nets in 2020. Photo shows external FLOY tag near the dorsal fin.

were measured, photographed, equipped with a numbered FLOY tag, and released at the site of capture.

RESULTS

A total of 3 Species at Risk were captured during this study; Spotted Gar (3), Warmouth (13), and Northern Map Turtle (15). One Invasive Species, a Rudd, was captured during net lifts. The fish was photographed, then destroyed. Other species captured in the hoop nets were: Pumpkinseed, Bluegill, Bluegill X Pumpkinseed, Bullhead (predominantly Brown), Bowfin, Yellow Perch, Rock Bass, Black Crappie, Common Carp, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Longnose Gar (1), Channel Catfish (1), Shorthead Redhorse (1), and Golden Redhorse (1). Exact numbers of many species were hard to determine because of the high volume of fish and the sorting techniques of the fishers.

CONCLUSION

Two Endangered species and one species of Special Concern were observed during this project. Three Spotted Gar were captured and equipped with a numbered external FLOY tag. 13 Warmouth and 15 Northern Map Turtles were also captured in the nets.

Pending approval of continued funding, higher numbers of SAR are likely to be observed during year two of this project, as the A/OFRFC crew member was only able to accompany the commercial fisher for three days of net lifts in 2020.

This project will build on data collected by commercial fishers in 2009 regarding SAR in Long Point Bay, and will provide the very first quantitative estimate of the population of Spotted Gar in Long Point Bay.



An invasive Rudd captured in Long Point Bay, October 2020.



A Warmouth captured in Long Point Bay exhibiting the distinctly patterned operculum. October 2020



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