

A/OFRC PROJECT UPDATE CURVE LAKE FIRST NATION

August 2017

PIGEON LAKE WILD RICE AND HABITAT ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Anishinabek / Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre (A/OFRC) in partnership with Curve Lake First Nation, completed a pilot fisheries assessment of the Wild Rice beds in Pigeon Lake. This project began July 25, 2017 and continued until July 29, 2017.

METHODS

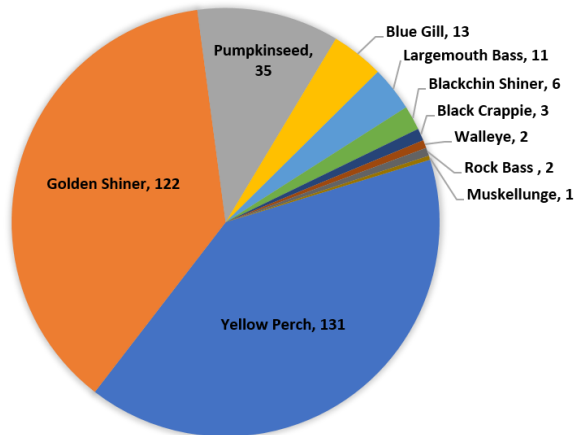
This study used a total of 25 modified broad scale gill nets, each 0.9 m in height. The nets were set for two (2) hours within the wild rice beds in Pigeon Lake. Nets were set early in the morning and at dusk.

RESULTS

In total, 326 fish were captured, representing 10 different species.



Walleye captured during the dusk setting of broadscale gill nets



Species Composition of fish captured within the wild rice beds of Pigeon Lake

The most abundant species observed were Yellow Perch (131), Golden Shiners (122) and Pumpkinseed (35). Some important sport fish species captured included Largemouth Bass, Walleye, and Muskellunge, which were live released.

CONCLUSION

Most fish captured in this study were juveniles, which indicated that the wild rice beds may provide



A Golden Shiner captured during this study. This species is tolerant to moderate turbidity, but thrives best in clear, heavily vegetated habitats with extensive shallow areas. Preferred temperature by this species is 23.8 °C in cool waters.



A muskellunge being released back into the wild rice beds

important habitat for these fish during this vulnerable stage in their life cycle. It is suspected that Walleye were entering the wild rice beds to forage on the abundance of Yellow Perch and Golden Shiners.

In an effort to monitor changes in the wild rice beds, a preliminary mapping exercise will take place in late September 2017. The wild rice beds are expected to be in the seeding stage during this time, making them easier to identify by A/OFRC surveyors. Upon the completion of this project, Curve Lake First Nation would like to examine the wild rice beds in other water bodies within their traditional territory, namely Chemong Lake and Buckhorn Lake.

A full technical report will be available in Spring 2018.



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

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