

# A/OFRC PROJECT SUMMARY

## NIPISSING FIRST NATION

July 2015

### LAKE STURGEON LARVAL DRIFT ASSESSMENT

#### INTRODUCTION

The Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre, in partnership with Nipissing First Nation, has completed the Lake Sturgeon Larval Drift Assessment in the South River of Lake Nipissing. Field work was completed from May 13—June 11, 2015.

#### METHODS

Field crews set a total of 54 gill nets which included four overnight sets and 50 two-hour sets. A total of 38 drift nets and 50 egg mats were also set. Side sonar was done using a Humming Bird 1198c Side Imaging device which was used for mapping purposes.



*A larval Lake Sturgeon*

#### RESULTS

The gill nets produced a catch of 44 Lake Sturgeon and a catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) of 0.8. The drift nets produced a catch of one Lake Sturgeon and a CPUE of 0.026. There were 16 potential Lake Sturgeon eggs observed on the egg mats. Three potential Lake Sturgeon eggs were found in the larval drift nets. Further testing will be completed to validate these findings.

#### CONCLUSION

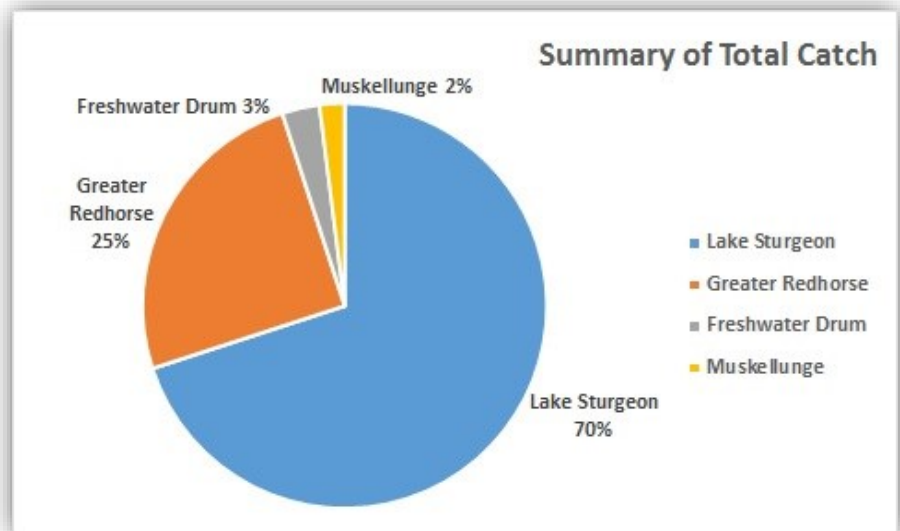
A total of 44 adult Lake Sturgeon were captured, of which 20 were recaptured from previous tagging projects. A summary of the total catch can be seen in the chart below. The South River from Chapman's Chutes to the mouth of the river was mapped; further analysis will be done on this data for the final report.

South River is a non-wadable river system. There is a low flow rate which makes it difficult to locate suitable drift net sites. It is recommended that if this project were to run again, a different method is used to sample larval Lake Sturgeon.

A full technical report will be completed in the Fall of 2015 when all data has been analyzed.



*A/OFRC Fisheries Biologist, Kyle Crans, and A/OFRC Fisheries Intern, Lucas Beaver, taking measurements on an adult Lake Sturgeon. This sturgeon weighed 98 pounds (44.4 kg), and had a length of 5.6 feet (1.7 m)!*



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](http://www.aofrc.org) email: [aofrc@aofrc.org](mailto:aofrc@aofrc.org)