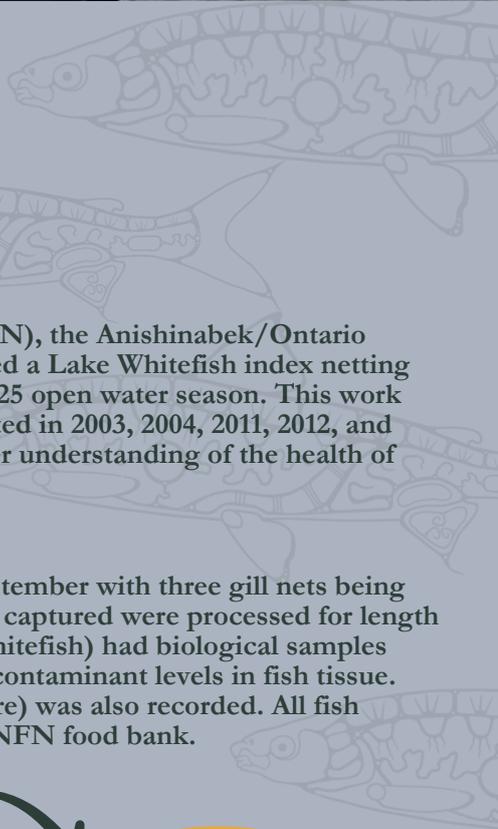




# SUMMARY REPORT NIPISSING FIRST NATION LAKE NIPISSING LAKE WHITEFISH STUDY



Christian, A/OFRC  
Biologist, with a Lake  
Whitefish caught on Lake  
Nipissing via gill net



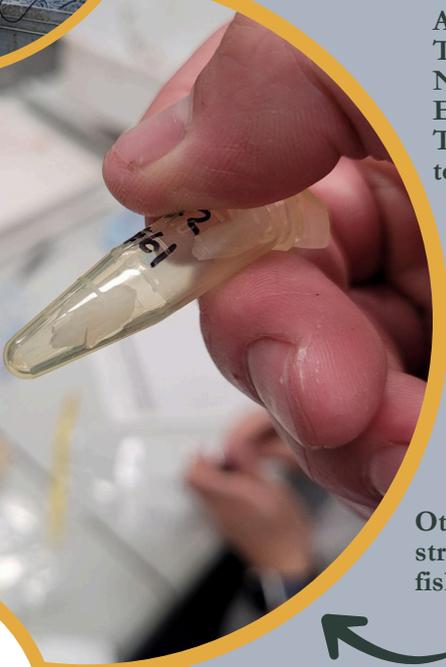
## Introduction

In partnership with Nipissing First Nation (NFN), the Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Center (A/OFRC) conducted a Lake Whitefish index netting (LWIN) study on Lake Nipissing during the 2025 open water season. This work builds on similar studies that A/OFRC completed in 2003, 2004, 2011, 2012, and 2016. Together, these studies help us get a better understanding of the health of Lake Whitefish populations in Lake Nipissing.

## Methods

Netting occurred in June, July, August, and September with three gill nets being set each month in various water depths. All fish captured were processed for length and weight. Certain species (including Lake Whitefish) had biological samples collected to determine age, sex/ maturity, and contaminant levels in fish tissue. Water quality (dissolved oxygen and temperature) was also recorded. All fish suitable for consumption were provided to the NFN food bank.

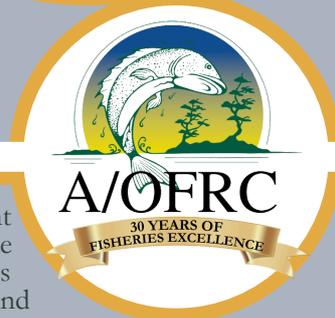
Adam, A/OFRC Fisheries  
Technician, and Andrew,  
Nipissing First Nation  
Environmental  
Technician, working  
together to pick gill nets



Otoliths are one of the aging  
structures collected from various  
fish species



The A/OFRC is a not-for-profit organization that serves as an independent source of information for communities within the Anishinabek Nation. The Centre provides information and recommendations for sustainable fisheries management, reports of stock status, evaluates stresses on fish populations and habitats, and offers technical support.



## Results

In total, 1748 fish were captured, including 1396 Lake Herring (Cisco), 134 Lake Whitefish, 75 White Sucker, 61 Walleye, 39 Yellow Perch, 33 Burbot, 6 Rainbow Smelt, 2 White Bass, and 2 Freshwater Drum. All biological samples are being processed in a laboratory, and we are awaiting these data.

One of the 1396 Cisco captured being weighed

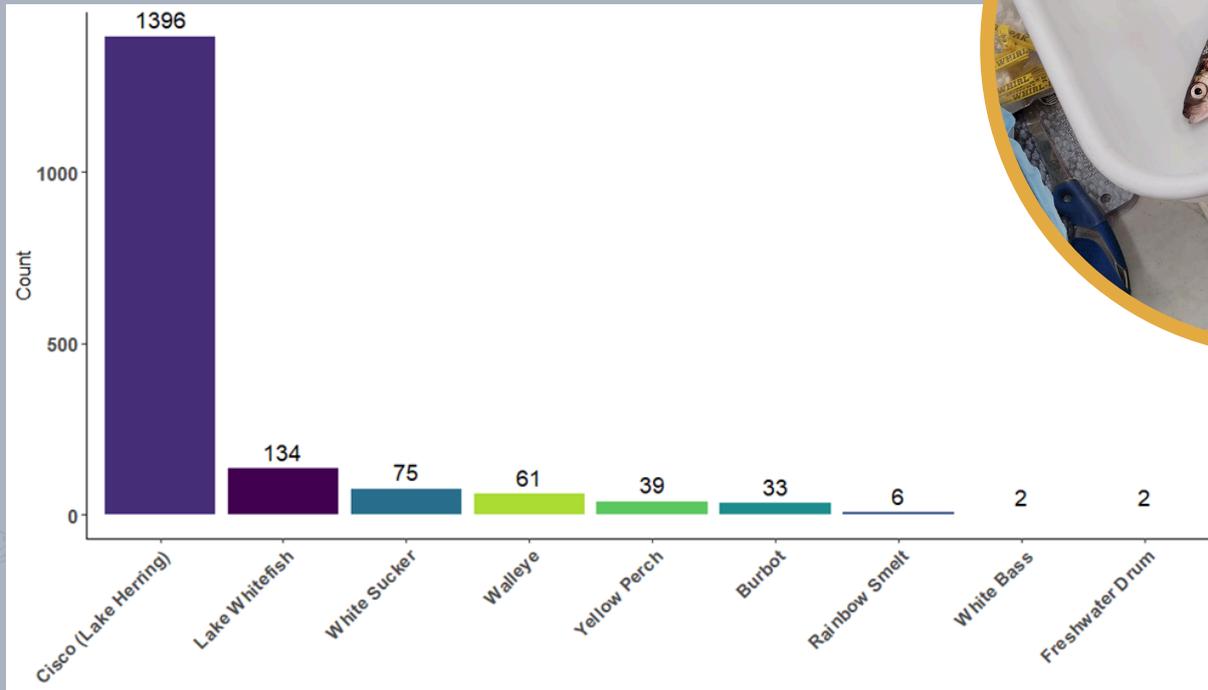


Figure 1. Number of fish captured (per species) in gill nets during Lake Whitefish netting survey completed on the west end of Lake Nipissing in 2025.



Parker, A/OFRFC Co-Op Student with one of the netted white bass from Lake Nipissing

## Conclusions

During the 2025 open water season on Lake Nipissing, Lake Whitefish were netted in the deep waters of western Lake Nipissing, resulting in the capture of 134 adult Lake Whitefish. This data is compared to previous years' LWIN studies. Abundance of Lake Whitefish is lower in 2025 than previous years, however, overall health of the population will be further informed by other factors such as fish maturity and growth. A full report for this work will be submitted to Nipissing First Nation before end of March, 2026.

Year	Net Sets	Total Catch (N)	Lake Whitefish per Net Set
2003	10	306	30.6
2004	23	287	12.5
2011	15	292	19.5
2012	15	453	30.2
2016	15	172	11.89
2025	12	134	10.02

Table 1: Lake Whitefish catch each year A/OFRFC has completed LWIN.



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