

Curve Lake Fisheries UPDATE

Chemong Lake Nearshore Community Index Netting

November 2012

INTRODUCTION

Chemong Lake is home to a number of warmwater and coolwater fish species such as Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass, Walleye and Black Crappie. These fish species inhabit or move in and out of the lake's littoral zone (area in which the sun can penetrate to the lake bottom). To continue monitoring these species and develop an overall understanding of the fishery in Chemong Lake, Curve Lake First Nation, along with the Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre, completed a Nearshore Community Index Netting survey.



A turtle caught in Chemong Lake, 2012.

METHODS

A Nearshore Community Index Netting (NSCIN) program is normally conducted from August 1st to whenever the surface water temperature cools to 13°C. A minimum sample size of sixteen sets is recommended for making relative comparisons of fish abundance. Thirty sets per lake is recommended when a higher precision is required.

Trap nets are used in a NSCIN study. These nets are a live-release method and trap fish as a result of their natural movement. Six-foot trap nets were set



Taking scales off of a walleye for ageing.



Weighing a bass caught in Chemong Lake.

for approximately 24 hours at randomly selected sites within the littoral zone of the lake.

Before any recreational fish are released back into the lake, biological information such as, fork length, total length, weight and ageing structures (scales and dorsal spines) are collected.

RESULTS

This project took place between August 12th and August 21st, 2012. A total of 30 sets were completed. A variety of recreational fish species were caught including Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Muskellunge and Walleye.

Other fish species captured included Black Crappie, Pumpkinseed, Bluegill, Yellow Perch, Rock Bass, Common Carp, White Sucker and Brown Bullheads.

All recreational fish were released back into the lake in a timely manner to reduce stress-induced mortalities.

Surface water temperatures ranged from 20 to 24°C during the sampling period.

CONCLUSIONS

After the field crew talked to many homeowners currently living on Chemong Lake's shoreline, it was found that Walleye are believed to be a rare find in Chemong. All homeowner's were very surprised and encouraged to hear that Walleye are still present in the lake after their decline over the years. An analysis of the data will tell whether this population is on the rise. A report analyzing and all data is currently being drafted and will be finalized in 2013.



A carp captured in Chemong Lake, 2012.



For more information on this or other fisheries projects please contact the A/OFRFC:

755 Wallace Road Unit #5 North Bay, ON P1A 0E7

phone: (705) 472-7888 fax: (705) 472-6333

www.aofrc.org www.facebook.com/AOFRFC