



ANISHINABEK / ONTARIO
FISHERIES RESOURCE CENTRE



NEWS RELEASE

April 2016

WAHNAPIATAE FIRST NATION

NORTH RIVER WALLEYE SPAWNING ASSESSMENT

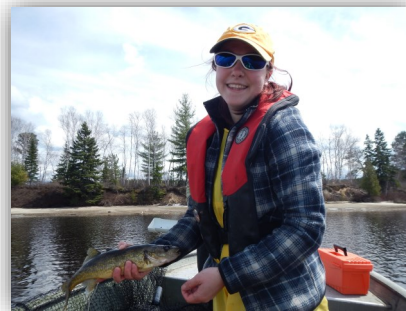
The Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre, in partnership with Wahnapiatae First Nation, will be conducting a Walleye Spawning Assessment in the North Wahnapiatae River. This project is a continuation of a study conducted in 2015, and is one of two components in 2016 intended to examine the walleye population and abundance and characteristics in the North Wahnapiatae River. The Walleye Spawning Assessment will begin when water conditions become ice free and will continue until temperatures exceed 10°C.

The purpose of this study is to provide information about the declining walleye populations in Lake Wahnapiatae, and will be used to assist Wahnapiatae First Nation in developing a strategic plan to monitor the walleye population in their traditional territory.



Trap nets used in Sheshegwaning First Nation for a Project in 2014

Trap nets will be set within close proximity of the upper Wahnapiatae River mouth, where walleye spawning is known to occur. Captured walleye will be sampled for total



Josie Ann Langelier, a Wahnapiatae First Nation worker, assisting with the 2015 walleye study

length, fork length, weight, ageing structures, sex and maturity. The walleye will also be tagged with a FLOY tog, and will be live released to ensure that spawning occurs. Spot lighting and short-

net gill sets will take place in the evening for 2 hours for night time monitoring.

A Fall Walleye Index Netting (FWIN) Survey will be taking place in the Fall 2016. Previous FWIN surveys took place in 2004 and 2011, and the 2016 FWIN will be compared to those results.

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.

For more information, contact:

Keith Nahwegahbow, Fisheries Technician

Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre 755 Wallace Road Unit 5 North Bay, Ontario P1A 0E7

Work Phone: 705-472-7888 x7 Work Cell: 705-491-2520 Email: knahwegahbow@aofrc.org