

## Summary of MNR White Lake Trapnet Study (1969)

### Summary

p4- possible problem noted in 1969 study of yellow pickerel migration due to effects of Waba Creek being historically dammed for sawmill activity

p5- lake contains yellow pickerel, smallmouth/largemouth bass, yellow perch, American eel, rock bass, pumpkinseed, brown bullhead, white sucker and 'minnows'

p10- in both 1959 and 1969 census 6.2% of capture were 'game fish'

p10- pumpkinseed dominant non-game fish in both 1959 (87%) and 1969 (60%)

p10- perch second most common non-game fish in both 1959 (6%) and 1969 (31%)

p11- pickerel dominant game fish in 1959 (55%) and in 1969 (40%)

p11- strong pickerel year classes for age 6-9 (no comparison made with 1959 study)

p11- pike second most common game fish in 1969

p13- pike largest part of creel census (62%)

p14- 5,000 largemouth bass introduced in 1957; very large increase in numbers since then with age class 2, 5, 6 dominant in 1969 study

p15- fewer smallmouth bass were caught of any game species with no strong year classes in 1969 due to small sample size

p17- there has been decline in pickerel and smallmouth bass from 1959 census but increase in largemouth bass

p18- growth rate for all species is higher than provincial average which indicates White Lake is highly productive

p18- pickerel like mesotrophic conditions. Study shows White Lake is eutrophic but no evidence that this affects pickerel spawning. Pickerel spawn on shoals and incoming streams which can be affected by numerous seasonal/annual impacts

p19- residents claim perch numbers are up (confirmed by creel census) and may have affected pickerel and pumpkinseed numbers. Perch prey on young pickerel especially in steams and shoals

p20- not sure if ever growing largemouth bass population contributing to smallmouth bass or pickerel decline

p20- the last introduction of pickerel (eyed eggs) was in 1967

p20- 15,000 muskellunge fry were introduced in 1968 to prey on non-game species in order to assist in increasing pickerel numbers by preying on non-game fish

p20- no muskellunge were captured in 1969 survey or by anglers

p22- recommend no more pickerel stocking since no evidence of recent success

p22- recommend continuing 5 year muskellunge stocking program as juveniles were observed

p22- if muskellunge program is unsuccessful recommend possible commercial fishery for non-game species

p26- summary of White Lake stocking (to 1969):

- Pickerel= 23,400 (1921- 1969)
- Smallmouth Bass= 35,000 (1924-1956)
- Largemouth Bass= 5,000 (1957)
- Muskellunge= 55,000 (1968-1969)