

Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry

Science and Research Branch Biodiversity and Monitoring

Section

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surveillance 173 25th Side Road Rosslyn ON P7K 0B9 **Tél.:** 807 939 2501 **Téléc.:** 807 939-1841

May 2022

SUBJECT: 2022 Broad-scale Fisheries Monitoring Program

Dear Stakeholder,

From June to September, Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNRF) science crews will be conducting netting on inland lakes throughout Ontario.

Netting on each lake will take five to eight days to complete. While the lake is being monitored, nets are checked and moved daily to a new location and all nets are clearly marked with the Ontario logo. Please do not lift the nets or buoys and avoid recreational activities between and around the buoys. Notices will be posted at various locations such as public boat launches and retail stores located on the lake while netting is underway.

The Broad-scale Monitoring program is designed to monitor the current and changing state of fisheries across Ontario. The program is in its third five-year cycle. Approximately 150 lakes will be assessed this summer across the province. NDMNRF staff will collect information on fish species, take water samples, and check for invasive species. This information will be used to evaluate the health of fish populations and make management decisions for Fisheries Management Zones across the province. Fish flesh samples will also be collected and sent to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MECP) for contaminant analyses to help inform Ontario fish consumption guidelines.

Attached is a fact sheet with more information about the Broad-scale Monitoring program and a map with lakes to be sampled in your region. Survey results are available on the Fish On-Line website at Ontario.ca\fishing.

If you have any questions about the fieldwork, please contact:

Northwest Inquiries - Mike Friday, Aquatic Assessment Biologist at Mike.Friday@Ontario.ca (807 939 3155) or Steve Peters, Aquatic Science Operations Specialist, at Steve.Peters@Ontario.ca (807 252 8813).

Northeast Inquiries - Michelle Gillespie, Aquatic Assessment Biologist at Michelle.Gillespie@Ontario.ca (705 465 4467), or Michelle Gorrie, Aquatic Science Operations Specialist at Michelle.Gorrie@Ontario.ca (705 465 1972).

South Inquiries - Steve Vandermeer, Aquatic Science Operations Specialist, at Steve.Vandermeer@Ontario.ca (705 934 0594) or Steve Sandstrom, Aquatic Assessment Biologist at Steve.Sandstrom@Ontario.ca (705 646 5534).

Sincerely,

Darren Elder

Science Coordinator

Northwest Biodiversity and Monitoring Unit

Attached.