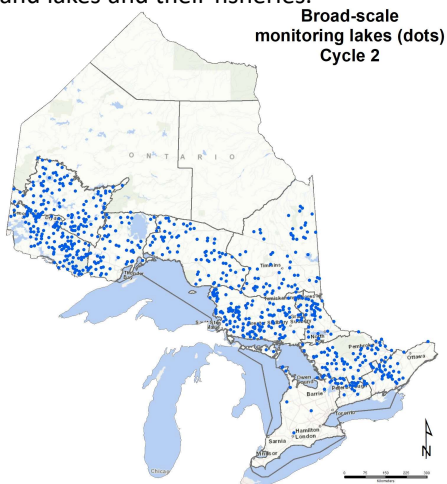


### Monitoring the health of Ontario's inland lakes

Every year, over 1.3 million anglers enjoy recreational fishing in Ontario, contributing nearly \$2.5 billion to the economy. To ensure that present and future generations continue to enjoy high-quality fishing and the associated social and economic benefits, the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNR) works to maintain healthy fish stocks, which are an important environmental indicator. The Ecological Framework for Fisheries Management, introduced in 2004, supports fisheries management by simplifying regulations and increasing opportunities for public involvement. An important part of this approach is increasing our understanding of inland lakes and their fisheries.



### Broad-scale monitoring

To monitor the health of Ontario's inland lakes, NDMNR initiated the Broad-scale fisheries Monitoring program in 2008. This long-term program helps the ministry understand stresses on fisheries and other aquatic resources, including angling pressure, and report changes over time. Within a five-year monitoring cycle, approximately 700 lakes are sampled for water quality, angler activity, large and small fish species, invasive species, contaminants in fish flesh and habitat. Some lakes are re-surveyed every five years to assess changes over time.

### Fisheries management zones

Twenty fisheries management zones (FMZs) cover most of the lakes in Ontario. Fishing regulations such as catch limits and seasons, align within these zones.

For more detailed information on Ontario's Broad-scale Monitoring program or to request this poster in an alternate format, please contact [info.mnrscience@ontario.ca](mailto:info.mnrscience@ontario.ca).

### Monitoring highlights

Over the first two 5-year cycles of monitoring, science staff visited over 1300 waterbodies and sampled a variety of fish species to collect biological information such as weight, length, age, sex, maturity, diet and contaminants and to estimate fish abundance.

Fish netting results for individual lakes are summarized in lake bulletins and are available at Fish ON-Line ([www.ontario.ca/page/fishing](http://www.ontario.ca/page/fishing)).

Contaminant sampling results are included in the Guide to Eating Ontario Fish ([www.ontario.ca/fishguide](http://www.ontario.ca/fishguide)) published by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

In addition to collecting information on common fish species, the Broad-scale Monitoring program increases our knowledge about the distribution of rare native species in Ontario including pygmy whitefish, northern sunfish, and deepwater sculpin by netting lakes that may have never been sampled before. This also allows us to track the distribution of non-native species such as rusty crayfish and spiny waterflea.



Ministry staff record length, weight and other measures which are used to evaluate the health of Ontario's inland lakes.

### Want to know more? Please contact:

#### Southern Ontario

Steve Vandermeer (705) 934-0594  
[steve.vandermeer@ontario.ca](mailto:steve.vandermeer@ontario.ca)

#### Northeastern Ontario

Michelle Gorrie (705) 465-1972  
[michelle.gorrie@ontario.ca](mailto:michelle.gorrie@ontario.ca)

#### Northwestern Ontario

Steve Peters (807) 252-8813  
[steve.peters@ontario.ca](mailto:steve.peters@ontario.ca)

