About the Program
The Broad-scale Monitoring Program provides information for managing our fisheries effectively. This bulletin provides a snapshot of the recent monitoring activities and netting results. Netting is conducted using large and small mesh nets. Large mesh nets contribute information about fish species and small mesh nets describe the fish community. To learn more about the sampling program read Broad-scale Monitoring Program: Monitoring the Health of Ontario Inland Lakes or visit ontario.ca/fishing.

ontario.ca/fishing
The size of lake trout ranged from 31 to 63 cm (from a total of 15 fish) and the size of smallmouth bass ranged from 15 to 54 cm (from a total of 38 fish) in large mesh nets.

Water Chemistry and Temperature
Water samples were collected in May 2011 and sent to the Ministry of Environment for analysis. Water temperature, oxygen levels and water transparency were measured in August 2011. Bella Lake is considered a cold-water lake that can support cold and cool-water fish species such as lake trout, whitefish and smallmouth bass.

Invasive Species
Invasive species were monitored using plankton nets and observations made by field crews. Spiny water flea has already been detected in Bella Lake and was also observed during monitoring. Rainbow smelt was also observed in small mesh nets during monitoring. Samples are currently being processed to determine if any more new invasive species were detected through this sampling program. Any species new to Ontario or an invasive species that is a new record for a waterbody is reported to the Invading Species Hotline www.invadingspecies.com.

Fish Contaminants
Levels of contaminants in fish flesh (e.g. mercury, PCB’s, mirex, organochlorine pesticides and other organic chemicals) will be reported in the Guide to Eating Sport Fishing in Ontario or visit ontario.ca/fishguide.

For more information please contact Ministry of Natural Resources at 1-800-667-1940, send an email to mnr.nric.mnr@ontario.ca or visit ontario.ca/fishing.