Broad-scale Monitoring Bulletin
LAKE JOSEPH – ZONE 15

Lake Joseph Facts

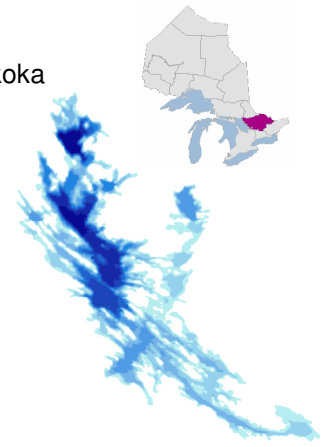
District Municipality of Muskoka

Surface Area: 5461 ha

Maximum Depth: 93 m

Average Depth: 25 m

Water Clarity: 4.8 m



Monitoring Activities

- ✓ Fish netting
- ✓ Fish contaminants
- ✓ Zooplankton
- ✓ Water chemistry
- ✓ Bathymetry
- ✓ Water temperature/dissolved oxygen
- ✓ Invasive Species

Netting Summary

Netting dates: July 14 – 23, 2008 (small mesh)
July 11 – August 9, 2011 (large mesh)

Netting days: 4 (small mesh), 8 (large mesh)

Number of net sets: 21 (small mesh), 38 (large mesh)

Number of fish species caught: 14

About the Program

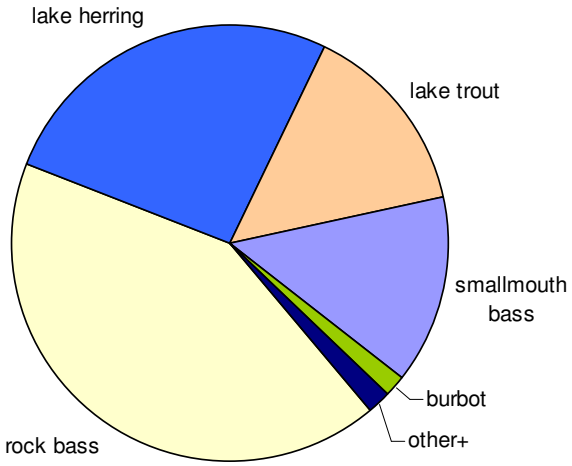
The Broad-scale Monitoring Program provides information for managing our fisheries effectively. This bulletin provides **a snapshot of the recent monitoring activities and netting results.** Netting is conducted using large and small mesh nets. Large mesh nets contribute information about fish species 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.

Fish Netting Results

Fish populations were surveyed using large and small mesh nets to provide information on fish species present and their characteristics, such as growth, age and abundance. The catch data below show that 8 species were surveyed in large mesh nets. Additional fish species that were caught in small mesh nets are black crappie, bluntnose minnow, margined madtom, mottled sculpin, pumpkinseed and spottail shiner. Lake Joseph is also part of a province wide evaluation of the Broad-scale Monitoring method and will be surveyed at a higher intensity and interval than other lakes. The additional data will collectively be used to refine the methods and improve interpretations made from results.

Fish species	Total Catch %	Maximum Length cm	Minimum Length cm	Average Length cm
rock bass	42	22.0	5.2	14.8
lake herring	26	60.0	14.7	28.7
lake trout	15	86.2	21.5	42.3
smallmouth bass	14	52.2	13.7	31.1
burbot	2	55.1	41.9	50.3
lake whitefish+	<1	66.4	47.7	59.4
northern pike+	<1	97.0	86.5	90.5
yellow perch+	<1	16.8	16.8	16.8

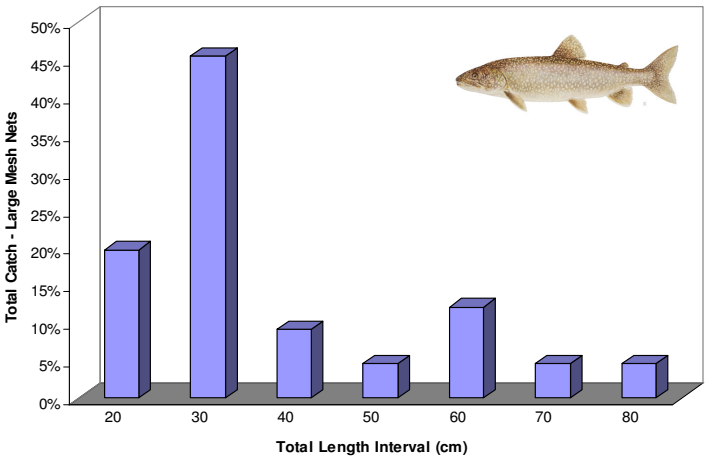
Proportion of Fish Caught in Large Mesh Nets



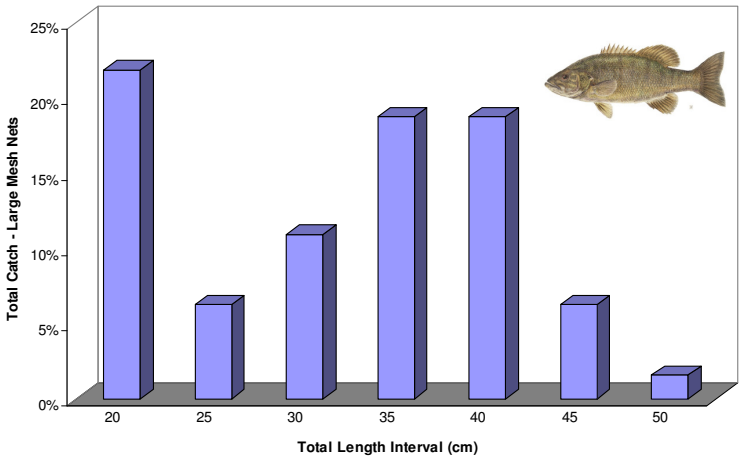
ontario.ca/fishing

Ontario

Length Distribution of Lake Trout



Length Distribution of Smallmouth Bass



20 cm = 20 to 25 cm, 25 cm = 25 to 35 cm, etc.

The size of lake trout ranged from 22 to 86 cm (from a total of 66 fish) and smallmouth bass ranged from 14 to 52 cm (from a total of 64 fish).

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 July 2011. Lake Joseph is considered a cold-water lake that can support cold and cool-water fish species such as lake trout, lake herring and whitefish.

Invasive Species

Invasive species were monitored using plankton nets and observations made by field crews. Spiny water flea, zebra mussel and rainbow smelt have already been detected in Lake Joseph. Samples are currently being processed to determine if any 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.