

Historical Background

It is believed that the original lake trout population in Kennisis Lake became extinct as a result of dam construction on the lake in the mid 1800's. The present population was introduced from stockings in 1925 and 1939. Lake trout spawn in the fall over rock rubble ranging in diameter from 5cm to 20cm. Previous numerous attempts to positively identify lake trout spawning shoals have failed and a sonic telemetry project was initiated in 1990 in an attempt to map and assess shoals in the lake. Basically, this entailed netting fish, surgically implanting sonic transmitters, and following tagged fish during the fall spawning period. Tracking in 1990 and 1991 suggested two main areas of activity, one near the center of the lake in 4m to 10m of water and another towards the west end of the lake in 1m to 4m of water. Subsequent use of underwater video equipment and snorkelling in the fall of 1991 failed to

confirm the presence of lake trout eggs at either the two recently identified sites or any sites previously considered potential shoals. All areas surveyed with suitable spawning rubble were heavily silted and provided only poor quality habitat for egg deposition. It is planned to utilize SCUBA to further assess these shoals in 1992.

Recent studies have indicated that 82% to 93% of the lake trout caught in Kennisis Lake were naturally reproduced, as opposed to stocked fish. From a water quality perspective this is not surprising given that the water chemistry is indicative of excellent quality habitat. What is surprising is the apparent lack of clean spawning rubble for these fish to spawn upon. One technique used to rehabilitate spawning habitat is to add clean rock rubble to existing spawning shoals. This is often accomplished with the assistance of volunteers through the Community Fisheries Involvement Program (CFIP) which provides funds to cover materials costs where labour is volunteered. Following the 1992 assessment work any assistance in rehabilitating the shoals identified as potential would be most welcome.

Follow-up rock rubble was applied to what was believed to be an existing spawning shoal. No confirmation on this shoal was ever verified in spite of extensive checking. As a result the following program has been recommended to help sustain the trout population.

Kennisis Lake Fish Program

I met with David Flowers, the fisheries biologist, on September 24, 2007 to discuss the upgrading of our spawning beds on Lake Kennisis.

Through discussions of our uniqueness: deep spawning trout, a lake largely spring fed, a deep lake, the introduction of speckled trout over the past few years we evolved the following solutions:

Highlights:

Phase I

Research – We need to see what information is being collected, how it's being used and then design a workable program tailored made for our Haliburton County anglers, cottage associations etc.

Phase II

Broader Public consultation – It will be very important to engage dedicated anglers and the general fishing community of Haliburton County and more specifically how they would like to be communicated with how they would like to get involved.

Phase III

Initiate a **County wide** Dedicated Angler Program; A pilot program for the Province/County that would be introduced in 2008 to support a more informed approach to fisheries management in Haliburton County.

Dedicated Angler Program: Community Reporting

A Dedicated Angler Program would provide a platform for fisheries management by providing better and more information resulting in better management. Kennisis Lake Anglers are encouraged to assist with this new program to begin in 2008 for Kennisis Lake.

Your help is needed.

To this end we need volunteer anglers approximately 12 at least.

David Flowers will come to Lake Kennisis to discuss the program with these volunteers. He will provide us with the information needed & material to use. An example is a punch to take a small tail sample from the fish if kept or released. An alcohol bottle supplied preserves it. This sample allows a lab evaluation of the fish and their background. This method allows live release. Fish size, food eaten & health are also

~ FASVR ED

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Area: Bancroft District, Minden Area Office

Name: David Flowers

Geographic Townships: Havelock

Title: Fisheries Extension Biologist

Detailed Project Description

Purpose and Rationale for project:

Purpose is to provide 'near shore' angling opportunities for brook trout in Kennisis Lake by beginning an ongoing brook trout stocking program. Brook trout will be stocked for two consecutive years and our office, with the help of anglers from Kennisis Lake, will monitor the success of these plants. Future alternate year stocking efforts may be considered if the success of these plants is documented. (*Angler diary program being planned*)

The Rationale

- Kennisis Lake has been stocked with thousands of lake trout since 1925. There is at present, a naturalized population of lake trout, of hatchery origin in Kennisis Lake. No actual spawning sites have been documented but natural reproduction is evident and anglers report fair catches of unmarked lake trout. There is increased local pressure to stock this lake with lake trout. The MNR is not prepared to supplement the lake trout population with additional lake trout stocking at this time. However, there is merit, as an experimental stocking project, to stock brook trout in a large waterbody and determine the success of these plants.
- Brook trout stocking opportunities are shrinking in the Minden Area because of increasing access restrictions to many of our small brook trout lakes. Many of these lakes are entirely surrounded by private land and access permitted by one landowner may often change, as the property is sold to new owners. If we truly want to provide increased fishing opportunities to anglers, opportunities that are easily accessible, then the large expanse of deep, cold water habitat available in Kennisis lake may offer excellent growth and angling opportunities for two salmonid species.
- Brook Trout were historically found in the area, and may have naturally reproduced at one time in Kennisis Lake. There are periodic reports from anglers today that brook trout can still be caught in the lake, but these are rare occurrences.
- This PGT stocking will help to deflect some of the heavy fishing pressure on our local, native, naturally reproducing lake trout lakes.

Kennisis Lake is located in Havelock Township, south of the Haliburton Forest. There are two public access points, one located where County Rd 7 meets the southeast shore of the lake, and the other located at the Kennisis Dam. The lake is easily accessible which makes it an ideal fishing opportunity for the public.

The physical characteristics (water temperature, dissolved oxygen, depth, and pH) meet the general habitat preferences for brook trout listed in the Ontario Governments 'Guidelines for Stocking Fish in Inland Waters of Ontario'.

Details of Project (include: location, duration, operation, decommissioning and study area)

Where: Stocking on Kennisis Lake, Havelock Township

When: Beginning in the Spring of 2004

Size: yearlings

Duration: Anticipate stocking for two consecutive years. During this time we will monitor the success of these stockings with the help of the Kennisis Lake Anglers and the seasonal and permanent

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Resource Stewardship and Facility Development Project Project Screening and Category

2004

Project Name: Fish Stocking in New Waters Proposed in the Ministry of Natural Resources Minden Area, Bancroft District.

Locations: Kennisis Lake
Area: Bancroft District, Minden Area Office
Geographic Townships: Havelock

Proponent: Minden Area Office
Name: David Flowers
Title: Fisheries Extension Biologist

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Fish Stocking - Brook Trout Kennisis
D. Flowers

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Alternatives considered (including null alternative)

Do Nothing: If there is a high level of environmental and/or public concern Kennisis Lake will be removed from the proposal and no brook trout will be stocked there.

All comments received during the Public Notice Period (January 10 to February 11, 2004) were very supportive of this stocking initiative.

