

## To Lake Residents, Campers and Visitors



The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is responsible for monitoring the abundance and health of fish populations in the lakes and rivers across Ontario. MNRF science crews will collect information on fish species, take water samples, and check for invasive species in this lake and approximately 145 other lakes from June to September.

**It is important for your safety and for the integrity of our data that these nets are not disturbed.** If you are on this lake while it is being monitored and see MNRF buoys, please don't lift the nets or buoys, and avoid recreational activities or anchoring between and around the buoys. All MNRF nets are clearly marked with yellow buoys bearing the Ontario logo. Nets are checked and moved to a new location every day.

Biological data are collected by our science crews and provide MNRF biologists with valuable information about abundance, age structure, mortality, and maturity of the types of fish in the lake. This information is used to evaluate the health of fish populations in the lake and make management decisions.

The number of fish caught and sampled represents a very small percentage of the total population in the lake. As resource managers responsible for the sustainability of these populations, we are sensitive to the number of fish collected, but strongly believe this information is necessary to responsibly manage this resource.

Aquatic monitoring staff are following all public health recommendations for safety, including appropriate social distancing, wearing protective equipment, and handwashing/sanitizing. MNRF is asking the public to be respectful of staff and help maintain a 2-metre personal distance.

For more on Ontario's aquatic resources, check out [ontario.ca/fishing](https://ontario.ca/fishing) for angling opportunities and monitoring techniques.

If you have any questions or concerns about our monitoring program, contact Steve Vandermeer at 705-934-0594 ([steve.vandermeer@ontario.ca](mailto:steve.vandermeer@ontario.ca)).