

ROBERTS LAKE NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020

LOON REPORT

This is an report from Lyle Weyers regarding the Loons on Roberts Lake.

Loons: We had 4 loon chicks born; 1 in Reed Bay; 1 in Switzer Point Bay; & 2 in Turtle Bay. All were about 2 weeks later than normal because the 1st hatch was unsuccessful because of the black flies. Unfortunately, one of the parents from Turtle Bay was killed the same night the twin chicks were born on July 3rd. It was hit by a boat or jet ski.

One of the twin chicks disappeared around the end of July, probably taken by one of the eagles. The other three chicks are now 8 weeks old and all three are doing fine.

The single parent loon did a great job raising first two chicks and then one. It had to chase off a roque loon quite a few times.

The boat and jet ski traffic has certainly increased on the lake and as both get more powerful motors, the faster they can go. I'm not sure they can actually see the loons ahead of them when they are traveling that fast. There is a Town of Freedom ordinance that states that skiers and jet skis need to stay 200 feet away from other boats, pontoons, and each other, as well as the shore line and docks. I do not think this is always being followed. Something to certainly discuss at our next spring meeting.

Maybe we can get these regulations out there to all new owners on the lake and also post them at the boat landings.

ROBERTS LAKE FISH REHABILITATION PROJECT

This is an update from Mike Preul the Director of Mole Lake Fisheries. This is from an email on July 20,2020 and it is regarding our Roberts Lake Fish Rehabilitation project.

Hello everyone,

Hope all is well and everyone is healthy. Just a quick update on the Roberts project. We were able to get out this spring and get most work done. This includes fyke net and boat electrofishing of northern pike and largemouth bass. We got right away with the lake still partially covered in ice, and we put a lot of effort to get northern pike with fyke nets. We followed with good effort on largemouth bass using nighttime electrofishing. I've included results below along with 2019 results for comparison purposes. As you can see, numbers were way down, obviously good news for meeting the goals of the project. We will continue with the project in August. We are planning to perform a standardized crayfish survey the first week of August. With this survey there will be 10 sites around the lake with 3 traps at each site. This survey will run for 3 days. Beginning the second week of August, we will begin setting fyke nets to remove small largemouth bass and small bluegill. We will start with a preremoval survey using 8 nets and after survey completion we will quickly ramp up to 20-25 nets around the perimeter of the lake. Nets will run through early September, with the goal of removing nets prior to labor day weekend. We will reset the 8 nets from preremoval survey for a postremoval survey. This survey will last 3 days. Please send out messages to remind lake users of the project and to respect nets. Hopefully we don't have any issues with

vandalism like we did last year. We will finish the year with a fall nighttime electrofishing survey in mid to late September and the stocking of large fingerling walleye in early October. We haven't been on the lake for a while, but we did make some positive observations this spring. Most notably, there are lots of perch in Roberts. Most are on the small size which is great to support smaller-sized walleye, but there was a nice mix of perch up to 11 inches. Finally, young walleye were abundantly seen in fyke nets and during nighttime electrofishing. This includes the 2018 and 2019 year classes. Please continue to spread the word that fish removed thru angling will help a bunch with the project. Angling regulations are very liberal for both largemouth bass and northern pike. Thanks and I appreciate any feedback you may have.

Mike

Michael Preul, Director

Mole Lake Fisheries

Sokaogon Chippewa Community

3051 Sand Lake Road

Crandon, WI 54520

715-478-7621

mike.preul@scc-nsn.gov

Roberts Lake Project - Summary of Northern Pike and Largemouth Bass Removed - 2019-2020

Length (in)	Northern Pike			Largemouth Bass			Length (in)
	2019	2020	Total	2019	2020	Total	
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	0	6	0	6	2
3	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
4	0	0	0	15	0	15	4
5	0	0	0	20	3	23	5
6	0	0	0	18	16	34	6
7	0	0	0	36	19	55	7
8	0	0	0	30	16	46	8
9	1	1	2	119	13	132	9
10	5	0	5	109	32	141	10
11	12	4	16	330	34	364	11
12	9	2	11	369	88	457	12
13	15	3	18	466	101	567	13
14	20	10	30	794	70	864	14
15	49	20	69	581	53	634	15
16	114	27	141	266	39	305	16
17	155	45	200	130	15	145	17
18	215	51	266	51	6	57	18
19	161	35	196	16	2	18	19
20	125	27	152	3	1	4	20
21	68	27	95	0	0	0	21
22	57	13	70	0	0	0	22
23	36	12	48	0	0	0	23
24	19	7	26	0	0	0	24
25	12	6	18	0	0	0	25
26	10	3	13	0	0	0	26
27	7	1	8	0	0	0	27
28	6	2	8	0	0	0	28
29	1	0	1	0	0	0	29
>30	7	0	7	0	0	0	>30
Total	1104	296	1400	3360	508	3868	Total
<12"	18	5	23	96	38	134	<8"
>12"	1086	291	1377	3234	454	3688	>8"
2019 Adult Npike (>12"), no/acre removed:			2.6	2019 Adult LMBass (>8"), no/acre removed:			7.8
2020 Adult Npike (>12"), no/acre removed:			0.7	2020 Adult LMBass (>8"), no/acre removed:			1.1
Total Adult Npike (>12"), no/acre removed:			3.3	Total Adult LMBass (>8"), no/acre removed:			8.9

Michael Preul, Director
Mole Lake Fisheries
Sokaogon Chippewa Community

This is an update this week from Jeff Kaiser with his conversation with Mike Preul.

I did speak with Mike recently on this subject as well as the project. There is nothing new on removal numbers, they had done a rusty survey in early August with early indications that it will look about the same as last year. Mike had not compiled the data yet when we spoke. They currently have 22 small mesh fyke nets set for the purpose of removing the young large mouth and small bluegill. Also he is targeting some time the first two weeks of October for the stocking of walleye and wanted to verify that we have money budgeted for that (likely to be somewhere \$9,000 - \$12,000). He will provide plenty of notice as to when and offered that if any RLA members wished to assist with this they would certainly be welcome. Not sure what that might entail.

Any questions or concerns please contact me.

Thanks!

Jeff

Eurasian Water Milfoil

Aquatic Plant Management (APM) handpicked Eurasian Water Milfoil on 2 days this Summer. At the time of this Newsletter we don't have any written report from APM to share with you.