

Scientific Study on Iroquois Lake

I am reaching out because we (Saskatchewan Polytechnic) are conducting a research study this spring, that involves temporary buoys being placed on a few lakes to assess the environmental conditions at walleye stocking sites. **Iroquois Lake** is one of our planned study waters!

Below is more information about this study.

Where: up to 10 stocked walleye lakes in west central, and northwest SK.

When: May 8th - June 16th (for most lakes)

Who: Rebecca Perry and Integrated Resource Management students from Saskatchewan Polytechnic. This study is in collaboration with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment and Saskatchewan Fish Hatchery.

What: Saskatchewan Polytechnic students are conducting a walleye fry research study at stocked walleye lakes during spring 2024. At each lake, we will be deploying a passive temperature sensor (about the size of a toonie) attached to a cinderblock and a red buoy. These buoys will be placed at sites where walleye fry are typically stocked by the hatchery (1 site per lake, typically adjacent to public boat launches). The goal is to monitor the temperature regime during the spring season and determine if the time of stocking (typically the last week of May) is optimal based on lake temperature regimes. Stocking walleye fry at the correct times is critical for good survival. We will be visiting the buoy stations 3x throughout the spring to offload temperature data, take water quality, and sample zooplankton (fry prey). We hope that our data will inform the timing of stocking at these lakes, so we can achieve better fry survival.

The buoys will be labelled with permanent marker, and each will have a luggage tag strapped on with more details (permit #, contact #, scientific collection). Most buoys will be removed by June 16th, however a few may be left longer if all goes well.

The buoys will pose no risk or obstacle to anyone using the lake. **We just ask that lake users avoid touching or removing the buoys as this impacts the temperature readings.**

We thank you for your cooperation with this project!