

Spring Prey Fish Survey

Are there enough prey fish (alewife) to feed all the predator fish? Predator fish include Bay of Quinte walleye that spend most of their adult life in the Eastern Basin of Lake Ontario eating alewife.

To answer this question, the MNRF with US partners, conduct an annual lake-wide spring prey fish survey.

As part of the lake-wide coverage, the MNRF vessel Ontario Explorer will be surveying the lower Bay of Quinte for up to 5 days in April. Staff may be seen setting or retrieving trawl gear and sorting and sampling fish. Fish samples are taken back to the Glenora Fisheries Station for more detailed analysis. Most of the catch in the survey is alewife. Very few walleye are captured, in 2022 only 75 walleye were captured lake-wide.

Knowing the relative abundance of prey fish to predators (walleye and trout and salmon) helps maintain the health of the fisheries. You can read more about the lake wide survey here: <u>Spring Prey Fish Survey 2022 Report</u>

Contact: Colin Lake colin.lake@ontario.ca