Walleye Harvest Manager/Sampling Program

Every year, the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte (MBQ) run the Walleye Harvest Manager Program to uphold our traditional values during the walleye harvest season. Our Harvest Managers work alongside community members, sharing knowledge and helping return fertilized walleye eggs to the river to sustain fish populations for generations to come.

This year, in partnership with the Fish Consumption Working Group (FCWG)—a branch of the broader Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan (BQRAP)—MBQ has developed a Walleye Sampling Program.

This program was developed in response to Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) #1: Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption and is an extension of MBQ's ongoing work through the BQRAP and Fish Consumption Survey.

(Dolores Cullen, Storm Lake Times Pilot, 4/20/22)

The FCWG will soon be working on assessing the restrictions on fish consumption to determine if the level of contaminants has decreased enough to delist it as a BUI. There remains some data gaps for MBQ to ensure our fish consumption will be considered in the assessment. So, MBQ is hoping to conduct some sampling alongside harvesters this spring to properly represent our consumption. The sampling plan will allow MBQ to gather critical information to address data gaps, assess potential risks, and ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the Bay's ecosystem and its resources for future generations.

(Megan Murphy, MBQ 28/03/25)

Harvest Managers will be conducting sampling alongside their usual work. Along with returning as many fertilized eggs as possible, the additional goal this year will be to weigh and measure as many walleye as possible, collect scales for aging, and take a few tissue samples of large walleye for contaminant testing. Participation is not mandatory but will be greatly appreciated!

To learn more about MBQ's BQRAP involvement, please visit: https://mbq-tmt.org/community-infrastructure/environment/bay-of-quinte-remedial-action-plan/ **or** scan the QR code to be redirected.