

Limiting Fishing Mortality: A Rehabilitation Example



1946



2008



1987

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Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

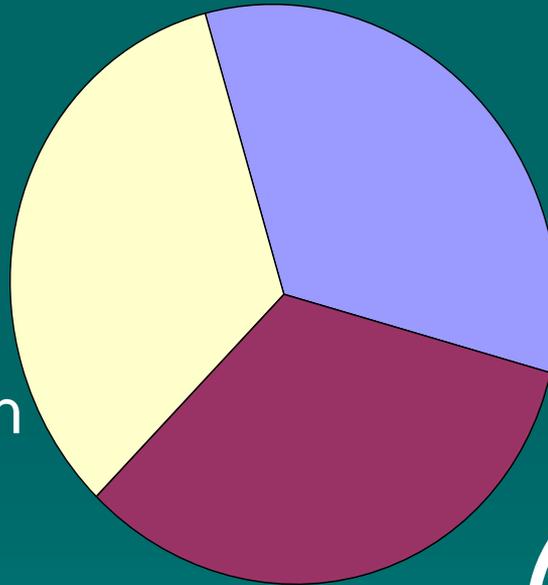
Lake Sturgeon Coordination Meeting, December 2008

Management Tools

• Indirect Action

Reduce M

- Enhance Survival
- Enhance Habitat
- Reduce Predation
- Increase Protection

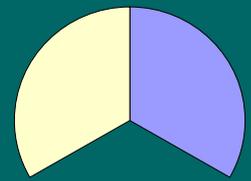


• Direct Action

Increase N
- Stocking

Manage F
- Manage fisheries

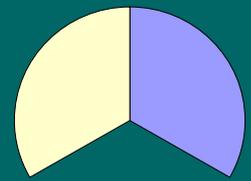
Management Tools



Why Fisheries Mortality?

- Quickest result
- Can have significant results
- No negative ecological impacts ??
- Its “visible” to public
- Least expensive option – to agency
- Often impacts least number of constituents

Management Tools



How to Control Fisheries Mortality

- Season closures
- Reduce allowable harvest limits
- Control portion of population harvested
- Create Sanctuaries
- Control fishing effort
- Enhance Enforcement



Management Example

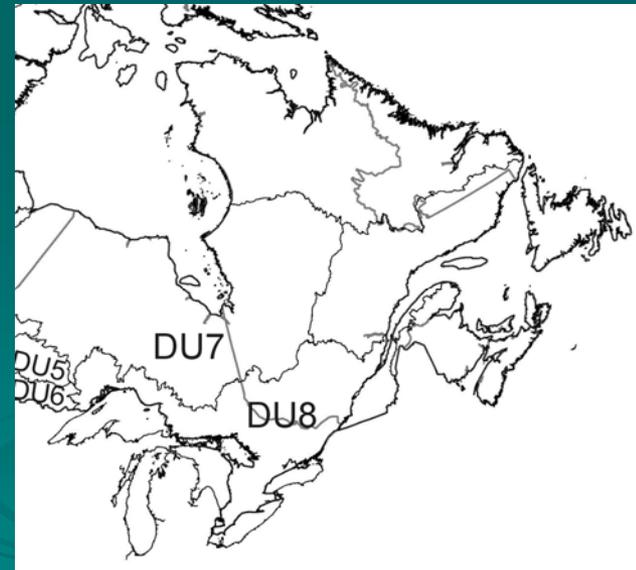
Background

- Mississauga River saw increased “recreational” harvest
- Began in 2004 with a “few” fishers
- 178 observed in the fall of 2007
- Charges laid for buying and selling fish and caviar
- **Commercialization Concern**



Management Example

- COSEWIC recommendation for listing lake sturgeon in GL basin as threatened; Berens River and Winnipeg-English River system as threatened
- New listings would require significant changes to regulations
- **Provincial Status Concern**



Management Example

- Global demand for sturgeon caviar increases
- Evidence of black market for lake sturgeon caviar in Ontario
- Enforcement concern



Management Tools - Example

- No existing up to date Lake Sturgeon Management Plan for Ontario
- Lack of Plan Concern



Management Example

Ontario's Lake Sturgeon Interim Action (Effective July 1, 2008)

- Recreational fishery catch and release only, province wide
 - Lower Mississauga River closed to all recreational sturgeon fishing
- Effective January 1, 2009
- Commercial quota reduced to zero, province wide
 - Voluntary reduction requested for 2008
- Aboriginal harvest will continue by rights only



Management Tools - Future

Minister has committed to

- Ontario Lake Sturgeon Management Plan for 2010 season
- Discussions with OCFA regarding “traceability” research
- Discussions with user groups / First Nations



Questions?