

Muskellunge Project Update



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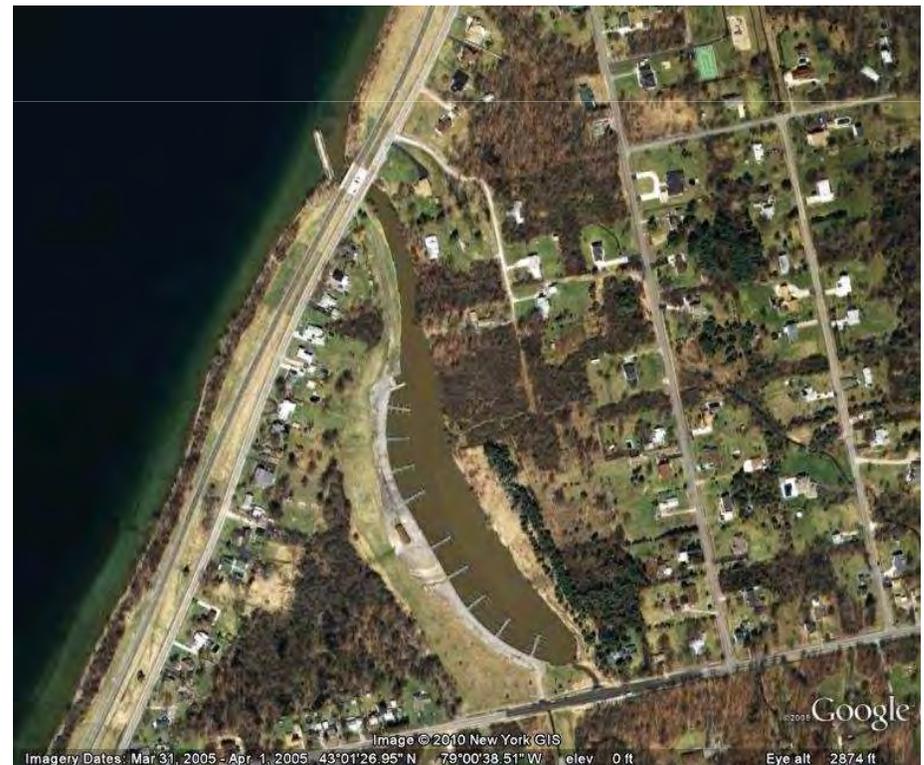
Data Collection

- Spring electrofishing
 - BH/UNR: 54 muskellunge and 3 tiger muskellunge captured in 63 runs (20.67 hours)



Data Collection

- Spring electrofishing
 - 21 juvenile muskellunge and 4 suspected juvenile tiger muskellunge captured at Big Six Mile Creek Marina



Data Collection

- Spring electrofishing
 - LNR: 12 muskellunge and 1 tiger muskellunge captured in 8 runs (3.67 hours)



Data Collection

- Seining
 - 76,390 fish captured in 81 hauls at 16 sites with fine-mesh seine (140 YOY muskellunge)
 - 10,432 fish captured in 65 hauls at 10 sites with large-mesh seine (33 YOY muskellunge)



Data Collection

- Seining
 - Genetic data collected from all 173 YOY muskellunge
 - Diet data collected from 34 muskellunge









Data Collection

- Seining
 - Collected rare native species and non-natives



Data Collection

- Seining
 - 6 sites sampled each year during 2007-2009
 - 8 sites sampled each year during 2008-2009
- * Important for monitoring fish assemblage response to habitat restoration projects

Data Collection

- Fall electrofishing
 - Captured 21 YOY muskellunge at 8 sites
 - Collected genetic data from all and diet data from 15



Data Collection

- Rudd sampling
 - Captured 255 rudd (60 examined in the field and released)
 - 195 retained for dissection (length, weight, scales, otoliths, stomach contents, sex, & ovary weight)



Accomplishments

- 2009 annual report to the Lake Erie Unit
 - 2007 and 2008 reports also available
- 2009 annual report to the Lake Ontario Unit
- Presentations to:
 - Niagara Musky Association
 - NY Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
 - International Association of Great Lakes Research

Publications in Progress

- A comparison of diets of young-of-year muskellunge from the St. Lawrence and upper Niagara Rivers
- Description and comparison of fish assemblages at muskellunge nursery sites in the Buffalo Harbor (Lake Erie), upper Niagara River, and St. Lawrence River
- Genetic population structure of Great Lakes muskellunge
- Biology of rudd in the upper Niagara River



Acknowledgments



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- Greenway Ecological Standing Committee
- Niagara Musky Association



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