



Calling All Anglers!

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) last surveyed Big Gull Lake for fish in 2010. The next survey will not occur until 2017. Please help contribute to the monitoring of fish data in Big Gull Lake by completing the form (below or on the back page) whenever you fish. All fishing experiences are important, regardless of the size of the fish caught. *There is no need to reveal your favourite fishing hole!* Photographs are welcome. While your smiling face in the photo is appreciated, please provide a clear picture of the fish. Single photos of fish are welcome. This is a great opportunity to get your family involved in fishing.

A creel census (a record of numbers and kinds of fish caught by anglers) provides important information about sport fish in a lake. Results of a creel census are used to document the species composition in all habitats of a lake and to monitor changes in populations from year to year. Changes in the fish community reflect both water quality of the lake as well as climate change. The number of species increases as a result of the different types of habitats sampled. The OMNR BROADSCALE Monitoring program typically records species caught in nets set in open waters and so may miss species found in rocky or vegetated habitats. For example, numbers of Largemouth Bass were likely underestimated in the 2010 OMNR survey because of the limited number of habitats sampled.

Please help contribute to the monitoring of fish species in our lake by submitting your catch data. Here is a sample form. I also have provided a table (see back page) to make record keeping easier for anglers. Please release any out of season fish as soon as possible without recording data or taking photo. Check Ontario Fishing Regulations each year.

Name of Angler:	Photographer:
Telephone or email:	
Fish species:	Lure or bait used:
Date (day/month/year):	Time caught:
Elapsed time since starting to fish or since last fish caught?	
Total length (indicate cm or inches):	
Was the fish kept or released?	
Fish habitat description (near shore or island, near vegetation or off rocks, and depth if known):	

Submit either hard copy to lake area rep or email information and attach photos (if available) to corkum@uwindsor.ca

Please consider contributing fish survey data one day each month, one day each week or more often. Any contribution would be gratefully appreciated. If there are sufficient responses from anglers, summary information about fishes in the lake will be provided in future newsletters. Information and photos will appear on the cottage association website (www.bgleeca.ca).

Yours in conservation,
Lynda Corkum