

From: Ike Laba <ikelaba@onlink.net>

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Subject: FW: TAFIP Egg Collection

Hi TAFIP Members:

Although, I had talked to most of the TAFIP members prior to issuing **NO Egg Collection in 2020 due to COVID 19 virus** I explained that I had already applied to the MNR for egg collection; aquaculture; and stocking licences. We still had an option to proceed if there was a drastic change in the COVID 19 virus issue. At this point there is an increase in the virus spread in Northern Ontario and it was just announced today that we are 2 to 3 weeks away from the peak of the virus. I did talk to a hatchery operator north of us and he mentioned that the Northern Region indicated they will not be issuing hatchery licences. Also, from talking to the OFAH basically all the Walleye hatcheries within our area pulled out of operations this year.

Note: Below are some of the reasons we have to consider Human Health over Hatchery operations. Although a minimal number of members wanted to collect Walleye eggs, it has to be noted that Egg collection is only one segment of the Walleye hatchery program.

Note: There are numerous steps to a Walleye Hatchery operation e.g. egg collection; incubating/monitoring at the hatchery; rearing of fry and fingerlings; dispersal of fish into various designated lakes.

1. Egg collection Net Creek -set up staging site; net setting; checking and extracting fish; milking and fertilizing of ;eggs: and transport, ensuring eggs are not clumping; record keeping etc. Can be done with 4 or 5 persons (4 +1 training)
2. Egg collection Lake Temagami: Net Setting Spawning Bay; checking and extracting fish; milking and fertilizing eggs; transport; record keeping; checking during transportation for clumping etc. Record keeping Experience 4 or 5 persons (working as partners with the First Nations (4 persons +1 training)
3. Working with First Nations Harvesters: Require minimum of 2 people Fertilizing eggs/transporting/monitoring eggs closely during transporting due to distance/ ensuring good quality egg stock arrivals at hatchery/ recording data.
4. Cleaning and sterilizing hatchery facility: Min. 4 people required for 2 to 3 days (water system; reconnect hose to bell jars; sterilize all equip; record keeping. Ensuring eggs are clumping after arriving etc.
5. Staff at the hatchery for the next 25 to 30 days monitoring for dead egg; checking water temperatures; treating to kill off fungus if necessary; ensure proper water circulation; watch eyelets and stage of development. Require 2 but 3 people working at the hatchery in close quarters for 25 to 30 days. (No entry)
6. 5 days after Walleye egg hatch; dispersal of fry to designated lakes and rearing ponds. This will require 10 to 12 staff in bagging fry with oxygen; transporting to various lakes. Many working in close quarters.

Note: From talking to the OFAH virtually all Walleye hatcheries opted in egg collection and other related hatchery operations.

Note: We do have a lot of catch up projects for this year. Operations will be dependent on the COVID Virus. If you have any questions or concerns please give me a call @ 705 569 3252.

Thanks

Ike Laba

TAFIP President