

NOTICE OF SEASONAL CLOSURE

Commercial Fishery Closes for the 2021 Season on September 15th

August 27, 2021 – Nipissing First Nation's Chief and Council have mandated the closure of the commercial fishery for the 2021 season effective Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. The closure will remain in effect until the end of the spring 2022 moratorium.

All commercial gill nets must be lifted by 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 15th

This closure does not affect our members' inherent, treaty-protected rights to harvest fish for subsistence or ceremonial purposes

Members who plan to fish for subsistence must follow our *Fisheries Law* and are asked to notify our Fisheries Office by calling (705) 753-6991. Miigwech to the registered commercial fishers and community members who respect the will of the community and follow the *Fisheries Law* and processes.

Anyone selling fish harvested under the pretense of subsistence or ceremonial fishing will be considered to be in violation of NFN's fishing laws and subject to enforcement measures under our *Fisheries Law*.

For more information, or to report compliance issues, please contact **Jeff McLeod, Natural Resources Manager** at 705-753-2050 ext. 1325 or jeffm@nfn.ca.

Background

Chief and Council mandated this closure in accordance with our *Fisheries Law* and based on data presented by our Natural Resources Department on August 26, 2021. The harvest data used to inform decision-making is collected by NFN Fisheries staff using catch reports submitted by registered compliant fishers, as well as harvest estimates for non-reporting/non-compliant fishers. The data presented shows that we are nearing the upper limit of the commercial fishery's safe harvest level of 30,000 kg for the 2021 season. Further assessment will continue into the fall and winter with the Fall Walleye Index Netting (FWIN) and monitoring of the health of the lake to ensure sustainability of the fishery moving forward.

NFN is committed to principles of sustainability and the protection of resources while maintaining the practice of our rights in a responsible way. We regulate our own fishery through assessments, active monitoring, data exchange and harvest reporting, and we collaborate with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to enforce our *Fisheries Law*. NFN's Gichi-Naaknigewin (Constitution) and *Fisheries Law* were ratified by Debendaagziwaad and are recognized by Ontario - a first that supports a new approach to fisheries management and nation-to-nation relationship building.

NFN Fisheries Law: nfn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Fisheries-Law-Regulations-2021.pdf

MOU Update 2020-21: nfn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2020-21-MOU-Update-Report.pdf