

Walleye on the Moon



WALLEYE might once again thrive in the Moon River, thanks to an ambitious spawning-bed enhancement project.

The initiative, spearheaded by the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council (EGBSC) and the MNR's Upper Great Lakes Fisheries Management Unit's Lake Huron office, directed the deposit of more than 1,000 tons of rubble and

boulders downstream of Moon Falls this past September and October. This result was a 30-fold increase in traditional walleye spawning habitat that's usable throughout a wide variation of historic flows.

The project is a key component of the Moon River Walleye Rehabilitation Plan. Its goal is to restore the walleye population, which is near an all-time low. Overharvest, water-level manipulations, poor habitat, and invasive species are believed to have played parts in their decline.

"The walleye weren't around to submit comments during our public-consultation phase, but we think that they will be happy when they show up this spring," said EGBSC Project Co-ordinator Eric McIntyre. Hopefully, this and other components of the plan will help their populations recover."

– Steve Galea