



Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council

www.helpourfisheries.com

Media Update – 2010-05

2010 Moon River and Go Home Bay Walleye Stocking Project

With assistance from its many partners and Cedar Brook Farms Hatchery near Midland, the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council (EGBSC) stocked almost 18,000 summer fingerling walleye into Go Home Bay and 5,000 into the Moon River area of Georgian Bay this summer.



A sample of the summer fingerling walleye planted into Go Home Bay and the Moon River by the EGBSC in 2010.

Council coordinator Eric McIntyre explained: “The Go Home Bay plantings are planned for three years and are part of a large scale program to reintroduce walleye into that area of Georgian Bay. The Go Home Chutes spawning bed was enhanced in 2009 and it is intended these fish will be back in 2013 and later to establish a self-sustaining spawning population at the site. Conversely, the Moon River planting is part of a long-term initiative to rehabilitate the existing natural population. We’re hoping significant

spawning bed enhancement work conducted in 2008 along with this and previous plantings will help accelerate rehabilitation of this heritage walleye population.”

The stocked fish are products of wild egg collections conducted at Port Severn and Moon River this spring by the Council. To address genetic concerns, walleye from the two sites are raised separately with those from the Moon River going back there and the stock from Port Severn being planted at Go Home Bay.

The eggs were transported to Cedar Brook Farms Hatchery near Midland where they were incubated, hatched and then cultured in ponds to the summer fingerling stage. Venard Robitaille – owner and operator of Cedar Brook Farms Hatchery indicated he was very pleased with this year’s harvest. Mr. Robitaille noted: “Walleye culture is still an art as much as a science; there are lots of opportunities for something to go wrong and drastically reduce production. Fortunately, everything seemed to go right this year. We’re very pleased with this year’s production and we’re delighted to be a part of the walleye reintroduction and rehabilitation efforts by the EGBSC.”

Approximately 75% of the funding for the \$20,000 project came from the Ministry of Natural Resources via the Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA). COA is a joint Federal-Provincial funding source to advance restoration and health of the Great Lakes ecosystem. The remaining funding came from private donations to the EGBSC via their fisheries rehabilitation fund.

Council chairperson Terry Crawford said: “Raising a significant number of walleye is expensive. We think we got good value for our money and this is a worthwhile investment in creating a self-sustaining future for our fisheries. We’re very appreciative and proud of the many partners and volunteers who helped make this happen.”

A complete description of fisheries enhancement projects the Council is working on can be found on the website of the EGBSC at www.helpourfisheries.com.