

# Lake Trout and Lake Whitefish Monitoring Program

## 10-Year Adaptive Monitoring Strategy

### Overview

Each year the Department of Environment conducts lake trout and lake whitefish assessments across the Yukon, providing data to determine the health and sustainability of these freshwater fish. Since this program began in 2010, we have generated a representative baseline across the Yukon.

To improve upon this baseline and to set out a framework for future sampling, we have created a 10-year adaptive strategy for the Lake Trout and Lake Whitefish Monitoring Program.

### Objectives

The objectives that we are aiming to achieve include:

- Increased sampling on lakes of concern
- Improving methods and frequency of sampling to support recovering populations
- Monitoring the effects of climate change
- Modelling lakes with similar characteristics
- Allowing for an adaptive approach as we analyze new data and review priorities

### Selection Criteria

To meet our objectives, this strategy outlines a two-tier system of selection criteria. These criteria help us determine which lakes to include in this plan. Lakes that meet more than 2 of the primary criteria are included. Lakes that meet 2 or less are reviewed by the secondary criteria. The result is a ranking of our high, medium, and low priority lakes for sampling, which then guides us in the development of a final 10-year schedule.

#### Primary Criteria

- Low catch-per-unit-effort
- Recreational angling pressure
- Proximity to urban or rural centres
- Lakes of regional concern
- Lakes affected by major projects

#### Secondary Criteria

- Presence of small-bodied lake trout
- Climate change concerns
- Lakes with campground access with low catch rates or high angling pressure
- Lakes identified as Special Management Areas

### Adaptive Management

We understand that priorities change and that our data may suggest a change in where or how often we sample. To be flexible, our 10-year plan allows us to modify our plan to address emergent needs for the Yukon, while maintaining the effectiveness of the Lake Trout and Lake Whitefish Monitoring Program.



For more information, please see the full plan on [Yukon.ca](http://Yukon.ca) or contact [Fisheries@yukon.ca](mailto:Fisheries@yukon.ca).