



# Summary of Activities

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Conservation & Water Stewardship

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Subject: Wellman Lake Beach Seining 2013, 2014, 2015

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**Location: Wellman Lake, Duck Mountain Provincial Park, 14U 369224 5741842**

**Summary of Activities:** For the past three years around late August, SVSFE replicates a "night-time" 100 meter beach seine on Wellman Lake for comparative measures. The lake is stocked annually with 200,000 walleye fry meaning to determine natural recruitment success, otoliths would need to be sent for OTC analysis. For this reason, the short assessment is to evaluate annual results of both fry stocking success and natural recruitment success because we essentially did not have any way of determining difference. Essentially, we cannot draw too many conclusions from these assessments, as the following is comparing only one 100-meter seine. Results are as follows:

**2013:** Walleye Fry Stocked: 0

Beach Seine Results: 3 WALL (1+) (195mm, 175mm, 180mm), 14 SMBS (0+)

**2014:** Walleye Fry Stocked: 200,000

Beach Seine Results: 4 WALL (0+) (90mm, 105mm, 110mm, 70mm), 2 SMBS (0+)

**2015:** Walleye Fry Stocked: 200,000

Beach Seine Results: 5 WALL (0+) (105mm, 115mm, 128mm, 92mm, 115mm),  
1 SMBS (0+)

As stated above it is difficult to draw too many conclusions from such a short comparative assessment. However, there are some interesting trends. It is interesting that on the year where no young of the year (YOY - 0+) were caught (2013) there had been no supplemental stocking, whereas on the years where stocking did occur, YOY were captured. There is also a declining catchment of smallmouth bass from year to year. Again, these methods are not representative and therefore it is suggested that a much more intensive recruitment assessment be completed to fully understand current recruitment success. That being said, from current knowledge and referring 2013 Wellman Lake Telemetry and Spawn Assessments (Prj\_12-025), suggestions are to either (1) Conduct 2-3 year OTC detection study (2) continue guzzling the spawning reef during critical periods on an annual basis following a replicative protocol, or (3) lightly enhance the reef and monitor success. Following these suggestions would give SVSFE and Fisheries Branch a better understanding of the natural recruitment success on Wellman Lake and incorporate this knowledge into stocking plans.