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Researchers in LdB water this summer

By Jordan Swerid with Nathan Satre and Guillaume Bourque, NSERC HydroNet
Posted 19 hours ago

Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada have partnered with NSERC HydroNet, a pan-Canadian research network, to promote sustainable hydropower and healthy aquatic ecosystems in Canada.

The reason? Although both the government and fish industry have been monitoring fish populations in reservoirs and lakes across Canada for years (including Lac du Bonnet), there remains a need for a standardized method to assess which species use which habitats within the reservoir.

After discussions between the partners, a set of current scientific methods were selected to maximize data quality while minimizing impacts on fish populations. These methods (mostly nets) will be compared along the perimeter of Lac du Bonnet this summer. Extensive precautions will be taken to avoid fish mortality and to release fish unharmed.

"I just wanted to let community members know what we will be doing and to let them know we will be here all summer – until the end of August," said Guillaume Bourque from NSERC HydroNet.

Data that is collected will be analyzed to identify which sampling method best describes fish habitat use in Lac du Bonnet. These results will then serve as guidelines for future fish habitat use studies in lakes and reservoirs across Canada.

Thanks to the work being conducted in Lac du Bonnet this summer, researchers both in Manitoba and across Canada will be better equipped to assess fish habitat use in reservoirs, and promote sustainable fisheries for generations to come.

For more information, you can check out their website: www.hydro.net.umontreal.ca

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