

2016 St. Croix Tribal Environmental Services and Natural Resources work plan for Big Sand Lake

Water Quality Monitoring: St. Croix Tribal Environmental staff will be taking monthly measurements (April-October) with our Horiba U-53 Multi-Meter probe. The Parameters being measured with the probe are dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, specific conductivity, turbidity, and total dissolved solids. These parameters will be measured every two feet for the first ten feet and then every five feet down after ten. The sampling site on Big Sand is 55-60 feet deep. Secchi Depth measurements will also be taken monthly. Water samples will be collected monthly (June-August) and sent to Northern Lake Services to be analyzed for chlorophyll a, total phosphorus, total nitrogen, alkalinity, and total kjeldahl nitrogen(July only).

Dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, specific conductivity, turbidity, and total dissolved solids were also measured thru the ice in February and March.

Fisheries: The St. Croix Tribal Natural Resources Department stocked 379,956 walleye fry and 685 extended growth walleye into Big Sand Lake in 2015. This spring on May 6 and May 9 another 191,557 walleye fry were stocked into Big Sand Lake. Fry are walleye that just hatched and the extended growth walleye are 5-8 inches long when stocked.

The St. Croix Tribal Environmental Services Staff will be doing a one night electro-fishing survey in the fall.

Wild Rice: The past 3 years (2013-15) in the fall the Tribal Environmental Staff has seeded 750 lbs of wild rice (5 acres/50 lbs per acre or 250 lbs per year) of wild rice in the bay off of Sand Lake Rd. No seeding of wild rice is planned for this year.

Questions or Concerns contact

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