

Memo

To: Marie Lummiss, Ontario Waterpower Association
From: Ashley Thompson, Natural Resource Solutions, Inc.
Date: July 7, 2014
Re: **Fish Sampling Subject Matter Expert Request for Qualification**

Dear Ms. Lummiss,

In order to support our existing clients and the Ontario Waterpower Association (OWA) members I would like to apply for the OWA Subject Matter Experts Roster for Fish Sampling. I have included a short summary of my experience and relevant information as per the criteria identified.

1) Individual Responding

Ashley Thompson, M. Env. Sc.
Aquatic Biologist

2) Employer

Natural Resource Solutions Inc.
Active Member of the Ontario Waterpower Association

3) Description of Expertise and Experience

I have been involved in fish community assessments in lakes, coastal wetlands, ponds, large rivers and warm and coldwater streams. My expertise comes from 10 years of sampling experience using both active and passive methods of fish capture including boat and backpack electrofishing, seine netting, fyke netting, minnow trapping, gill netting, index netting (RIN) and traditional angling. I have carried out Walleye and Lake Sturgeon spawning surveys for a number of projects which involved the use of egg mats and larval drift nets. I have also conducted several tagging programs which include PIT tagging, radio telemetry tagging, and external tagging.

4) Expertise and Experience In the Hydroelectric Sector

I assisted with the implementation of the Michipicoten River Lake Sturgeon monitoring program to assess conditions and status of the Lake Sturgeon population. This included fish collection using gill nets, surgery to implant tags and continuous tracking. I coordinated and conducted fish community and spawning surveys for three hydroelectric developments on the Ivanhoe and Frederickhouse Rivers utilizing standard protocols.

These included gill netting, electrofishing, egg matting and larval drift netting. I also coordinated and conducted fish salvages for a hydroelectric development on the French River. These involved boat and backpack electrofishing to capture and remove fish from a dewatered channel.

5) CV has been attached with this Memo

I trust the information provided is sufficient to satisfy the requirements for qualification as a Subject Matter Expert in Fish Sampling on the OWA Roster. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Ashley Thompson, M.Env.Sc.,
Aquatic Biologist

**ASHLEY THOMPSON (née Favaro), M.Env.Sc.
AQUATIC BIOLOGIST**

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

- M.Env.Sc., Environmental Science, University of Toronto, Scarborough, Ontario, 2011
- H.B.Sc., Biology, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, 2007
- Identification of Ontario Minnows, Royal Ontario Museum, 2014
- Aquatic Renewal Workshops, Trout Unlimited Canada, 2013/2014
- Larval Fish Identification, Ohio State University, 2013
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Fish Community Assessment Protocol, Environment Canada, 2011
- Level 2 Fish Identification, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 2010
- Class 2 Backpack Electrofishing, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), 2010
- Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol (OSAP), TRCA, 2005

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ashley is an Aquatic Biologist with 10 years of experience providing technical expertise in coordinating and implementing fish inventory processes. She specializes in fish habitat surveys and mapping, fish community and population assessments and has been involved in numerous hydropower development studies from the Environmental Assessment (EA) stage through to post-construction monitoring and effectiveness studies. Ashley has acted as both coordinator and field crew lead for multiple scientific studies developed to determine the impacts of flow modifications on aquatic biota.

- Assisted with implementing the Lake Sturgeon population assessment and spawning survey on the Michipicoten River, below Scott Falls Dam, in Wawa Ontario. This study involved gill netting to collect Lake Sturgeon, implantation of PIT tags, external tags, and internal radio telemetry tagging and tracking movements during the spawning period. (Client: Brookfield Renewable Energy Group).
- Conducted Walleye and Lake Sturgeon spawning surveys on the Ivanhoe and Frederickhouse Rivers in Ontario for three proposed hydroelectric developments. Surveys included gill netting, angling, external tagging, egg matting and larval drift netting (Client: Xeneca Power Development).
- Coordinated and conducted Brook Trout spawning surveys on the Ivanhoe River and its tributaries in Ontario. Surveys included visual assessments for spawning redds, adults and spawning activity (Client: Xeneca Power Development).
- Coordinated and conducted fish salvages for a hydroelectric development on the French River in Ontario. These efforts involved boat and backpack electrofishing to capture and remove fish from a dewatered channel and isolated work areas (Client: Hydromega Services Inc.).

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Aquatic Biologist

Natural Resource Solutions Inc., Waterloo, Ontario

2012 to Present

Landscape Assessment Officer

Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Downsview, Ontario

2011

Watershed Monitoring Crew Leader

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Downsview, Ontario

2004 to 2011