

Peel River Fish Study, 2000

By

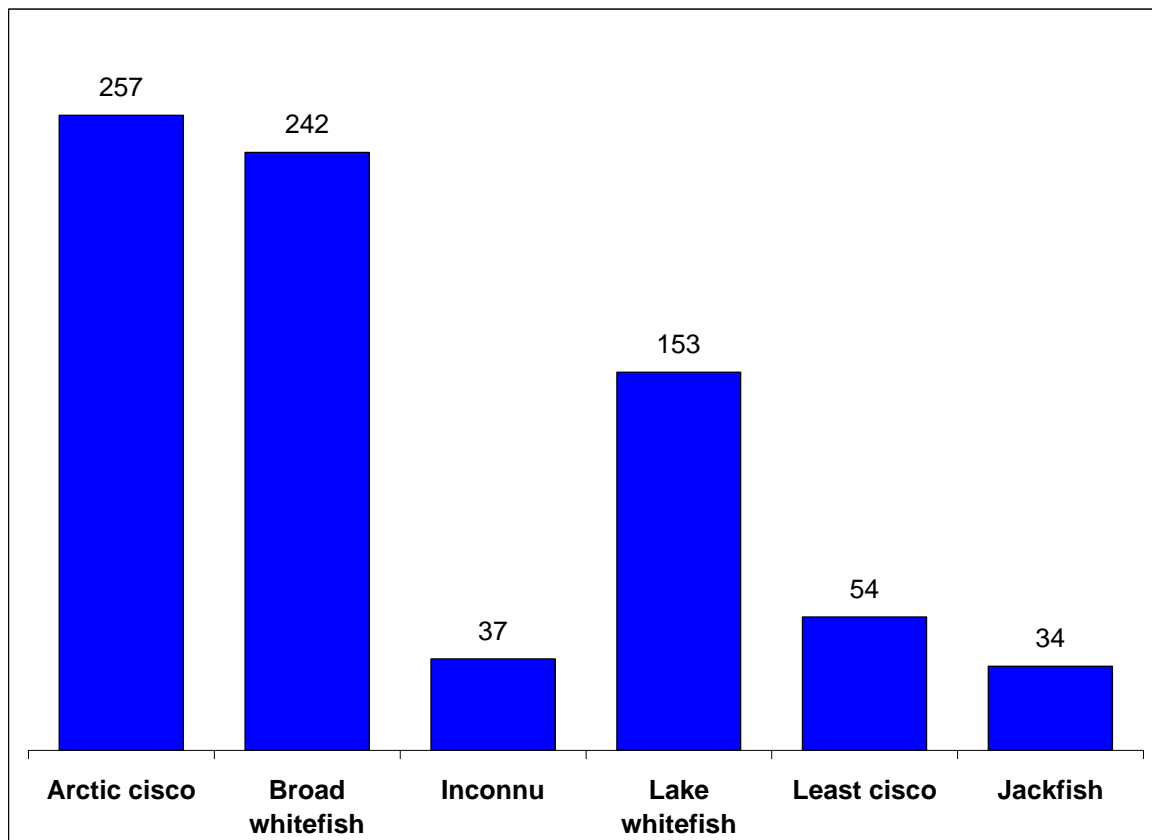
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Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board
Report # 01-09**

Peel River Fish Study, 2000

The summer and fall of 2000 was the third year of the Peel River Fish Study. For the first two years of the study, three monitors fished for 6 weeks starting at the end of September/early October. In 2000 the study started earlier to collect information about inconnu (coney), lake whitefish (crooked back), arctic cisco (herring), and least cisco (herring or little coney) as well as broad whitefish (whitefish). Fred Koe and William Teya worked as monitors for the project. Fred worked from July 18th until the middle of November at his camp near McPherson. William worked from the end of September until the first week of November at his camp on the Peel River at Road River. For the first two years of the study monitors fished with 5 inch mesh nets. This year the monitors fished with multi-mesh nets so they could catch the smaller fish (arctic and least cisco) as well as the larger fish.

Number of Fish Caught

In 2000 most of the fish caught were arctic cisco, followed by broad whitefish and lake whitefish. No salmon were caught this year.

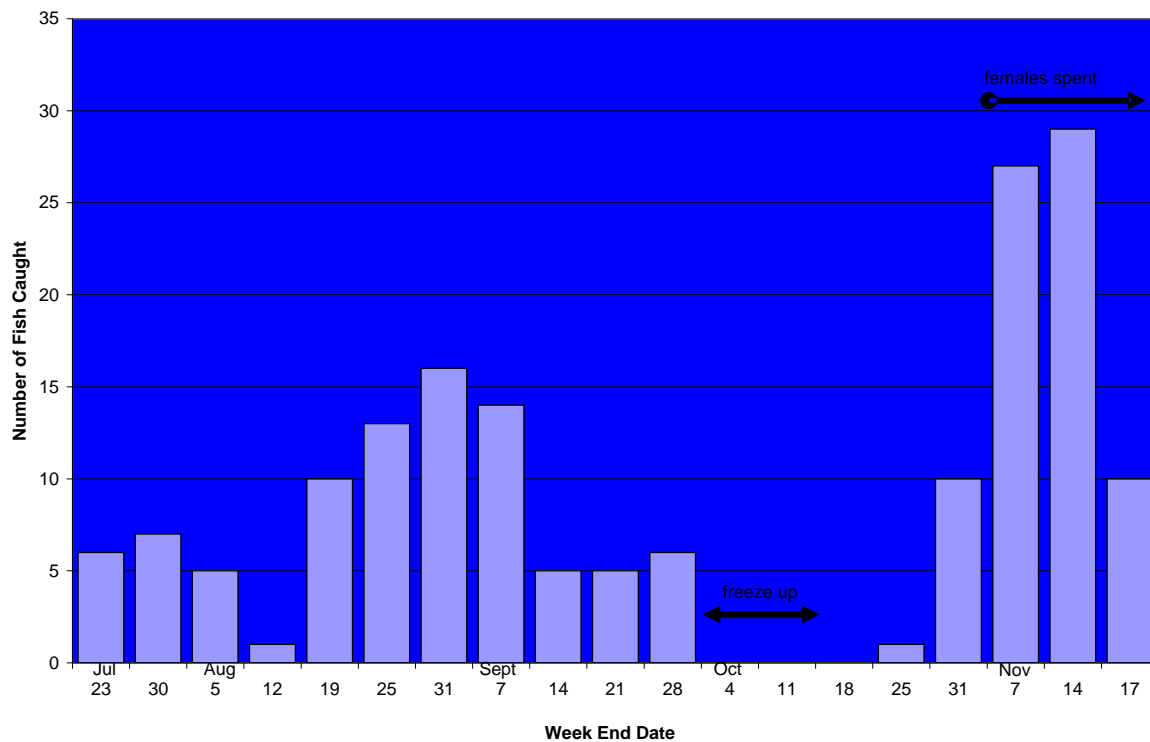


Broad Whitefish Information

Timing of Migration

In 2000, the first whitefish were caught July 21st and were caught at fairly low numbers until the first week of November. No peak of ripe fish was seen by the monitors this year but they did not fish between October 5th and October 10th because of freeze-up. In previous years there were peak runs of ripe fish after freeze-up between Oct 12th and Oct 26th. This year only spent female fish were caught after November 1st. In 1998 and 1999 only spent female fish were caught after Oct 26th.

Timing of Broad Whitefish Run 2000



Size of Fish:

	1998	1999	2000
Number caught	422	271	242
Mean fork length (mm)	508.2	501.2	510.7
Standard error of mean	1.96	1.97	2.65
Minimum Size	270	394	290
Maximum Size	880	595	700

Sex ratio of Catch:

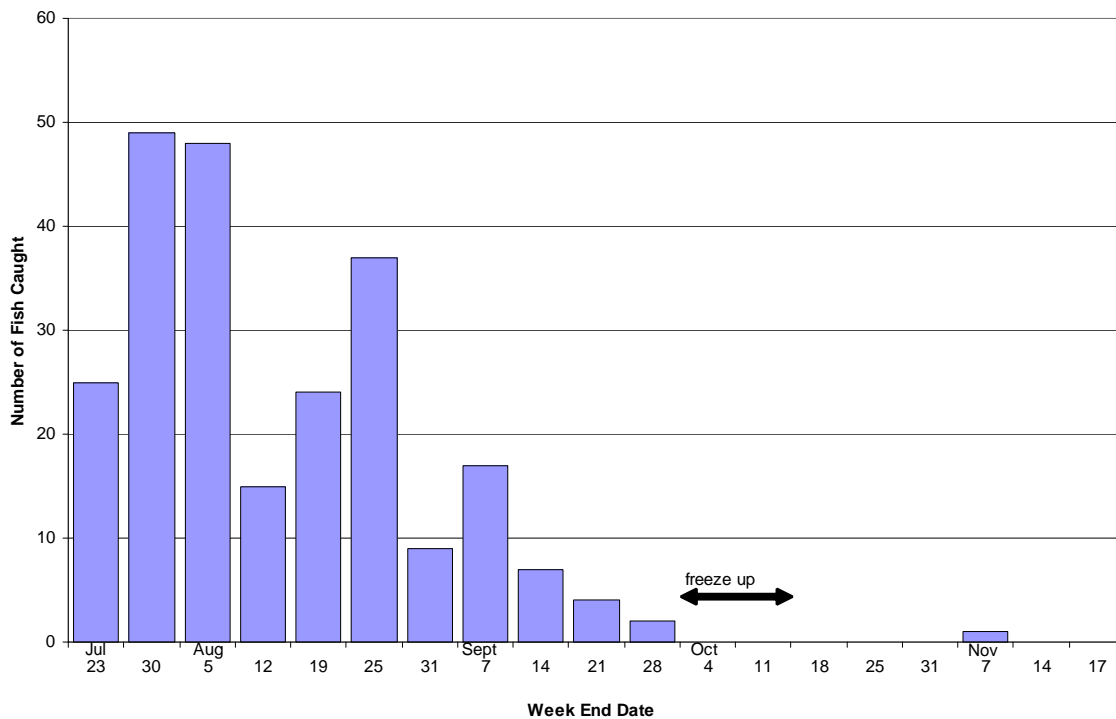
51.2 % males

Arctic Cisco (Herring) Information

Timing of Spawning Run:

The first arctic ciscoes were caught July 18th. Highest numbers of fish were caught July 24th and August 5th but fish were caught regularly until freeze-up. Fish caught between the third week of September and freeze up were ripe. A small number of spent fish were caught after November 2nd.

Timing of Arctic Cisco Run 2000



Size of Fish:

	2000
Number caught	257
Mean fork length (mm)	355.4
Standard error of mean	1.55
Minimum Size	225
Maximum Size	495

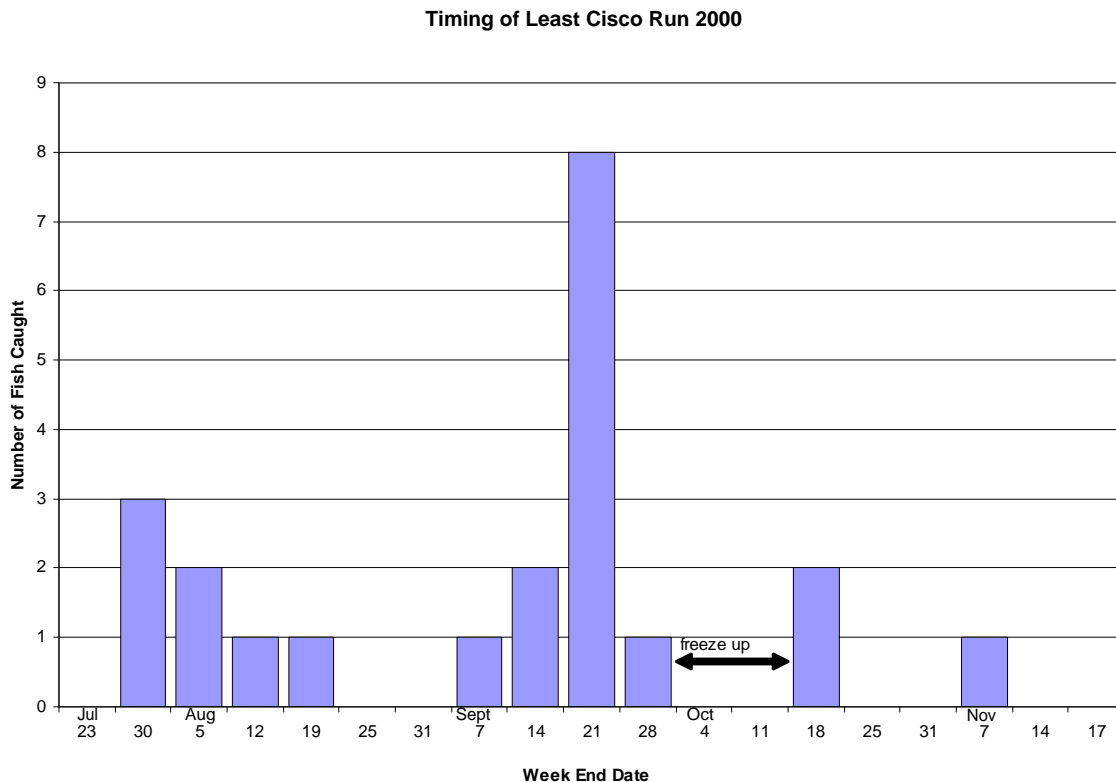
Sex ratio of Catch:

59.6% males

Least Cisco (Herring) Information

Timing of Spawning Run:

The first least cisco were caught July 26th. Highest numbers of fish were caught at the end of September. Ripe fish were caught until mid-October. A few spent fish were caught at the beginning of November.



Size of Fish:

	2000
Number caught	54
Mean fork length (mm)	283.1
Standard error of mean	4.00
Minimum Size	163
Maximum Size	390

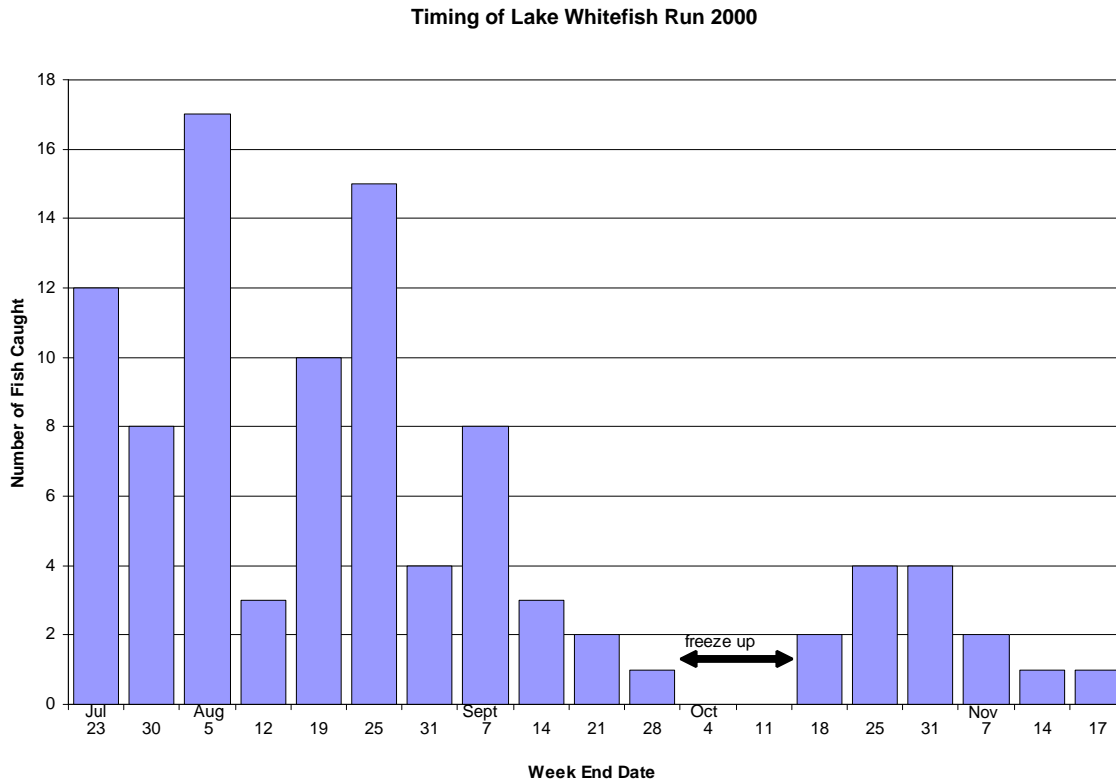
Sex ratio of Catch:

64.2% males

Lake Whitefish (Crookedback) Information

Timing of Spawning Run:

The first lake whitefish were caught July 18th. Lake whitefish were caught regularly for the entire length of the study. Ripe fish were caught until just before freeze-up at the end of September. Only spent fish were caught after October 4th.



Size of Fish:

	2000
Number caught	153
Mean fork length (mm)	409.7
Standard error of mean	3.60
Minimum Size	265
Maximum Size	595

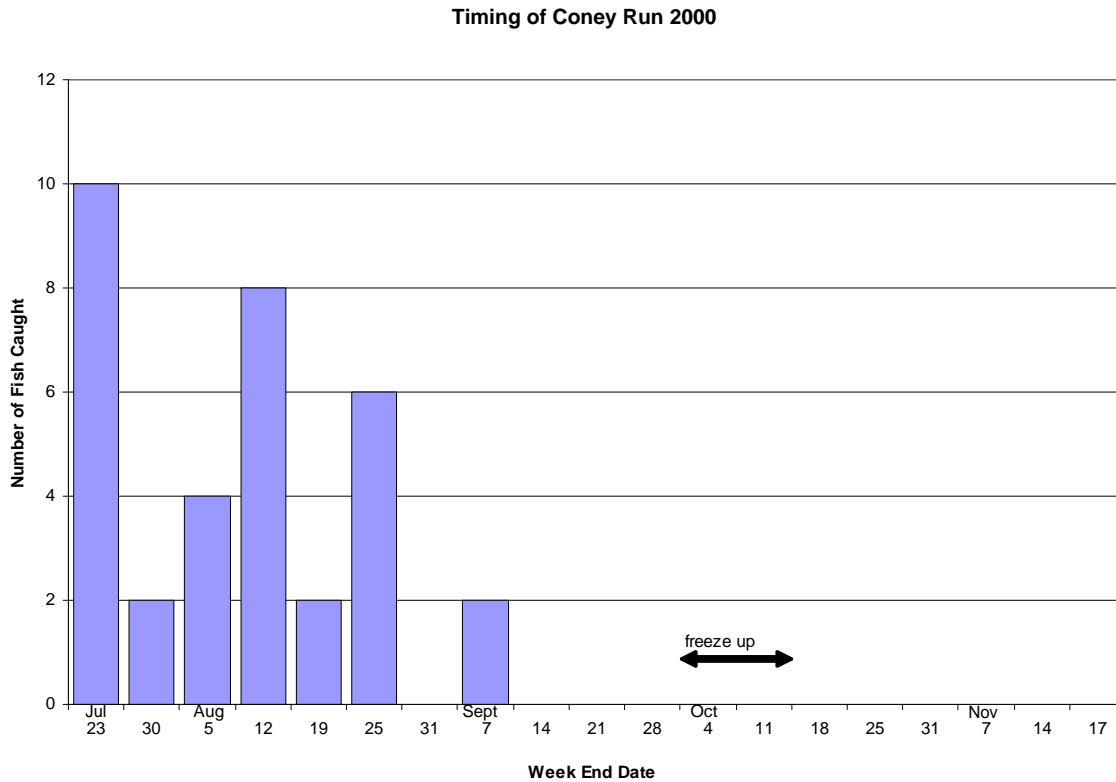
Sex ratio of Catch:

58.8% males

Inconnu (Coney) Information

Timing of Spawning Run:

There were not very many coney caught during the study. Maturing or ripe coney were caught from the third week of July until the first week of September. **One spent female was caught on Oct 12th at William's camp (not included in the data for the graph which was only Fred's data).**



Size of Fish:

	2000
Number caught	37
Mean fork length (mm)	748.3
Standard error of mean	16.86
Minimum Size (mm)	545
Maximum Size (mm)	930

Sex ratio of Catch:

64.9% males