

Travaillant Lake Fish Movement Study

Traditional Knowledge Interviews

GRRB Report # 02-02

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The Travaillant Lake Fish Movement Study

Traditional Knowledge Interviews

This summer, 2002, the GRRB is tagging fish in Travaillant Lake. The goal of the study is to find out where the fish are moving and if they ever go into the Mackenzie River. Traditional knowledge interviews were conducted in April of 2002 to document what is already known about the fish and to help plan the study. Many thanks go to Noel Andre, Cecil Andre, Hyacinthe Andre, Pierre Benoit, Tony Andre, and Gabe Andre for sharing their knowledge and to John Norbert for assisting with the interviews. Thanks also to the RRC and entire community of Tsiigehtchic for supporting this study.

Information from the interviews

General

- Few people have fished in the Travaillant area for the past 20 years.
- Most people only fished in this area in the fall.
- Teelaii and Teeddhaa were the most common fishing spots.

Fish Species

- Fish caught in and around Travaillant Lake are whitefish, loche, bluefish, coney, trout, crooked back, and jackfish.
- Herring have not been caught in Travaillant Lake.
- Bluefish are usually only caught in the spring time.
- Coney are usually caught in deep water.

Egg Fish and Baby Fish

- The best places to catch whitefish and crooked back with eggs are Teelaii and Teeddhaa, in fall.
- Whitefish from lakes further up, like David, Sunny, and Sandy Lakes, go into Travaillant Lake in the fall to spawn.
- Trout with eggs can be caught in November.
- Whitefish eggs are white, crooked back eggs are yellow, trout eggs are purple.

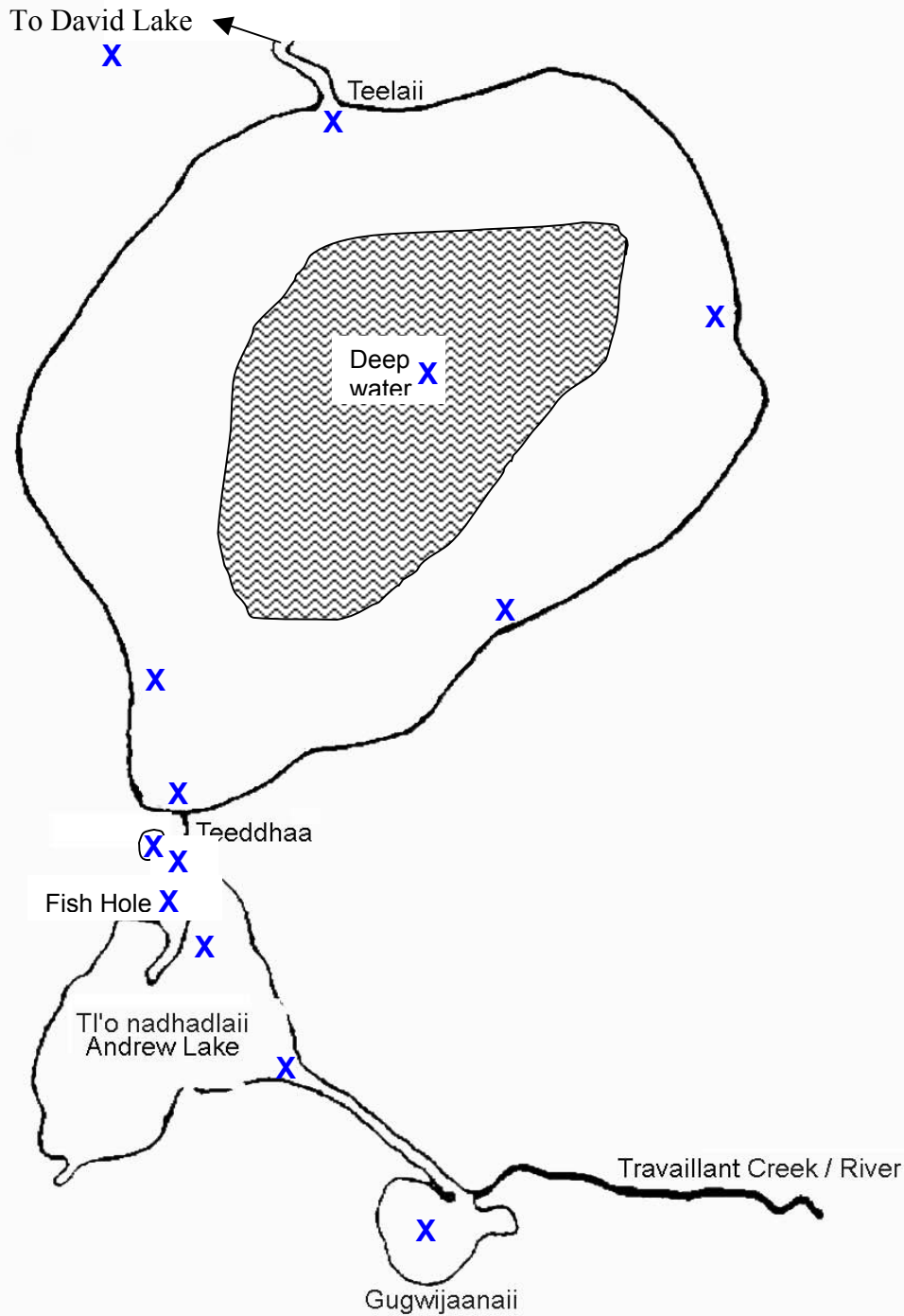
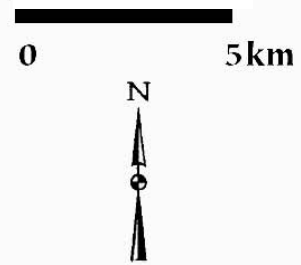
- Bluefish with eggs are caught at Teelaii in spring.
- In the fall, coney are caught with eggs in shallow water. The eggs get really loose and runny when the coney move into deep water.
- The shore of Travaillant Lake has good spawning areas with gravel beaches.
- In July, baby whitefish, crooked back, loche, trout, jackfish, and 1 bluefish have been seen in the shallow water along the shore of Travaillant Lake.

Fish Movements

- In summer, the fish move all over the place and down Travaillant River/Creek.
- In winter, whitefish, coney, trout, jackfish, and crooked back move into the deep waters of Travaillant Lake.
- Bluefish usually only come into Travaillant Lake in the spring time to spawn around Teelaii.
- Most people do not think that Mackenzie River fish come into Travaillant Lake in the fall because Travaillant River/Creek is too shallow and they never heard of anyone catching river fish.
- Also, most people do not think that lake fish go into the river in the fall, for the same reasons.
- But they do think the lake fish could go into the river and river fish could go into the lake in summer.





Where people set nets

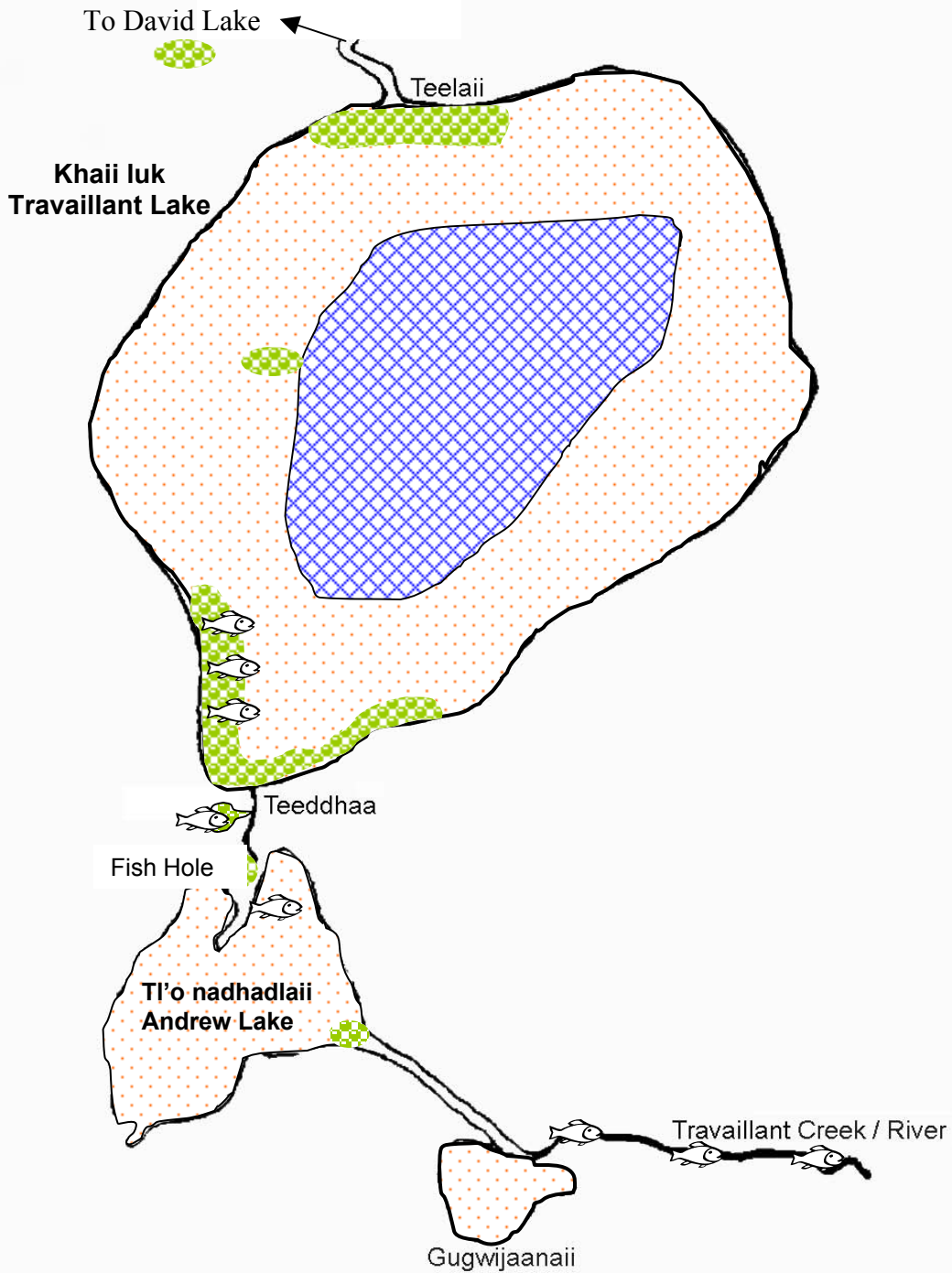
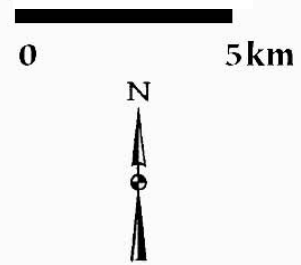
In this map, the **X** shows spots roughly where people have set fish nets.



Interview results for whitefish





This map shows roughly where whitefish are:

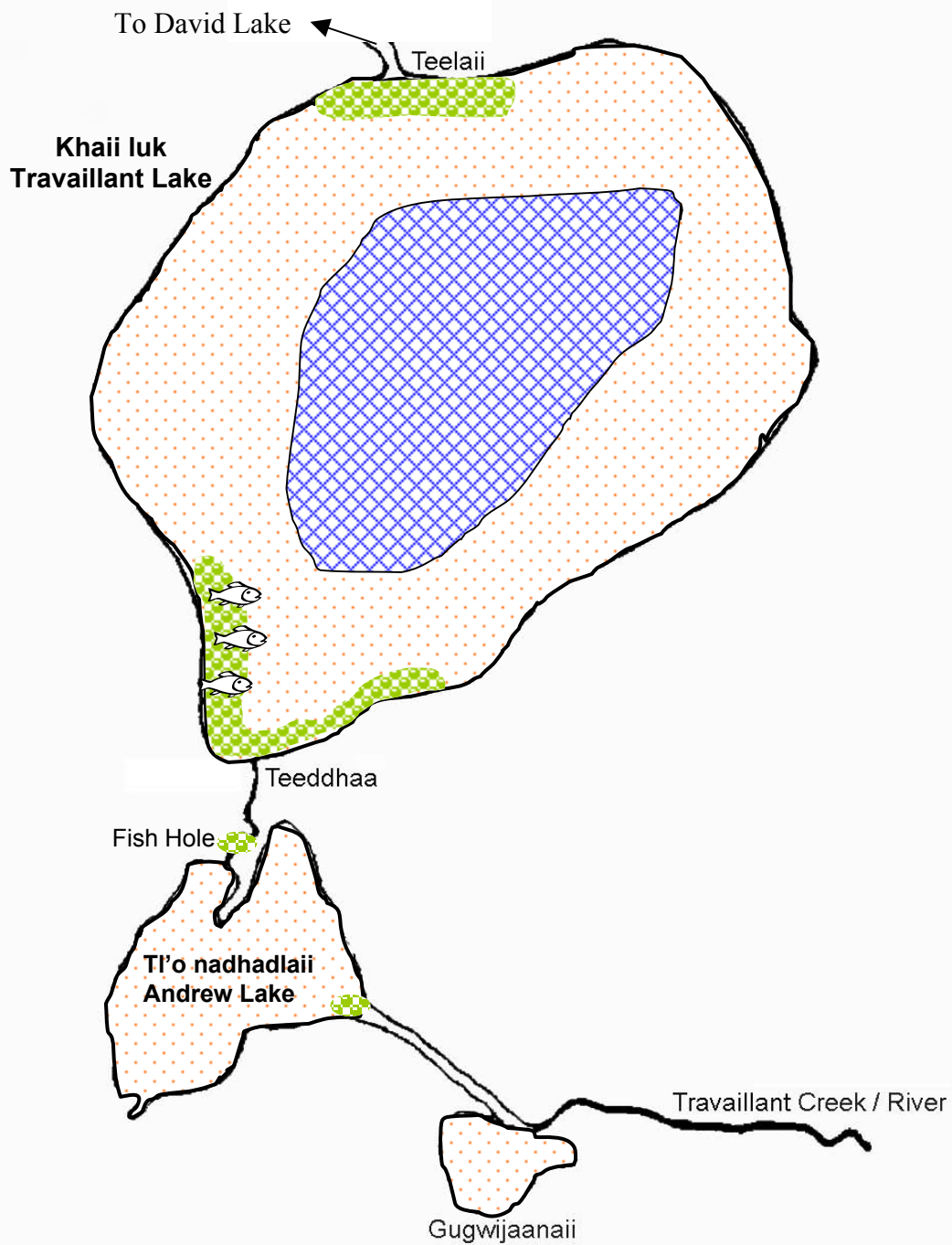
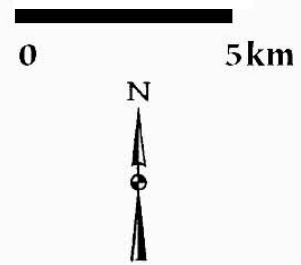
- caught with eggs 
- feed 
- stay in the winter 
- seen when babies 



Interview results for crooked back




This map shows roughly where crooked back are:

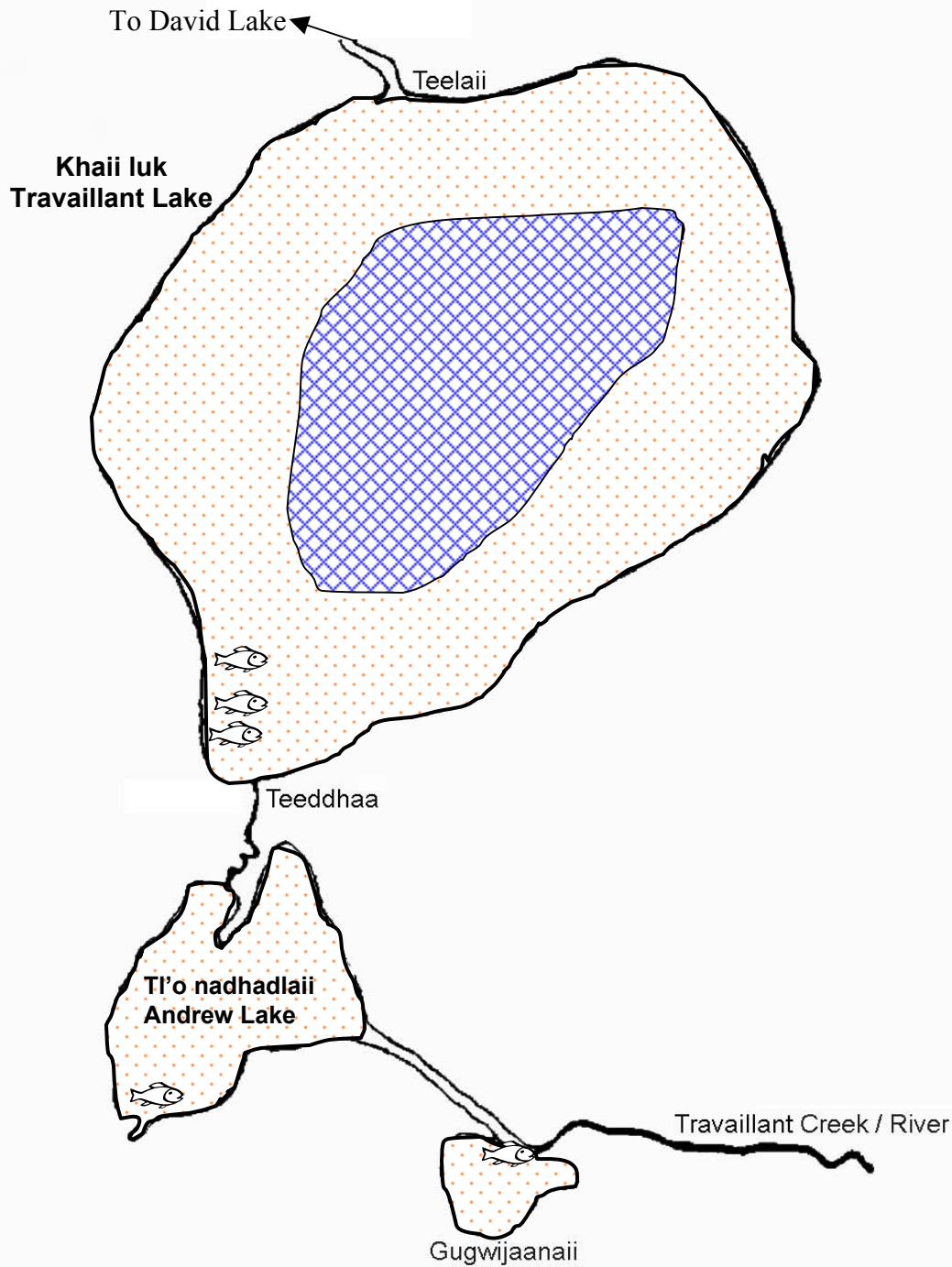
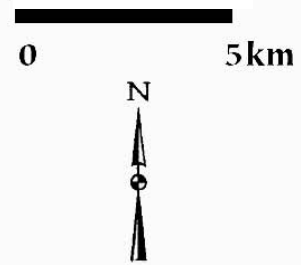
- caught with eggs 
- feed 
- stay in the winter 
- seen when babies 



Interview results for trout

This map shows roughly where trout are:

- feed 
- stay in the winter 
- seen when babies 



Appendix: Fish names

FISH NAMES			
Common name 1	Gwich'in	Common name 2	Latin
lake trout	Vit	Lake trout	<i>(Salvelinus namaycush)</i>
bluefish	Sriijaa	Arctic grayling	<i>(Thymallus arcticus)</i>
whitefish	Luk digaii, Luk zheii	Broad whitefish	<i>(Coregonus nasus)</i>
crooked back	Dalts'an	Lake whitefish	<i>(Coregonus clupeaformis)</i>
herring	Treeluk	Arctic cisco	<i>(Coregonus autumnalis)</i>
herring, little coney	Treeluk	Least cisco	<i>(Coregonus sardinella)</i>
coney	Sruh	Inconnu	<i>(Stenodus leucichthyes)</i>
jackfish	Eltin	Northern Pike	<i>(Esox lucius)</i>
loche	Chehluk	Burbot	<i>(Lota lota)</i>