

**Alberta Conservation Association
2008/09 Project Summary Report**

Project name: *Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI) River and Lake Data Collection Program*

Fisheries and Aquatic Program Manager: Peter Aku

Project leader: Tyler Johns

Primary ACA staff on this project (including seasonals):

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Partnerships:

This program was completely funded by the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute.

Key findings:

- We conducted fish and invertebrate community surveys on eight lakes and eight rivers distributed across the province of Alberta.
- Limnological and aquatic habitat data were collected at all sampling sites.
- A complete listing of results is available at the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute website (www.abmi.ca).

Introduction

This program is a partnership between the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) and the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI), developed in 2007 under which the ACA Fisheries Program manages and delivers the rivers and lakes sampling component of the ABMI aquatic program. Data collected as part of this program will be used to describe the state of Alberta's biodiversity and will facilitate the responsible management of our resources. A more detailed description of the program can be found on ABMI's website at www.abmi.ca.

Methods

We sampled eight lakes and eight rivers distributed across the province of Alberta (Table 1, Figure 1) following methods described in the River and Lake Data Collection Protocols developed by ABMI (2007 a, b). Fish were collected using electrofishing, gill netting and seining. We also collected data on water quality, aquatic invertebrates and a variety of other limnological and aquatic habitat variables.

Table 1. List of ABMI rivers and lakes sampled in 2008.

Rivers	Lakes
Athabasca River	Brule Lake
Upper Red Deer River	Burnstick Lake
Lower Red Deer River	Little Fish Lake
Bear River	Wadlin Lake
Amisk River	Long Lake (near the town of Athabasca)
Castle River	Beauvais Lake
Firebag River	Ronald Lake
Notikewin River	Ray Lake

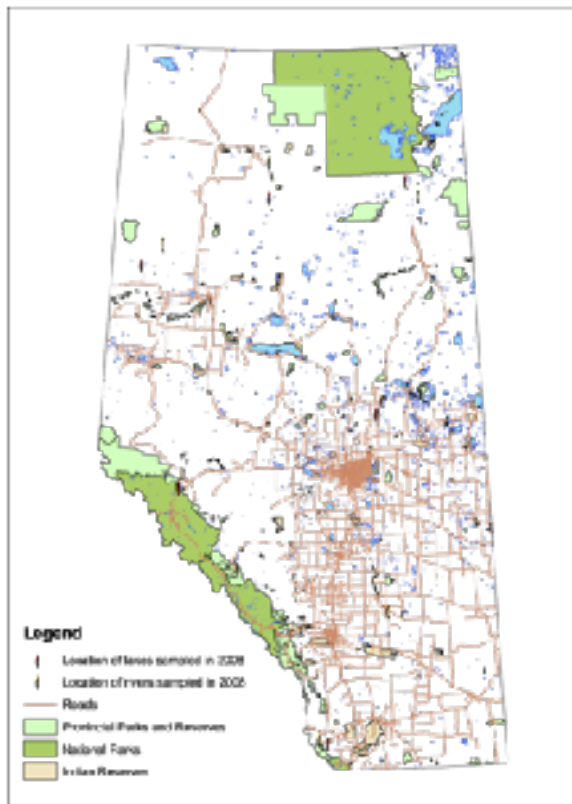


Figure 1. Location of ABMI rivers and lakes sampled in 2008.

Results

- We captured a total of 15 fish species in the lakes of which, yellow perch were the most abundant.
- We captured a total of 25 fish species in the rivers of which, mountain whitefish were the most abundant.
- All data collected and detailed results can be viewed online at www.abmi.ca

Literature cited

Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute. 2007a. River field data collection protocols, Version 2007-12-20. Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Alberta, Canada. Report available at: abmi.ca.

Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute. 2007b. Lake field data collection protocols, Version 2007-12-20. Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Alberta, Canada. Report available at: abmi.ca.



A sauger, which was captured using electrofishing on the lower Red Deer River near Drumheller (Photo: Kris Maier)



A mayfly, which was captured using a kick net on the Castle River. (Photo: Kris Maier)



A reach of the Notikewin River, which was sampled for fish, as part of the ABMI Program.
(Photo: Kris Maier)