

Final Report

**Camp Akaitcho
Ecole William MacDonald School
Winter Fish Monitoring Camp
March 12-16, 2007**

Contact information:

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Background:

William McDonald Middle School has a history of educational excellence in Yellowknife since 1947. Current school population consists of 279 students from grades 6 through 8 with an Aboriginal population of 25%. We have a staff of 20 teaching professionals.

Goals:

- To integrate Aboriginal Culture and Language components (Traditional Knowledge) and Scientific Inquiry (Western Knowledge) into the Environmental Outdoor Education Program (EOEP).
- To increase the sustainability of the EOEP as an integral component of the school's curriculum.
- To develop a fish monitoring program that is sustainable

Objectives:

- Develop sustainable infrastructure for Camp Akaitcho.
- To develop an ongoing (seasonal) fish monitoring station on Quyta Lake located 50 km outside of Yellowknife
- Build capacity for integrating Aboriginal Language and Cultural as well as environmental components into current educational programs.
- Increase the understanding of environmental stewardship and sustainability to all students.

Project Deliverables.

- Summary of fish monitoring data and results by March 31, 2007.

- Copy of slide-show presentation to be presented to entire school at year-end assembly.

Personnel Involved

- eighteen Grade 8 students who planned, set up and spent 5 nights, 6 days winter camping and conducting fish monitoring
- Students will prepare fish for consumption

Methods:

- Students will set-up and monitor a fish net under the ice recording specific data according to fish species (ie. sex, weight, length)
- Students will complete extensive courses on Snowmobile Safety, First Aid, and Survival Training

Results:

“Monitoring and Research”

- Total of 27 White Fish and 4 Trout were netted over three days of netting.
- White fish ranged from 3 lbs to 4.2 lbs with 17 males and 10 females
- Trout ranged from 3lbs to 3.8 lbs and there were 3 males and 1 female.

Traditional knowledge

- Students completed training in traditional shelter building with an expert igloo builder from Pond Inlet (Titus Aloo-loo-Narwhal Adventures)

Discussion:

We recognize that for there to be any actual explainable results that this project will need to be ongoing. We would like to have a program where we can harvest and do number counts in the fall and in the winter. It may help with understanding migration patterns of fish through the seasons. There may also be other factors that can be looked at in greater detail (ie. wind, water temperature, outside temperature, water levels, lake structure, location, depth of net, etc.)

Budget:

See separate file

Appendix(s):

- a. View Slide show presentation- hard copy.