

Trout Telemetry

Receivers are all in place (provided at no charge by Steven Cooke). The fish were not biting in early September due to warm weather, so only 9 Trout were tagged AFTER trout fishing season closed (the telemetry team required special permission). Three more tags should be in place now. This will allow the team to test the effectiveness of the receiver placements before next year. More tagging will be completed in 2026 and BRLA have 4 volunteers to help with the process.

BaSS – Bass Spawning Sanctuaries

Dave Philipp and Steve Cooke have been actively engaging MNR and OFAH. This is a very time-consuming process. OFAH local team is supportive and helping with discussions with OFAH executives. Still quite a bit of work to do with MNR.

Watersheds Canada is fully on board with BaSS and NSERC leveraging will be go out in November.

Steve Cooke is presenting to FMZ 18 Zone Council this week. This is where they need the local support which will trigger/enable MNR to move forward given that all fisheries management stuff is supposed to be pushed through the zone council. Dave feels good about this meeting!

In 3 weeks (November) is the MNR special smallmouth bass management session MNR are holding in Toronto that Dave, Julie and Joel are attending (Steve had committed to doing a presentation to water managers in Germany).

However, getting approval for a 2026 implementation is not guaranteed at this point.

The consultation with all folks and the lack of time for MNR staff to coordinate that process is the biggest hurdle. Essentially, for something to be in the reg book for 2026, MNR need to have things finalized in the next few months. Given the consultation needed (including posting to the Env Registry), Dave & Steve are unsure if that is realistic.

Dave & Steve are going to continue to work hard to get the MNR to say YES...yes for 2027 would be sub-optimal, but Dave & Steve do not want to burn the house down pushing for 2026 or bust. Dave & Steve feel confident that their data and status in the fisheries science community will hold sway at the November meeting (see additional document on the Summary Update from the current BaSS study). In any case the outcome of that meeting will determine the strategy to move forward.

The additional document (Status Report on the BaSS Study) provides a summary update of results of BaSS at Charleston and Opinicon Lakes. Just Opinicon and Charleston from 2022-2025...this shows just how well the BaSS program is working. The statistics on pages 3 through 6 are stunning showing the dramatic impact of BaSS.

The team has also connected some excellent baseline data from all the CIFIC lakes that will provide excellent starting points for measurement of the success of BaSS as they are implemented.

The proposed maps of BaSS locations will be provided to member lakes in the near future.