

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING OF
THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RED ROCK
FOR THE 954th MEETING OF APRIL 18th, 2022**

Additions to the Agenda:

- 6. Correspondence
 - Item 6.9: Red Rock Fish & Game Club – Letter of Support RES



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RED ROCK

April 14, 2022

RE: Nipigon Bay Lake Trout Restocking Initiative

To whom it may concern;

On behalf of the Township of Red Rock I am pleased to express our support for the Nipigon Bay Lake Trout Restocking Initiative, lead by the Red Rock Fish and Game Club.

Since the fall of the forestry industry in the late 90's and the loss of our pulp and paper mill in late 2006, the Township of Red Rock has been focussing on diversifying its economy with tourism as one of its main pillars. Angling is a significant component of the tourism industry in Northwestern Ontario, and Red Rock. The fishing industry currently supports 6 local businesses and 18 local jobs, which is significant in a community with a population under 900 residents.

Nipigon Bay and the mouth of the Nipigon River has a long history of angling and a once robust Lake Trout population. During the 1980s and 90's the Red Rock Fish and Game Club and the Nipigon Red Rock Outers Club assisted the MNR staff with stocking thousands of fingerling Lake Trout on the inside of St. Ignace Island near Red Rock, LaGrange and Vert Islands, off Kama Point and the Jackpine River mouth. This was done in an attempt to help recover the Lake Trout fishery after being decimated with the introduction of sea lamprey in the 1950s. Following this successful stocking initiative, an increase in the number of visiting anglers was observed, resulting in the development of a local Lake Trout Derby. The derby had a significant economic impact on the community with an influx of participants purchasing supplies and food, as well as booking accommodations. The Lake Trout Derby continues to bring money into the community and support local businesses and organizations. As the fish population has noticeably declined and fish become harder to catch, even in the winter months, anglers have had to go elsewhere to catch these once plentiful fish. Derby participant numbers have thus decreased as the fish are more elusive in the bay fewer anglers fishing for Lake Trout are using Red Rock as an access point.

With continued lampricide activities taking place, stocking Nipigon Bay and supplementing the existing lake trout population would help to re-establish a self-sustaining population as well as enhance a recreation fishery. This, in turn, would support local businesses and encourage the development of additional tourism and angling related operations. As Red Rock continues to enhance its tourism offerings for the increased number of visitors to the community, an enhanced recreational Lake Trout fishery would significantly benefit the local tourism economy and have a positive economic impact on the community as a whole.

This viewpoint is supported by Destination Northern Ontario as evident in their Northern Ontario Product Development Strategy. For this strategy to be effective along the North Shore of Lake Superior, there needs to be natural resources so the product can be developed. If there are minimal fish, the product will not be as effective.

Angling is the top-performing tourism product in Northern Ontario in terms of visitor spending and number of trips, making it a product of key importance. Northern Ontario anglers contributed \$294.9 million toward Ontario's gross domestic product (GDP). Across the province, approximately 4,745 jobs and \$189.2 million in wages were generated as a result of their spending in the North. At \$136.1 million in taxes province-wide, all levels of government benefited from spending by Northern Ontario anglers. Of the \$136.1 million, approximately \$74.1 million were federal government taxes, a further \$61.2 million were provincial taxes and \$775,000 were municipal taxes. More than 90% of the economic benefits generated in Ontario by Northern Ontario's anglers were retained within the region.

The money spent by anglers in Northern Ontario ripples throughout the local and provincial economies. These expenditures generate economic activity including contributions to gross domestic product (GDP); jobs in tourism-related sectors such as accommodation, transportation, and food services; jobs in other sectors such as manufacturing and agriculture; and taxes.

Not catching any fish is a major factor in the length of stay and the potential return visits to an area. This in turn has a major impact on local and regional visitor spending and the tourism economy in Northwestern Ontario overall.

With assets such as a full-service Marina, along with plans for the development of an RV Park and Campground situated on the shores of Nipigon Bay, Red Rock is positioned for growth and is on its way to becoming a major tourism destination in the region for the outdoor enthusiast. Anglers alone inject approximately \$1,000,000 annually into the local economy through accommodations, food, hiring local fishing guides, and supporting local businesses, thus playing an essential role in the sustainability of the community.

With the infrastructure to support the increased number of anglers to the community, the Township welcomes the positive economic impact this restocking initiative would have through job creation and business development opportunities. Supporting the re-establishment of a self-sustaining population and enhancing the recreational lake trout fishery would further enhance the tourism offerings of the community and increase the length of stay of visitors and anglers, in turn increasing the amount of money they spend at local businesses and contributing toward the economic sustainability of Red Rock.

The Township of Red Rock recognizes the importance of having a healthy lake trout fishery, the role it plays in the local tourism economy and the overall economic health of the community and fully supports the Nipigon Bay Lake Trout Restocking Initiative.

Please contact me with any questions you may have regarding our support for this important project.

Sincerely,

Darquise Robinson
Mayor
Corporation of the Township of Red Rock