Kenauk as a model for community based conservation in Bhutan

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Kenauk Nature and the Kenauk Institute

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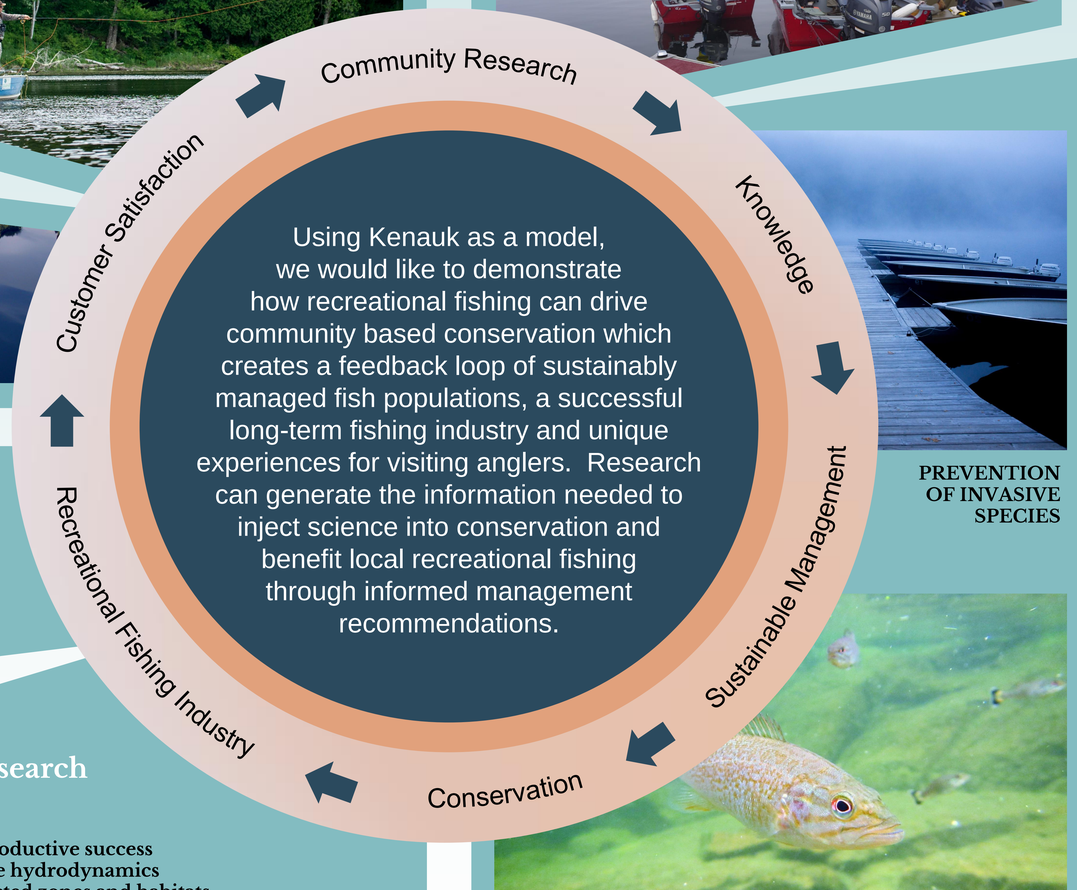
The property of Kenauk is one of the largest private reserves in North America encompassing 26,000 hectares of pristine forest and dotted with more than 60 lakes. On this property located in Montebello, QC, Canada co-exist two mutually beneficial companies; Kenauk Nature and the Kenauk Institute. Kenauk Nature is an outfitter widely renowned as a fishing and eco-tourism destination while the Kenauk Institute is a research and education organization that promotes conservation through science.

Certified and Experienced Guides

Implementing conservative fishing regulations or proper catch and release practices can be difficult without fishing guides. Offering anglers knowledgeable and experienced guides can be the foundation of a successful recreational fishery. Guides can also take on the responsibility of making sure fishing regulations and sustainable angling practices are being followed. A guide certification program is highly recommended to achieve these goals.



Community Based Research

Community research can lead to valuable knowledge and inform sustainable management which benefits fish populations and therefore a long term recreational fishing industry. In turn, revenue generated from recreational fishing can drive community based conservation.

PREVENTION OF INVASIVE SPECIES

HABITAT MONITORING AND PROTECTION
Habitat monitoring (eg. regular water quality testing) and protection (eg. critical spawning areas) will ensure healthy fish populations and a thriving long term fishery.

Science and Conservation

Research can generate the information needed to inject science into conservation and benefit local recreational fishing through informed management recommendations. Research also has the benefit of engaging anglers and giving them a unique and unforgettable experience which increases their customer satisfaction.

Below are some examples of successful research and conservation at Kenauk, including: fish tagging and population monitoring, habitat monitoring and protection, prevention of invasive species, as well as informed fishing regulations and catch and release angling.

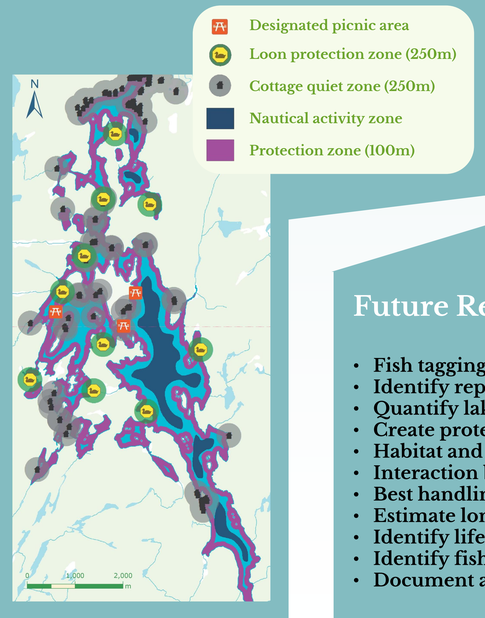
FISH TAGGING AND POPULATION MONITORING
Tagging fish is a great way of monitoring populations to help with management as well as giving anglers a unique and engaging experience.

FISHING REGULATIONS / CATCH & RELEASE
Research allows the implementation of informed fishing regulations, such as appropriate angling seasons and species specific catch and release practices.

Communication

Communication between all stakeholders is imperative to achieve successful and realistic conservation. Establishing easy communication pathways between anglers, guides, community members, government officials and researchers can help with this goal.

For example, this is a map of a lake at Kenauk with communally agreed upon protection and activity zones. We also encourage anglers and guides to complete fish registration forms.



Future Research

- Fish tagging
- Identify reproductive success
- Quantify lake hydrodynamics
- Create protected zones and habitats
- Habitat and water quality monitoring
- Interaction between angling and fish recruitment
- Best handling practices for catch and release of species
- Estimate long term effects of land use changes on lakes
- Identify life history characteristics of fish populations
- Identify fish habitat use on a seasonal basis (spawning)
- Document angler effort and opinions for management