

Project acronym: PIKEPERCH

Project title: Impact of catch-and-release practices on pikeperch (*Sander lucioperca* L.) during spawning period

Project leader: Robert Arlinghaus

Discipline: Humboldt-University of Berlin, Germany

Station(s): Kainuu Fisheries Research Station, Finland

The objective of the study is to investigate the impacts of catch-and-release angling on the pikeperch (*Sander lucioperca* L.) during the critical period of spawning. Being a nest-guarding species, male pikeperch are very aggressive during the period of parental care and thus particularly vulnerable to angling. Though pikeperch usually have to be released when captured during spawning period, the stress of an angling event may have severe consequences to the individual and its offspring.

The aim is to study the exact consequences of a catch-and-release event during nest-guarding period for the behavior, individual reproductive fitness, as well as population-level recruitment of pikeperch, a high-demand species for consumption and angling.

Using the large experimental ponds of Kainuu Fisheries Research Station, we let adult pikeperch spawn and then experimentally remove them from the nests by angling. Before and after this event, we film the nests to record individual behavior and nest predator occurrences. The development of egg numbers in the nest is tracked from additional, regularly taken photos. A positive control on egg predation shall be recorded simultaneously in indoor glassfiber tanks. Offspring numbers per pond are taken at the end of the experiment and allow for a comparison of population recruitment between treatment and control ponds.