Youth Submissions

From the Youth Activities for the 2021 Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department Virtual Open House

Summary of the Activity

- Youth were split into three different age groups and asked to submit either..
  - A drawing for youth 8-years-old or younger
  - A photo and caption for youth that are 9- to 13-years old
  - An essay or story for youth that are 14- to 18-years old

- The following are the ten entries received. Miigwech (thank you) to all the youth who shared their thoughts and talents with us.

Dylan, Age 6, Answering MNRD THPO Prompt "Draw a picture of four things you might see if you took a walk in the woods in the Summer."

Misko, Age 8, Answering MNRD Air Prompt "Draw a picture of what bad air pollution looks like to you."

Myles, Age 8, Answering MNRD Renewables Prompt "Draw a picture to answer this riddle: What is round, you see almost every day and helps solar panels create power?"

“Maple Sugaring in Woods: One of favorite spots in the woods is the sugar bush camp. Go every year with my Grandma.”

Manuel, Age 9, Answering MNRD Forestry Question “What is your favorite place outside of town?”

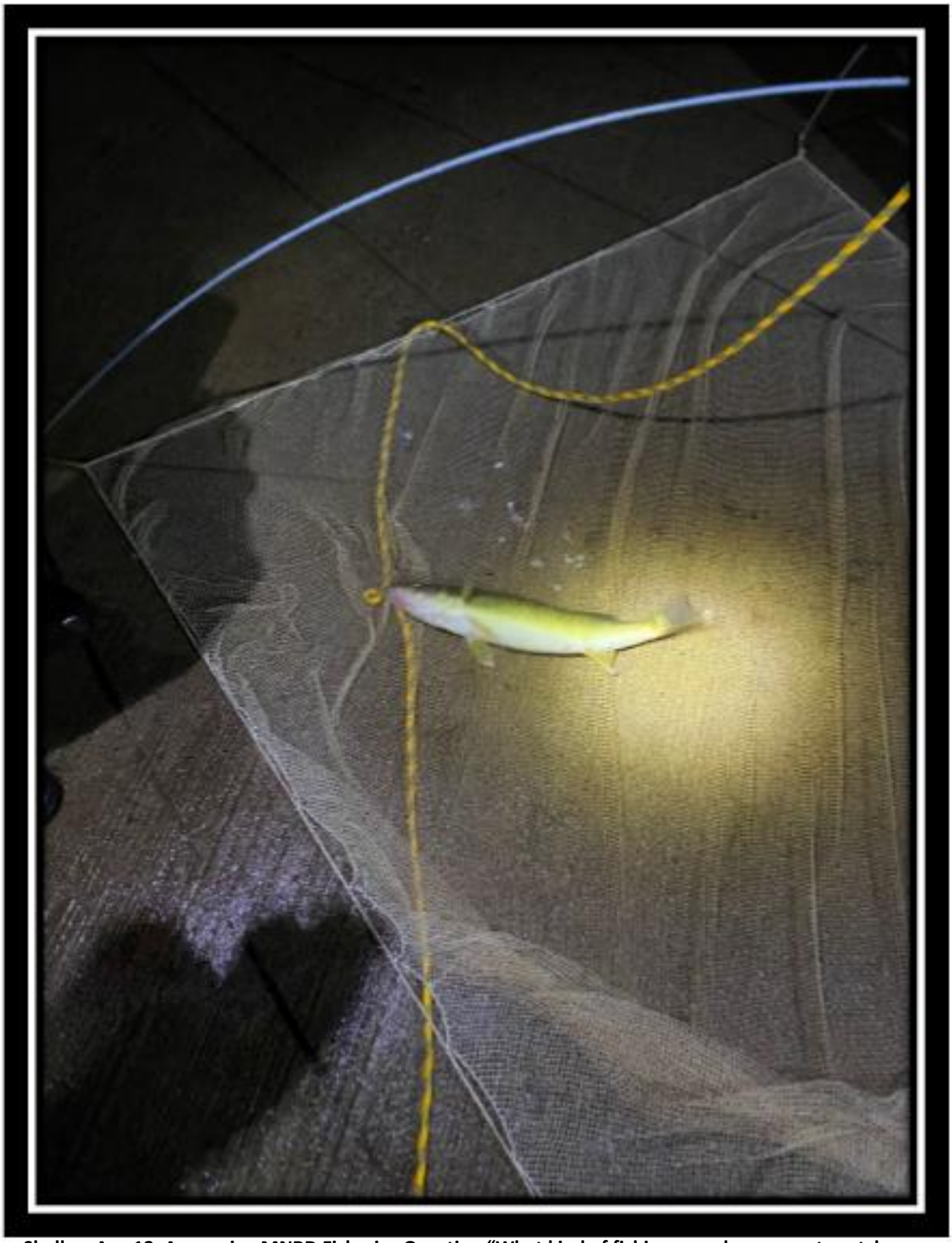
“Dipnetting on Kakagon Bridge: Went dipnetting on the bridge and enjoy catching any fish. Caught a lot of perch!”

Armando, Age 10, Answering MNRD Fisheries Question “What kind of fishing gear do you use to catch your favorite fish?”

“This is my favorite body of water because this is where me and my family stayed on our 10 day trip. Me and my dad took this picture at Newport Beach, California. This body of water attracts me because it is Beautiful!”

Layla, Age 11, Answering MNRD Water Prompt “Snap a photo of your favorite waterbody and tell us what attracts you to it.”

“Dipnetting Walleye on Kakagon: Love to go fishing because I love to eat walleye. I like fishing because it is fun!”



Shelley, Age 12, Answering MNRD Fisheries Question “What kind of fishing gear do you use to catch your favorite fish?”

“Honest John’s/Lake Superior: I love Lake Superior and enjoy taking walks down Waverly beach. I also enjoy swimming and just spending time on the water.”

Marcella, Age 13, Answering MNRD Water Prompt “Snap a photo o your favorite water body and tell us what attracts you to it.”

“One of my favorite places outside of town is the Bonneville salt flats. Did you know the salt flats formed in the last ice age. When I was there I licked them and it tasted like salt.”

Ladele, Age 13, Answering MNRD Forestry Question “What is your favorite place outside of town?”

Why is manoomin culturally significant to Ojibwe people? The meaning of manoomin is the good berry manoomin has been a huge part of our culture and migration story. Wild rice is a cultural and spiritual staple to ojibwe people. When the Ojibwe people migrated west from the east coast they were told to find the place where the food grew on water which had led them to the great lakes area. Manoomin is a gift from the creator. Manoomin is used in ceremonies as a major food source and a spirit offering. It was one of the main sources of food for our ancestors for many years because it could be stored for a long time without going bad so wild rice was available when other sources of food were not. Wild rice has also been used medicinally. Wild rice is an important food source to animals as well. Since I have started ricing I have started to understand the importance of keeping these traditions that we can do that other people can't. When we go out there in the summer we don't just get enough for ourselves we get enough to feed many of our family members and elders which is a very significant part of why we get manoomin. One of my favorite things is giving out wild rice to people that can no longer go ricing or people that dont know how it makes me and them really happy. A long time ago manoomin would be traded for different things that ojibwe people needed. Manoomin has been a very healthy nutritional and delicious food to ojibwe people for many years. I can always remember when I was younger bothering my dad to let me go ricing with him but I was too young so he would always tell me no. The traditional ways of ricing is in a birch bark canoe now we use metal canoes there's a poler and a knocker the poler has a big pole with a V shaper bill on it and they push the canoe around the field while knocker lays the stocks on the side of the canoe and knocks the kernels in the bottom of the canoe. After you get the rice bagged you dry it out by laying it out in the sun spread out. After that you parch the rice which helps loosen the hull and helps make the rice preserve longer. After parching to take off the hull the traditional way they would dig a whole and the rice would be put in there on a deer hyde and someone would dance on the rice with special moccasins after someone had already danced on it they used a birch bark tray and tossed the rice in the air lightly and the wind would take the hull out of the mix of clean rice. Now we use machines to get the hulls off. When my family and I go out and harvest rice we put tobacco down and thank the creator for us to be able to do this and we ask for everything to go well. One funny story I have of me was when I was ricing 2 years ago and it was me and my dad out ricing. I was poling for the first time and my dad was knocking. After an hour or 2 of me poling right when I started to get the hang of it I lost my balance and fell right in the water. It ended up taking forever for me to get back in the canoe. But it was really funny and I always have a good time ricing and it's really hard work.

Thank you,
Brayden

Brayden, Age 14, Answering MNRD Manoomin Prompt "Why is wild rice culturally significant to the Ojibwe people?"