

Gypsy Moth Monitoring at Isle Royale National Park, 2003

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Location of traps in 2002:

Gypsy moth traps were set out in 2003 mostly as a precautionary measure to identify possible populations on Isle Royale. In 2002 and 2001 there were additional traps set at the Moskey Basin location since a male was captured at this site in 2000. USFS personnel recommended discontinuing additional traps at Moskey since none were captured in either 2002 or 2001.

General trap locations in 2003 were: the Daisy Farm campground, Moskey Basin Campground, Mott Island (2 traps), Rock Harbor marina (5 traps), Windigo (2 traps), Belle Isle campground, Malone Bay ranger station, Siskiwit Bay campground, Grace Island campground, Chippewa Harbor campground, and Birch Island campground. The most likely method of spreading the gypsy moth to Isle Royale would be egg masses attached to boats or hiking equipment, so traps were placed in high visitor-use areas. The traps contain a pheromone designed to attract male gypsy moths.

No moths of any species were recorded in 1998-1999.

In 2000 an individual male gypsy moth was captured in the Moskey Basin trap. This male was positively identified by NPS, USFS, and USDA personnel. With only one moth found, the trapping coordinator encouraged a standard method of a localized increase in trapping effort by surrounding the original trap site with 4 more traps set at cardinal directions. It is possible that this male was blown across the lake by prevailing winds.

In 2001 there were no gypsy moths positively identified by NPS staff. However, two traps (Chippewa Harbor and a satellite trap from Moskey Basin) that contained unidentifiable moths were sent into the USDA for verification. These moths were identified as not being gypsy moths.

In 2002, one male gypsy moth was positively identified by USFS personnel in trap #9 in Rock Harbor. No other gypsy moths were captured in the park.

In 2003 an additional 3 traps were set in Rock Harbor.

→ no 2003 results

Recommendations:

This monitoring program is low cost, with materials donated by the U.S. Forest Service, and it involves few personnel hours. The need to continue monitoring is very high due to the capture of moths in 2000 and 2002.

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