

# **2011 FISHERIES RESEARCH & ANGLER SURVEYS in the**

## **DUCK MOUNTAIN PROVINCIAL PARK**

### **ANGLER PARTICIPATION WANTED!**

*Swan Valley Sport Fishing Enhancement, with the support of partners and FEF, have recently conducted various studies and programs including telemetry work, trap netting programs, creel surveys, stocked trout index netting, voluntary angler surveys and has also become a strong venue for fisheries education. These programs and projects have been very beneficial for the local area and have attracted attention from all interested public. The results from recent research projects have already contributed to current management and stocking decisions. Many projects require continual or rotational surveys to validate results and to obtain a better understanding of the state of the fishery.*



#### ***What's happening in the Duck Mountain Provincial Park for the 2011 Season:***

- **Stocked Trout Assessment** – This will be year two of the summer stocked trout assessment. The main objective of this assessment is to provide an unbiased index of stocked trout abundance, as well as to provide biological information on the target species. The secondary objective of this assessment will be to assist fisheries managers with a better understanding of these waterbodies to assist in future trout stocking rates. Proper stocking rates ensure maximum fish growth, angler success and the efficient utilization of expensive hatchery fish. Continuation and rotation of this project is required to properly identify management strategies.

**THANKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS SURVEY/STUDY AS YOUR INFORMATION IS ESSENTIAL TO  
THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR FISHERIES RESOURCES.**

**svsfe@mts.net**

- **Creel Surveys** - A SVSFE technician will be interviewing anglers at Wellman Lake during the 2011 season from May to August. This will include measuring fish, keeping track of hours fished, counting boats, and recreational craft, etc. When the data is analyzed from interviews we can get information about the effort, biological characteristics, harvest and size distribution of several important species of fish. We can also get an idea of fishing quality and recreational pressure a lake has been subject to. It would be appreciated if anglers would take the time to fill out creel booklets at boat launch sites or provide information to technicians.
- **Phase Two Live Release Trap Netting Program** – in the fall (Sept) SVSFE along with other partners will be conducting year two of the live release trap netting program. Fish caught during the program have and will be tagged with floy tags to identify growth and health of the Wellman Lake fishery. Through the continual mark and recapture SVSFE can assist managers in obtaining an accurate estimate of the relative abundance fish stock and the status of the fishery. We encourage the public to come out and see the action.
- **Tagged Fish INFO** – And don't forget to submit your tagged fish info. There are several lakes in the Duck Mountains which possess tagged fish. Just a reminder to leave the tags in released fish. This tag gives the fish a "name" and through future recaptures we can identify growth and the health. Submitting your info to SVSFE or Water Stewardship Fisheries Branch will provide beneficial information towards the goal of creating an extraordinary fishery within the Swan Valley Region for generations to enjoy.
- **Adult Walleye Stock/Transfer** - Annually Water Stewardship Fisheries Branch and the SVSFE stocking committee meet to discuss and request fish stock for local area. Part of this process includes stocking rearing ponds/lakes with walleye fry to improve survival rates. Beautiful Lake in the Duck Mountains has been successful for rearing walleye stock with transfer numbers in the thousands and sizes from 200mm and up (In 2010: 450mm). With the use of trap nets and the electro-shocking boat, various lakes and the Swan River can receive adult walleye with a survival rate of almost 90% which will be able to spawn in the following spring.

*This project has been funded by Fisheries Enhancement Fund (FEF), Service Canada- Canada Summer Jobs, Swan Valley Sport Fishing Enhancement (SVSFE), Water Stewardship Fisheries Branch, Glad & Wellman Lake Cottage Owners Association, and the Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District.*

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