

2011 FISHERIES RESEARCH & ANGLER SURVEYS AT WELLMAN LAKE

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 at Wellman Lake for the 2011 Season:

- **Assessment of Loat Creek and walleye spawning areas with Wellman Lake** – this includes tracking walleye with radio telemetry equipment and assessing the success of the Wellman Lake reef and tributaries.
- **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 including Wellman Lake which have tagged fish. 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.

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.

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

svsfe@mts.net