

Summary of Activities

Date: October 26th, 2015

To: **Fish and Wildlife
Enhancement Fund**

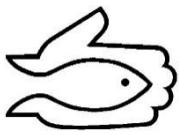
From: **Holly Urban & Brock Koutecky**
Swan Valley Sport Fishing Enhancement
Contact: **svsfe@mymts.net**

Subject: *Summary of Summaries*

Over the years, SVSFE has conducted meaningful fisheries work with the intention of enhancing local waterbodies through our motto "Giving Fish a Helping Hand". As the years pass by, we've developed relationships with many other user groups, government/non-government organizations, fisheries staff, and anglers to come up with a proactive approach to increasing fishing quality in our area. We have conducted research, initiated enhancement projects, introduced educational programs, aided in transfer programs, developed comprehensive management plans, the list goes on and on. As the field season of 2015 comes to an end and all of our reporting is nearing completion, we feel that providing FWEF with a "summary of summaries" would be beneficial. Following is a short summary of our work from the 2015 season, focusing on some of the highlights (in chronological order). Please note that for additional information on work completed, please refer to lake specific summaries submitted.

1. Glad Lake Pike Transfer: Recently our sport fishing group and fisheries branch has initiated a "new management plan" for Glad Lake. This plan has located funds to purchase arctic char destined for Glad Lake. As an initiative to help aid the survival of char, a pike removal program was initiated. Using various methods, 110 northern pike were captured and relocated to recipient lakes in the spring of 2015. SVSFE plans to continue with pike removal in the field season of 2016, as to help Glad Lake succeed in its "new direction".





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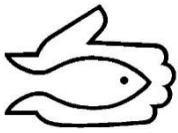
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2. Singush Lake Non-Lethal Inventory: Through recommendation from Fisheries Branch and Singush Lake Cottage Association, an end of spring trap netting program and complimentary electrofishing was initiated in May and September 2015, respectively. The project was completed in partnership with Fisheries Branch & Intermountain Sport Fishing Enhancement, using non-lethal methods to collect a "snapshot" of the health/state of the fishery. This specific protocol requires 2-years of data before drawing any conclusions. In summary through 16 trap nets, and 8 electrofishing transects a total of 3,250 fish were captured and sampled proving MWS, ISFE, and SVSFE with valuable data pertaining to Singush Lake.



3. Assisted Stocking: SVSFE understands the importance of efficient stocking practices. For this reason, during the field season of 2015 we aided fisheries branch with stocking whenever possible. This includes "scatter stocking" trout by using boats to stock in the deep areas void of large littoral predators, and stocking walleye fry in warmer bays and areas void of predators.





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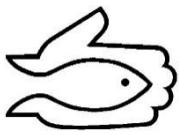
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4. Lake Exploration (Rearing Ponds): Due to a growing demand for sub-adult/adult walleye rearing/stocking programs, it was suggested that new rearing ponds be located to rear walleye for local transfer initiatives. After doing our homework and conducting suitability surveys on a total of 4 potential walleye rearing lakes, we located two lakes that would be an optimal lake for walleye rearing, including Peanut Lake (ideal), and Dragline Lake (semi-ideal).



5. Lake Exploration (Sport Fish Introduction): SVSFE has a strong interest in creating unique fisheries to attract anglers to our area. In 2015 we set out to conduct fish introduction suitability surveys in order to find new lakes for sport fish introductions. In total, we assessed seven lakes to determine suitability introductions. Pending winter dissolved oxygen assessments we found three potential candidate lakes for a trout species (Legacy Lake, Caverly Lake, and Harvey Lake), one lake with high promise however no suggested species at this time (East Watjask Lake), and one lake that we are extremely excited about for muskellunge stocking (West Watjask Lake).





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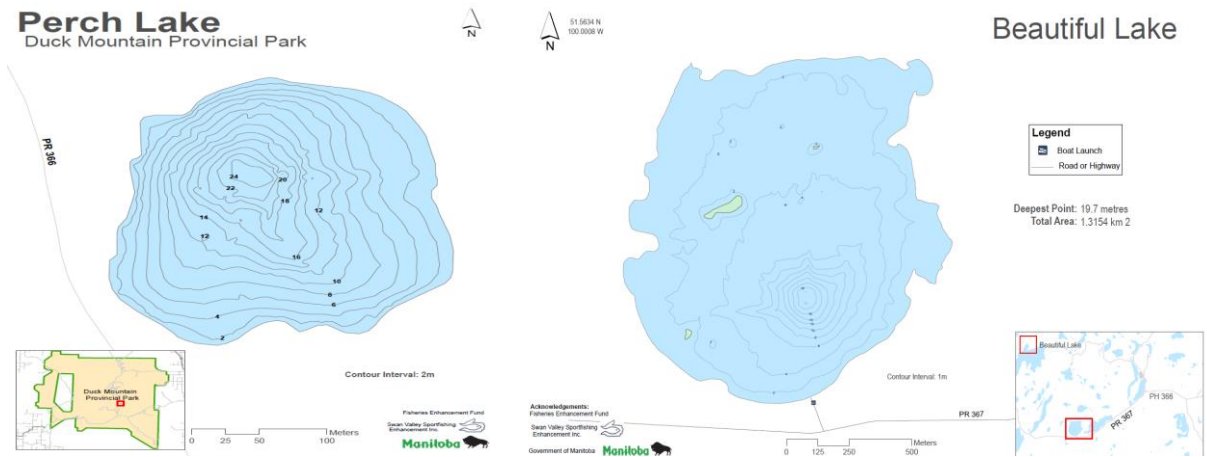
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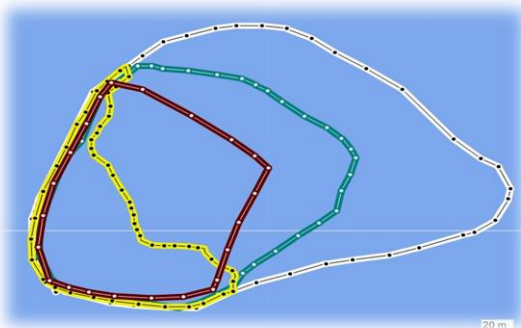
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6. Bathymetric Mapping: During the summer of 2015 we mapped a total of 13 "new lakes" including angling lakes, and lakes explored for fish introductions. To date, we have mapped a total of 35 different "high-traffic", and "remote" lakes in our area. At current, a hand-full of bathymetric are easily downloadable on our website, and we intend to upload our newest "final products" in the very near future.



7. Wellman lake Reef: Over the years it has been identified that the once successful Wellman Lake spawning reef is not attracting spawning walleye as it once used to. The hypothesis is that over the years, the reef has silted over, and no longer provides walleye with ideal spawning habitat. As a "potential future" attempt to "re-enhance" the reef SVSFE technicians spent a day mapping the reef gathering GIS data which represents reef boundaries, the 1.3 meter contour (max spawning depth), the previously enhanced portion of the reef, and most importantly the proposed area for future enhancement.





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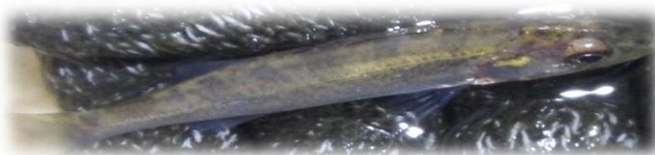
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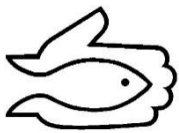
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8. East Blue Lake Assessments: In recent years, the very popular rainbow trout fishery of East Blue Lake has become a hot topic of conversation as a result of declining fishing quality. In the field season of 2015, SVSFE technicians conducted various assessments on East Blue Lake including gill netting, electrofishing, seining, angler interviews, and literature review on the lake to gain a greater understanding of the lakes current status. Following data compilation and analysis, we believe that we have identified potential issues, and recommendations for the future management of East Blue Lake for fisheries branch's consideration.



9. Walleye Recruitment: Over the past few years, SVSFE has been very interested in walleye recruitment in our local lakes. Determining natural recruitment success can help determine efficient stocking rates and lake management objectives. In the Porcupine Mountains, SVSFE finished collection of the 3rd and final year of OTC sampling on both Bell and North Steeprock Lakes. SVSFE is still awaiting final results from the lab, and is eager to determine efficient stocking rates for these two popular walleye fisheries. As for two "project" lakes, SVSFE has been closely monitoring recruitment in both Beaver and Marge Lakes for the past few years. We have happily determined significant results in both these lakes and will soon lead to new management objectives. Lastly, SVSFE conducted short assessments on both Whitefish Lake, and Wellman Lake to determine success rates of beaver dam removal and stocking success respectively. These findings have helped SVSFE and lake managers determine future management objectives.





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10. Beautiful Lake Walleye Transfer: Each year, SVSFE and MWS partner on the very popular project commonly referred as the "Beautiful Lake Walleye Transfer". This particular project rears walleye in Beautiful Lake at an exceptional rate and each fall we spend approximately two-weeks trapping and transferring walleye to respective walleye lakes. This project is very popular, as it's commonly explained as "creating instant walleye fisheries". In the fall of 2015 we captured and transferred a record of 4323 adult/sub-adult walleye. Below is the summary of the 2015 recipients.

2015 Beautiful Lake Walleye Transfer	
Lake Stocked	Total Fish Transferred
Beaver Lake	865
Childs Lake	1000
Marge Lake	50
Singush Lake	814
Vermillion Reservoir	195
Verrall Lake	394
Wellman Lake	1005
Total	4323



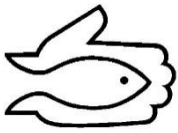
11. Angler Surveys: Beginning in the month of June until September 30th 2015, SVSFE summer student, Megan Paterson, conducted Angler Surveys with the anglers of the Duck and Porcupine Mountains to gather information on area use, general fishing inquiries, fisheries enhancement and daily catches at various lakes. The purpose of this survey was to involve the public with management of local fisheries by project/activities ideas and comments or concerns. Three incentive prizes were purchased by SVSFE to attract interest from anglers. A total of 153 surveys were collected in combination various methods. In summary, information collected through angler surveys has proven to be very enlightening, and we are eager to incorporate this valuable data into future management initiatives.

Swan Valley Sport Fishing Enhancement Inc.



2015 Angler Survey





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In summary, we are excited to report the findings and results of the 2015 open-water season. We would like to acknowledge the Fisheries and Wildlife Enhancement Fund (FWEF), for contributing funds to facilitate not only this particular project, but for the various other projects that SVSFE and partners have conducted over the years. The stamp is constant reminder that a portion of angling licenses goes towards creating, protecting, and enhancing fisheries for future generations. This invaluable opportunity would not be possible without the initiatives of the fund.



We would also like to thank our directors for their infinite determination and drive to enhance and sustain our local fisheries. Without our group's conviction and support these projects would never have been possible. A huge thank you to Branch Staff, including our local mentor Ian Kitch for your endless support and knowledge. A big thanks to branch staff in corresponding regions, as our work would not be possible without your endless direction regarding fisheries management and research. And also, a huge thank you to our supporters, project partners, and volunteers (you know who you are), as our this work would no be possible without you support and assistance. We, as SVSFE technicians are extremely grateful for the continued support and drive of each and every one of you, and we look forward to continuing this important work into 2016 and years to come.