



# Summary of Activities

Date: July 14th, 2015

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Chuck Young - Child's Lake Cottage Owners Association

Subject: Hickey Lake Walleye Rearing Potential

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**Location:** HICKEY LAKE, DUCK MOUNTAIN PROVINCIAL PARK, MB

**Summary:** Walleye rearing programs; more specifically the Beautiful Lake Walleye Transfer has been a very successful program since initialization in 2009 in the Duck Mountains. Recently it has been suggested that alternative walleye rearing ponds be located and assessed to determine walleye rearing potential. The idea is to have an alternative rearing pond for future years, if lake managers decide to "give Beautiful Lake a break", giving the forage and benthic populations time to "bounce back".

In the late 1970's early 1980's, Hickey Lake was used as a walleye rearing pond. Draining the lake via a water control structure into Child's Lake and fall trap netting were the two methods of transferring fingerlings. Through browsing old walleye transfer files from Hickey Lake, it appears that the draining method was "very difficult to monitor success". Trap netting appeared to have been quite labour intensive, also overall numbers from trap-netting were far from staggering.

On June 24, 2015 SVSFE technicians walked in to Hickey Lake to determine the access for the 2015 assessment to revisit walleye rearing potential. Initial observations included far from optimal access, as ATVing would be the only possible method for transferring gear and fish to and from Hickey Lake. Secondly, there is no longer a control structure restricting flow to Child's Lake, suggesting that during spring, high water could easily move fish between waterbodies. Lastly, technicians observed multiple young of year northern pike in the shallow bay near the old water control.

**Recommendation:** At this time it is suggested that Hickey Lake not be used as a walleye rearing pond in the near future for the above reasons. In addition, SVSFE has contacted Ken Kansas, the past biologist to the area who was instrumental in the Hickey Lake project, who advised that using Hickey lake as a drain to Child's Lake for reared walleye did not work. He also suggested to investigate the present species before attempting rearing and transferring via trap/hoop nets. With the findings of pike and below optimal access it is recommended to not move forward with the Hickey Lake as a rearing pond. SVSFE is confident that another candidate rearing pond will be discovered in the Duck Mountains to stagger with Beautiful Lake Walleye Transfer if needed.