

Summary of Activities

Date: September 30th, 2015

To: Ian Kitch
Conservation & Water Stewardship
cc. Lloyd Rowe, Jonathon Stephens
Don Stokotelny, ISFE
Ken Kennedy, Child Lake
Harvey Sawchuck, Singush Lake
Duane Whyte, Glad/Wellman Lake
Alvin & Linda Weibe, Wellman Lake Lodge
Arch & Dawn Dowsett, Blue Lakes Resort

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

Subject: 2015 Beautiful Lake Walleye Transfer

Location: BEAUTIFUL LAKE, DUCK MOUNTAIN PROVINCIAL PARK, MB

Summary:

Every year walleye fry are stocked in Beautiful Lake from a provincial hatchery (either the Whiteshell Hatchery & Swan Creek Hatchery) in efforts to rear them to sub adult and adult sizes. These fish are then captured using various methods (mainly live trap netting or electroshocking), and transferred to other recipient walleye lakes in the area. The Walleye Transfer Project consists of transferring young of the year (YOY), juvenile, sub-adult and adult walleye as this method of stocking returns higher survival rates and increases angler quality within recipient water bodies.

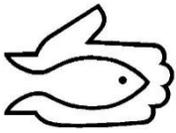
The 2015 Adult Walleye Transfer Project was conducted during the month of September (Sept 14 - 24). This marked the 6th year in which the project was funded through the Fisheries Enhancement Fund. The stocking of fry in the springs of 2013, 2014, and 2015 provided a total return of 4,323 walleye at three different year classes (0+, 1, 2) for supplemental stocking in 2015 (Figure 1). Recipient lakes are listed below (Table 1)



Figure 1: Average sized walleye

Table 1: 2015 recipient lakes

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

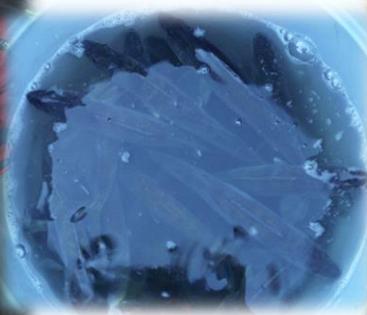


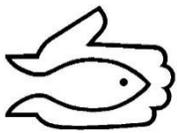
Summary of Activities

Subject: 2015 Beautiful Lake Walleye Transfer

The 2015 transfer was proven to be very efficient due to recommendations from the 2014 transfer and from past experiences; (1) *Keep stress to a minimum during transfer time* (2) *Continue with transfer project on an annually basis*(3) *Utilize or purchase fishing gear more specific for transfer*(4) *Continue stocking efforts on priority lakes and review this list annually with all stakeholders.*

We are always striving to improve our efforts to ensure the survival of the fish and keep projects cost to a minimum. Three notable differences from this year which created positive results were;(1) the minimum handling/sampling of the fish (2) the increased number of volunteers and (3) utilization of the electroshocking boat and hatchery transfer truck. *(Note: Only fish stocked in Beaver Lake were tagged in order to comply with current management objectives; all other fish were strictly counted).* Combining the catch methods of electroshocking and trap netting for the 2016 transfer will enhance productivity. The continuation of this combined effort and partnerships will help sustain the success of future transfers.





Summary of Activities

Subject: 2015 Beautiful Lake Walleye Transfer

Over the past six years, Swan Valley Sport Fishing Enhancement and Manitoba Water Stewardship - Fisheries Branch have developed an unique partnership with many user groups including Intermountain Sport Fishing Enhancement, various Cottage Owners Associations and school groups to make this project one of the most valuable projects to our fisheries. The totals from 2009 - 2015 display this success (Table 2). Anglers can see the results in their angling experience almost instantaneously and appreciate the projects initiative of "giving fish a helping hand".

Beautiful Lake Walleye Transfer								
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total by Lake
Wellman Lake	48	522	222	153	144	360	1,005	2,454
Spray Lake	0	50	41	75	0	285	0	451
Verrall Lake	0	74	57	132	0	100	394	757
Child's Lake	230	0	0	0	0	368	1,000	1,598
Singush Lake	650	0	0	77	200	662	814	2,403
Line Lake	0	539	54	89	0	0	0	682
Chain Lake	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	40
Marge Lake	0	399	585	125	0	569	50	1,728
Vermillion Reservoir	0	20	300	200	324	200	195	1,239
Swan River	0	395	54	0	0	124	0	573
Beaver Lake	0	0	548	90	882	737	865	3,122
West Blue Lake	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	50
Langan Lake	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	50
TOTALS:	928	2,089	1,861	991	1,550	3,405	4,323	15,147
Average size:	29cm	35cm	34.5cm	27.6cm	17.5cm	24.4 cm	32.2cm	
TRAP METHOD	ES	TR	TR	TR	TR	TR & ES	TR & ES	

A special thank you to all who were involved in this year's transfer; Fisheries Branch staff - Ian Kitch, Jonathon Stephens, Lloyd Rowe, Ken Kansas, Trevor Iwankow, Parks Staff - Emil Roller, SVSFE volunteer - Melissa Badger, Child's Lake Cottage Owners Association - the massive crew of helpers, Glad/Wellman Lake Campers and Cottage Owners Association - Terry Scales, Reid Shields & Joe Stewart and to the many others who supported this project in various ways.