

# Summary of Activities

*Date: October 7, 2015*

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**Conservation & Water Stewardship**

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*Subject: Angler Interview Surveys*

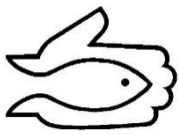
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## **Summary:**

Beginning in the month of June until September 30<sup>th</sup> 2015, Swan Valley Sport Fishing Enhancement conducted an Angler Survey 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 of interviews with SVSFE technicians, parks staff/lodge owners and online submissions.

## **Area Use Specific Questions**

Of the 153 completed surveys, 40% of anglers fished in the Porcupine mtn and 58% fished in the Duck mtns. Visit frequency to these areas varied from once a year up to 90 times a year, depending on the angler and closeness to the area. Of all surveys conducted; 57% were local, 24% were from Manitoba, 14% were from Saskatchewan, 4% were from the USA, 0.65% were from Alberta, and 0.65% were from Ontario. In the Duck mtns; 39% were local, 34% were from Manitoba, 20% were from Saskatchewan, 6% were from the USA, and 1% were from Ontario. In the Porcupine mtns; 83% were local, 10% were from Manitoba, 5% were from Saskatchewan, and 2% were from Alberta. The majority of surveyed anglers stay in the Provincial Park campgrounds as daily campers or make day trips from local residence of the Swan Valley area. Anglers of the Porcupine mtn declared Whitefish Lake as the favorite fishery and North Steeprock Lake second most popular, respectively. In the Duck mtns, anglers stated Gull and Laurie Lake as most favorite fisheries. East Blue Lake and Childs Lake were among the top favorites for the Duck mtns as well. On average, anglers are spending approximately \$200 per trip, and \$1200 annually in either mtn. Amount of money spent per trip depends exclusively on angler's proximity to either mtn. The least amount of money spent on a trip was recorded as low as \$10 and the most amount spent on a trip was \$1500. The least amount of money spent annually by an angler was \$30 and the most spent annually was an estimated \$10,000.



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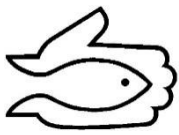
## General Fishing Inquiries

Surveys indicated anglers are fishing anywhere from once a year up to 200 times a year. Generally, anglers are retaining/releasing 50% of what they catch. Most popular waterbodies fished were stocked lakes and natural lakes as opposed to rivers or streams. Walleye and northern pike were the most targeted fish species in the Porcupine mtns. In the Duck mtns, most targeted species in order of popularity are walleye, rainbow trout, lake trout, northern pike, brown trout, splake and brook trout, respectively. Anglers most commonly prefer catching lots of fish and eating size fish. Just less than half of anglers prefer catching master angler sized fish. At least 52% of anglers reported to have gone ice fishing and 7% have been fly fishing. One third of anglers interviewed have never been checked by a CO or park patrol, 1/3 has been checked in the past year and 1/3 have been checked at some point in their lives. Average amount of times checked in the past year ranged from 1- 10 times.

## Fisheries Enhancement Questions

Approximately 66% of anglers were previously aware of the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund. Whether previously aware or not, 100% of anglers support the FWEF's initiatives. Eighty percent of anglers were previously aware of SVSFE. Additionally, 100% of anglers, previously aware of SVSFE or not, support SVSFE's initiatives. The most common project/activity requested by anglers for the Porcupine mtn was to continue stocking walleye. Other project ideas were to improve the access at Bell Lake, North Steeprock Lake river launch, Deep Lake, Virgin Lake and Hoodoo Lake. In the Ducks mtns, the most popular projects/activity requested was continue stocking trout throughout the mountain. Specifically named was arctic char and lake trout into Glad Lake, splake into East Blue Lake, trout into Shilliday Lake, walleye and trout into Beautiful Lake, walleye into Wellman Lake and several requests for more walleye into Childs Lake. Listed here are other project ideas and concerns:

| Project/Activity      | Where                                                                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Improve Access        | Pine River, Line Lake, West Blue Lake                                                     |
| Install Docks         | Perch Lake, Two Mile Lake, East Blue Lake                                                 |
| Transfer              | Perch from Gull Lake, white suckers from East Blue Lake                                   |
| Lake exploration      | Mossberry Lake                                                                            |
| Develop New Fisheries | Tiger trout, black crappie                                                                |
| Signage               | More information on SVSFE lake projects, bathymetry and present fish species <sup>2</sup> |



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## Conclusion

In general, the Angler Survey was very well received by all. Anglers expressed gratitude and admiration for the work SVSFE conducts and the conveyed interest in any concern anglers may have about local fisheries. Less than 1% of surveys were completed with parks staff or lodge owners within the Duck and Porcupine mtn, 10% of surveys were online submissions and 85% of Angler Surveys were completed with the SVSFE summer technician. Such positive feedback from anglers suggests SVSFE should continue to conduct surveys with technicians or online submissions.

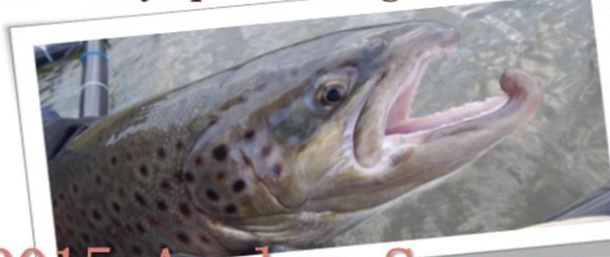
The winners of the 2015 Angler Survey incentive draw are:

1<sup>st</sup>: Kris Martin

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ellen Riehl

3<sup>rd</sup>: Harvey Sawchuk

## *Swan Valley Sport Fishing Enhancement Inc.*



## 2015 Angler Survey



SVSFE is a local non-profit organization dedicated to "Giving Fish a Helping Hand". The main focus of our organization is fisheries education, enhancement and research. Our team works closely with other user groups and Manitoba Fisheries Branch, by doing meaningful work with the common goal of ensuring sustainable fisheries and improving angling opportunities for now and the future.

**Want to be a part of managing our local fisheries?  
Is there something you would like seen or done to improve angling in the area?  
Participate in our 2015 Angler Survey!**

By filling out either the "General Questionnaire" or "Daily Catch Forms" you have the **chance to win prizes from the 2015 Angler Survey Draw** (limit of one general questionnaire/angler and one daily catch form/daily fishing trip within the Duck and Porcupine Mountains between May – September 2015). Deadline September 30, 2015. Information provides vital information on fishing quality in the area and helps improve fisheries management.

### **2015 Angler Survey Draw Prizes Include:**

**1st GPS/Sonar Unit  
2nd Fly Rod & Reel  
3rd Tackle Box & Tackle**

Completed surveys can be:

- Left at pick up/drop off locations: Sticky's Bait & Tackle in Dauphin, Quik Stop in Swan River. Campground offices at Wellman, Blue, Child's, Whitefish & North Steeprock Lake, Wellman Lake Lodge Inc., Blue Lakes Resort or at MB Conservation office in Swan River.
- Submitted online at [www.swanvalleysportfishing.com](http://www.swanvalleysportfishing.com)
- Completed with our technicians working at various lakes when requested.
- Creel Box & Tagged Fish submissions will also be entered in draw as long as contact info is provided.