



2022 Partnership Programs Summary

In part of reporting for FWEF Project 22-010 SVSFE Initiatives and Monitoring of Recreational Fisheries in the Swan Valley Area

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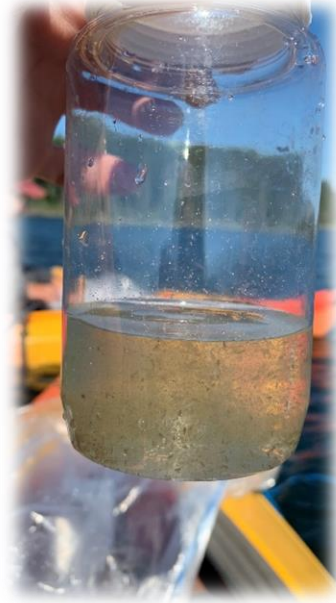
Swan Valley Sport
Fishing Enhancement Inc.

Summary

SVSFE applied to the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund to continue with annual partnership programs in 2022. These partnership programs include assistance with the Provincial Aquatic Invasive Species Program as well as the Provincial Stocking Program. Following are summaries of the work completed in 2022.

Early Zebra Mussel Detection Program

SVSFE has been assisting with the Provincial AIS program since 2015. This program begun with deploying and retrieving substrate samplers in the many high traffic recreational waters in the Duck and Porcupine Mountains. The program has evolved in recent years to help alleviate the workloads of Provincial Staff. In 2022, SVSFE deployed, retrieved, and analyzed substrate samplers from 14 different local waters. Lakes included - Childs Lake, Laurie Lake, Gull Lake, Beautiful Lake, Singush Lake, East Blue Lake, West Blue Lake, Marge Lake, Perch Lake, Spray Lake, Two Mile Lake, Glad Lake, Wellman Lake, and Whitefish Lake. All samplers were deployed in early June, retrieved in early October, and analyzed in March 2023. In addition, SVSFE also conducted veliger sampling in early August. Lakes included Childs Lake, Laurie Lake, Singush Lake, East Blue Lake, West Blue Lake, North Steeprock Lake, Bell Lake, and Whitefish Lake. All data and water samples have been sent to Laureen Janusz, and all substrate samplers have been decontaminated and are ready for 2023 deployment. Presence of zebra mussels were absent from all samplers, and SVSFE is eager to assist with the Early Zebra Mussel Sampling Program in 2023.



Assistance with the Provincial Fish Stocking Program

SVSFE has been conducting fish research in the Swan Valley Area since 2009, and have been assisting with the physical act of fish stocking since the 1980's. Over the years, our research has developed and altered many new and improved stocking strategies for both trout and walleye. These strategies have all been developed through transparent and collaborative work between SVSFE Technicians and Provincial Fisheries Staff. In fact, new and improved strategies and have been completed for dozens of different walleye and stocked trout fisheries in the area. In 2022, SVSFE staff met with Provincial Fisheries staff multiple times to discuss fish availability, surplus, and stocking logistics. During these meetings we allocate provincially available stock to the waterbodies that require them most. In 2022/2023, SVSFE organized volunteers for multiple stocking events and chaired two different "Stocking Committee Meetings" with Provincial Fisheries Staff. The most recent, occurred on Wednesday March 1st, 2023. Individuals present included 2 SVSFE technicians, 4 SVSFE directors, and 3 Fisheries Staff - Ian Kitch, Brody Kitch, and Maxime Legal. This was perhaps the most productive stocking committee meetings in recent history. SVSFE is very happy to report the outcome of this meeting, as we believe the strategies put in place will seriously improve fishing quality in our area for the years to come. Highlights from this meet include and new management plan for Perch Lake, new homes for surplus of the long-awaited 18+cm splake, and the juggling of provincially available rainbows, brooks, and browns to allow more spring planting in the Duck Mountain Provincial Park. SVSFE is very happy with the relationships and trust built with Fisheries Branch over the years and are very excited to watch our local fisheries flourish in the years to come.

