



Survey of Recreational Fishing in Saskatchewan, 2015 Summary Report

Ministry of Environment

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In 2015, a survey of sport fishing in Saskatchewan was conducted to evaluate the importance of this fishery. Information was obtained by surveying licensed anglers who fished in Saskatchewan in 2015. It was carried out by Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, Fish, Wildlife and Lands Branch and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Statistical Services.

The 2015 survey was the ninth in a series of surveys conducted every five years since 1975 and was part of a national study between the federal and provincial governments that provided information on sport fishing in Canada in a consistent and co-ordinated manner. Information collected included: the numbers, origins and destinations of anglers; their expenditures and investments in activities and equipment used for angling; the amount of fishing effort expended; and the numbers, weight and species of fish caught and harvested. This report provides information specific to Saskatchewan's fishery.

The 2015 survey transitioned from a paper to a digital format with 50 per cent of the questionnaires distributed on paper and 50 per cent distributed by digital media (online). Invitation letters were sent in early 2016 to a random sample of 6,900 individuals who purchased a Saskatchewan sport fishing licence in 2015. Twenty-nine percent of the surveys were completed to form the basis of this report. This information was extrapolated to the total licence sales to generate overall estimates of the number of active anglers in Saskatchewan and what effect they had on the fishery, as well as the provincial economy. Data validation and weighting strategies changed in 2015; care should be taken when making comparisons between this survey and previous surveys (see section 7.0.)

1.1. The Resource Base

Currently, there are 64 species of fish in Saskatchewan, approximately 20 of which are targeted by anglers. The main species targeted continue to be walleye, northern pike and yellow perch, in that order. There are also five stocked trout species that are of interest to anglers in the province.

Saskatchewan is home to more than 94,000 lakes totaling over 67,000 square kilometers in surface area, with over half of the total surface area contained in a handful of larger waters. Of the total number of lakes in the province, several thousand support significant fisheries. There is a marked difference in the distribution of lakes and streams in the province and the people who use them, with approximately 96 per cent of the population living in the southern half of the province, while over 90 per cent of the lakes are in the northern half of the province (north of 54° latitude).

2.0. ANGLER PROFILE

2.1. Numbers

The total number of anglers who actively participated in sport fishing in Saskatchewan in 2015 is estimated to be 297,084, which includes 189,326 active licensed adult anglers and 107,758 children under 16 years of age who do not require licences to sport fish. Resident seniors were not included in the survey for the first time since 1980, as they are no longer licensed. The number of active adult anglers has fluctuated since 1990. However, numbers have increased steadily since 2005 (Table 2).

Among licensed adult anglers, there were 149,549 residents and 44,994 non-residents. Approximately 97 per cent of resident and non-resident licensed anglers fished in 2015. The number of active adult anglers is approximately three per cent lower than the number of licences issued, reflecting some licence holders who did not fish in 2015 and multiple licence purchases by other anglers.

Table 1. Numbers and characteristics of anglers in Saskatchewan, 2015

	Resident			Non-resident			Total
	Licensed ¹	Senior	Total	Canadian ²	Other	Total	
Angling Population	149,549 ^a	...	149,549 ^a	34,208 ^a	10,786 ^a	44,994 ^a	194,543 ^a
Estimated active adult anglers							
Males	101,944 ^a	...	101,944 ^a	23,950 ^a	9,493 ^a	33,443 ^a	135,387 ^a
Average age	...	...	41.0 ^a	47.0 ^a	54.0 ^a	...	43.0 ^a
Females	43,213 ^a	...	43,213 ^a	9,678 ^b	1,048 ^b	10,726 ^b	53,939 ^a
Average age	...	...	40.0 ^a	41.0 ^b	50.0 ^b	...	41.0 ^a
Total	145,157 ^a	...	145,157 ^a	33,628 ^a	10,541 ^a	44,169 ^a	189,326 ^a
Average age	...	...	41.0 ^a	45.0 ^a	53.0 ^a	...	42.0 ^a
Estimated anglers under 16 years of age ³	...	...	89,767 ^b	15,865 ^b	2,126 ^c	17,991	107,758 ^b
Total active anglers - all ages	...	...	234,924	49,493	12,667	62,160	297,084

¹ Individuals who purchased angling licences in Saskatchewan in 2015.

² Canadians who live in provinces/territories other than Saskatchewan and who fished in Saskatchewan in 2015.

³ Only households of licensed anglers were surveyed.

Table 2. Comparison of numbers of anglers in Saskatchewan, 1985-2015

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015
Licences issued	164,240 ¹	184,226 ²	182,965 ²	162,860 ²	169,599 ²	194,543 ^{1,2}
Resident Seniors	21,500*	15,146	16,266	17,921	25,000*	...
Active adult anglers	171,754	176,905	171,982	157,079	179,237	189,326 ^a
Children	48,852	77,952	61,139	40,743	44,987	107,758 ^b
Total active anglers	220,606	254,857	233,120	197,822	224,224	297,084

¹ Total includes one-day licences in 1990 and 2015

² Total includes three-day licences in 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015

* Resident seniors not licensed 1990, 2010 (estimated) and 2015

2.2. Origins

Of the estimated 297,084 active anglers in Saskatchewan in 2015, 79 per cent were Saskatchewan residents and 21 per cent non-residents. Approximately 76 per cent of non-resident active anglers were Canadians (Table 3) with 86 per cent of them originating from Alberta, six per cent from Manitoba, four per cent from British Columbia and three per cent from Ontario.

The remaining other non-resident anglers came from the United States (U.S.), with 59 per cent coming from the West North Central and Mountain regions (Figure 1). Forty-two per cent of the U.S. residents who fished Saskatchewan in 2015 came from five states: Montana (1,317), North Dakota (1,032), Colorado (909), Texas (624) and Minnesota (616). The number of U.S. residents fishing in Saskatchewan has steadily declined since 1995.

2.3. Motivations

Non-resident anglers combined made 687,908 trips to Saskatchewan in 2015 and spent 1,078,533 days here, for an average of 1.6 days per trip (Table 4). Fishing trips accounted for 30 per cent of the total number of visits made to Saskatchewan by non-residents. Similar to previous surveys, over 68 per cent of all U.S. residents would not have come to Saskatchewan if there had been no fishing opportunities (Table 5). Canadian residents were more likely than U.S. residents to substitute other activities if fishing was not available.

Table 3. Origin of non-resident licensed anglers who fished in Saskatchewan, 1985-2015

Province/State Group	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015
Canadian							
Alberta	15,305	13,471	14,861	17,483	17,059	21,870	29,440
British Columbia	3,424	1,723	2,576	1,201	1,512	1,717	1,262
Manitoba	3,859	3,681	3,305	2,052	1,802	2,153	1,967
Maritimes	0	78	221	38	49	227	342
NWT/Nunavut ^a	0	0	90	62	48	0	0
Ontario	1,352	1,880	1,288	654	292	797	1,048
Quebec	0	0	41	38	0	0	128
Yukon Territory	106	0	45	0	0	0	21
Canadian Totals	24,046	20,833	22,427	21,528	20,762	26,764	34,208
Non-Canadian							
Alaska, USA	0	72	0	0	0	16	8
East North-Central, USA	1,868	1,302	2,208	3,345	2,090	1,352	1,464
East South-Central, USA	0	72	292	263	215	142	231
Hawaii, USA	0	72	0	0	0	0	23
Mid-Atlantic, USA	422	289	249	427	366	269	408
Mountain, USA	6,526	5,132	6,540	6,025	5,258	3,368	3,113
New England, USA	0	72	84	66	169	48	77
Pacific, USA	1,444	1,735	830	944	427	662	532
South Atlantic, USA	338	506	544	1,093	910	475	740
West North-Central, USA	6,950	8,313	10,716	7,441	6,926	4,226	3,197
West South-Central, USA	1,190	940	750	1,058	593	357	993
Other Countries	104	0	0	0	57	0	0
Non-Canadian Totals	18,738	18,505	22,213	20,662	17,011	10,915	10,786
Totals	42,784	39,338	44,640	42,190	37,773	37,679	44,994

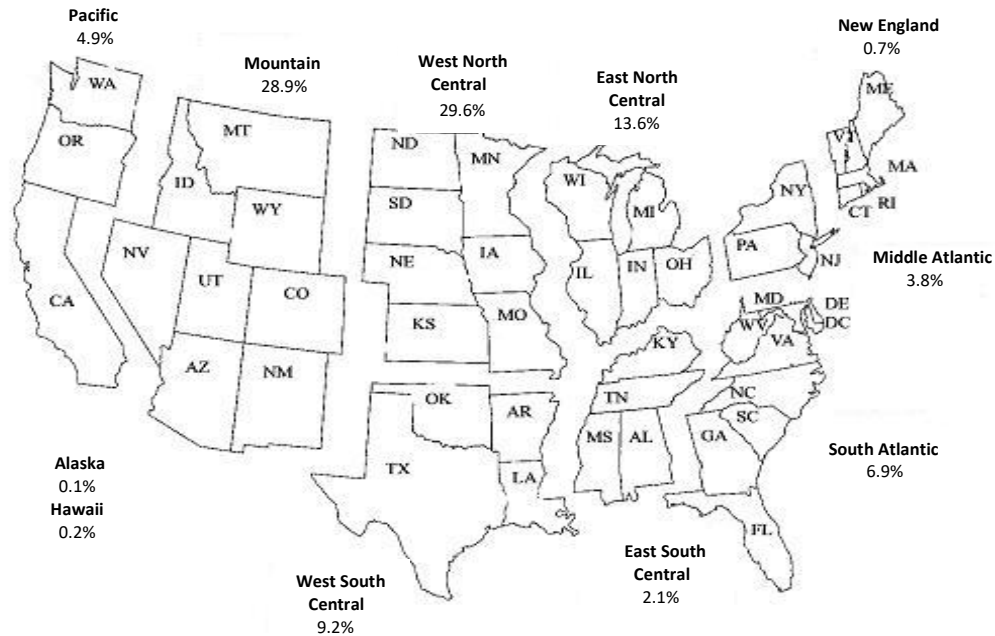


Figure 1. Regional distribution of United States residents who held angling licences in Saskatchewan in 2015.

Table 4. Non-resident trip information, Saskatchewan, 2015

Response	Non-resident		Total
	Canadian	Other	
Number of trips made to Sask.	687,908 ^c
Number of days spent in Sask.	1,078,533 ^b
Number of days/trip	1.6 ^b
Number of fishing trips to Sask.	207,176 ^b
Number of days fished	450,458 ^b
Number of days fished/trip	2.2 ^b
Of fishing trips, how many nights spent	445,105 ^b
How many day trips spent fishing	109,782 ^c

Table 5. Non-resident visit alternatives if there had been no fishing opportunities in Saskatchewan, 1995-2015

Alternative	Canadian Resident					US Resident				
	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015
Stayed a shorter time	23	24	20	19	11 ^c	7	12	5	5	5 ^d
Substituted other activities	52	40	46	51	52 ^b	15	13	15	18	23 ^b
Not come at all	25	34	33	29	31 ^b	78	74	79	76	68 ^a
Unknown	0	2	1	1	6 ^d	0	1	1	1	4 ^d
Totals	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

2.4. Opinions

Eighty-one per cent of anglers in Saskatchewan rated the recreational fishery as being good to excellent, while 18 per cent rated it as fair or poor (Table 6). Most non-residents (55 per cent) considered angling to be very good to excellent compared with residents (43 per cent). Since the beginning of the surveys, non-residents have increasingly rated angling in Saskatchewan as very good or excellent (Table 7). American anglers continue to rate their angling experiences in Saskatchewan higher than non-resident Canadian anglers.

Table 6. Rating by respondents of recreational fishing in Saskatchewan, 2015

	Resident	Non-Resident			Total
		Canadian	Other	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%
Excellent	11b	19b	51b	26b	15b
Very Good	32b	30b	30b	29b	32b
Good	36b	36b	11c	30	34b
Fair	13b	11c	6e	10	13b
Poor	6c	4d	1e	4	5c
Very Poor	1d	<1e	<1e	<1e	<1d
No Response	1e	<1e	1e	1e	1e
Totals	100	100	100	100	100

Table 7. Rating by non-resident respondents of their fishing experience in Saskatchewan, 1990-2015

Rating	Canadian						Other					
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Excellent	17	16	18	20	22	19b	34	32	48	37	45	51b
Very Good	24	24	30	31	32	30b	29	36	29	29	32	30b
Good	30	32	29	27	26	36b	20	18	14	19	14	11c
Fair	16	18	16	15	11	11c	12	10	6	7	4	6e
Poor	11	10	7	6	6	4d	4	4	3	5	2	1e
Very Poor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Unknown	2	...	...	1	3	...	1	...	...	3	3	1e
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

3.0. Angler Fishing Effort

Overall, anglers fished an estimated 3,875,761 days in Saskatchewan in 2015, with 89 per cent of the effort expended by resident anglers. The overall number of days fished in Table 9 does not match the total effort in Table 8 as the overall effort reported is based on an individual survey question (2b), whereas Table 8 is based on a separate set of questions pertaining to the number of days fished per body of water. On average, anglers spent 20.5 days per angler fishing in 2015. The Southern Fisheries Management Zone accounted for 67 per cent of the total effort, with the Central Management Zone and Northern Management Zone accounting for 30 per cent and three per cent, respectively. In 2015, there were 1,010,845 days spent angling through the ice, which was 26 per cent of the overall angling effort and 173,934 days spent fishing stocked trout, accounting for five per cent of the overall angling effort.

For the purpose of this survey, Saskatchewan was divided into nine fishing areas (Figure 2). Fishing effort between survey areas is summarized in Table 8. Resident anglers spent 70 per cent of their effort in the Southern Management Zone, while non-residents spent only 44 per cent of their time there.

Table 8. Angler-days expended by active adult anglers in each Saskatchewan fisheries management zone, 2015

Fisheries Management Zone	Survey Area	Resident		Non-Resident		Total
		Total	Canadian	Other	Total	
Northern	North	102,324 ^e	3,030 ^e	14,519 ^b	17,549	119,873 ^d
Central	North Central	261,057 ^b	79,061 ^b	26,648 ^b	105,709 ^b	366,766 ^b
	Northwest Central	201,258 ^c	74,489 ^c	830 ^e	75,319	276,577 ^b
	Northeast Central	234,625 ^c	6,549 ^e	225 ^e	6,774 ^e	241,399 ^c
	Tobin Lake	165,299 ^c	20,269 ^e	3,991 ^d	24,260	189,559 ^c
	Totals	862,239	180,368	31,694	212,062	1,074,301
Southern	Southwest Central	523,288 ^b	114,819 ^b	1,109 ^d	115,928	639,216 ^b
	Southeast Central	225,533 ^c	2,481 ^e	484 ^e	2,965 ^e	228,498 ^c
	South	942,950 ^b	41,062 ^d	10,626 ^c	51,688	994,638 ^b
	Qu'Appelle	561,182 ^b	9,845 ^e	3,108 ^d	12,953	574,135 ^b
	Totals	2,252,953	168,207	15,327	183,534	2,436,487
Unknown		16,966 ^e	158 ^e	1,423 ^e	1,581 ^e	18,547 ^e
All	Totals	3,234,482 ^a	351,763 ^b	62,963 ^b	414,726	3,649,208 ^a

Table 9. Overall angling effort by active adult anglers in Saskatchewan, 1990-2015

	Angler-days					
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015
Resident	2,007,998	1,946,353	1,789,298	1,611,865	2,008,339	3,425,303 ^a
Non-resident	309,683	287,895	275,177	261,003	252,972	450,458 ^b
Totals	2,317,681	2,234,248	2,064,475	1,872,868	2,261,311	3,875,761 ^a

4.0. Angler Harvest

Anglers caught an estimated 17.8 million fish, of which they retained 3.7 million weighing an estimated 3.2 million kilograms. The actual harvest of fish in Saskatchewan is higher than the reported 3.7 million fish, as the harvest figure does not account for anglers younger than 16 years of age or resident seniors 65 years and older.

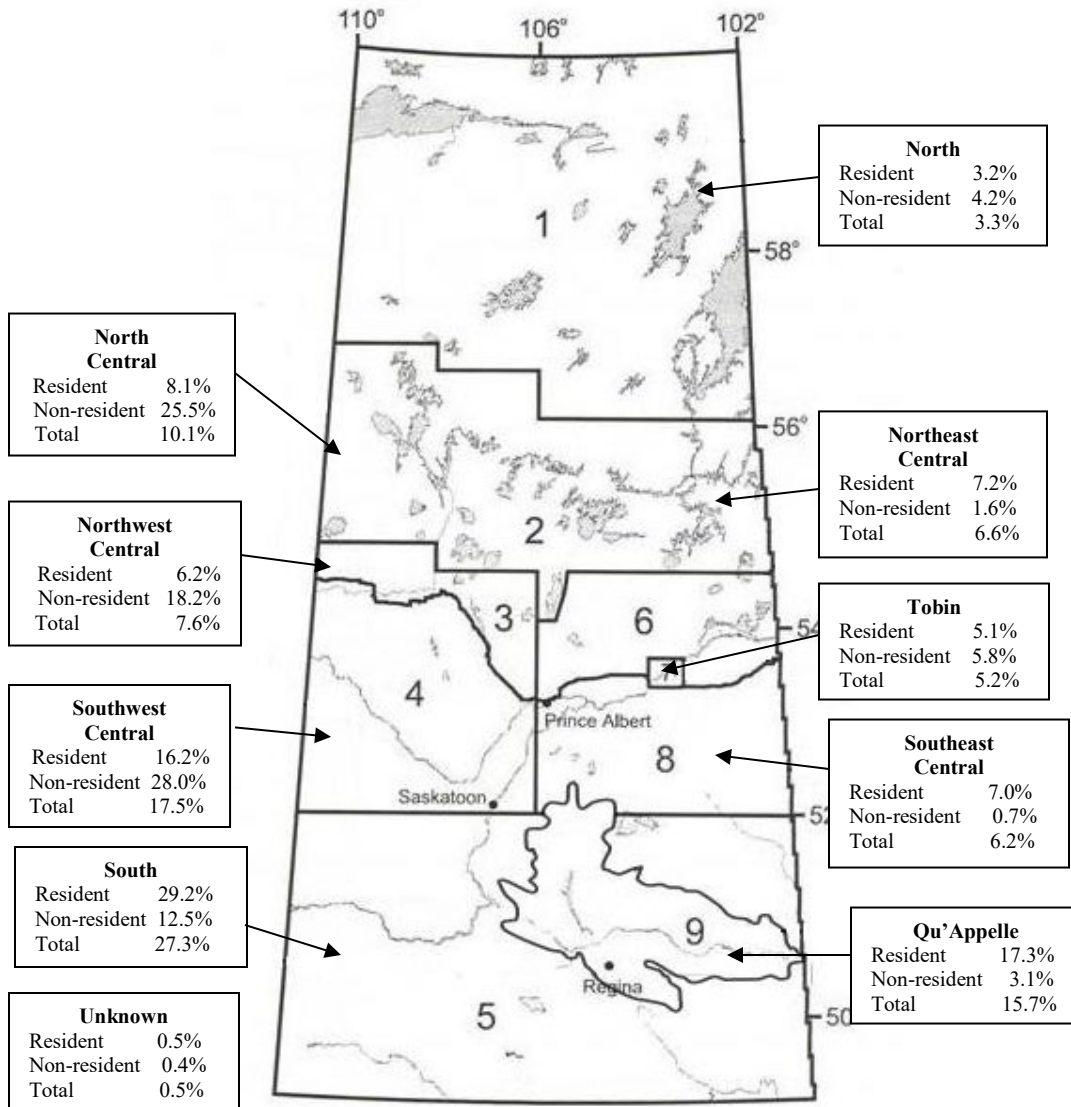


Figure 2. Percentage of angler-days expended by anglers in each fishing area of Saskatchewan in 2015

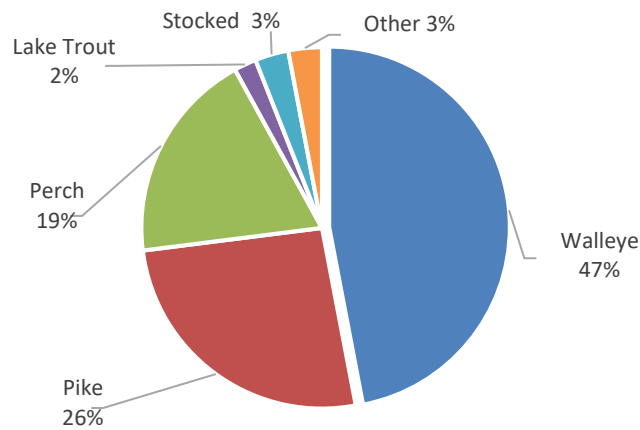


Figure 3. Composition of recreational harvest in Saskatchewan, 2015

In 2015, 92 per cent of the total harvest was comprised of walleye, northern pike and yellow perch, in that order, with walleye being 47 per cent of the total (Figure 3). Except for 2000, the number of fish caught per angler-day has remained relatively steady since 1990, while the number of fish kept per angler-day has decreased (Table 11). Resident anglers accounted for 85 per cent of all fish caught and 87 per cent of all fish kept, an increase from 2010 by six and one per cent respectively. Anglers kept a higher proportion of the stocked trout species that they caught (27 per cent), as compared to the major fish species (21 per cent). There were more anglers practicing catch and release in 2015, with the proportion of all fish kept by active anglers being lower than previous surveys at 21 per cent (Table 12).

Table 10. Numbers of fish caught and kept by anglers in Saskatchewan, 1990-2015

Species	Year	Caught			Kept		
		Resident	Non-Resident	Total	Resident	Non-Resident	Total
Pike	1990	2,772,124	1,075,123	3,847,247	1,125,609	215,839	1,341,448
	1995	2,310,453	1,130,459	3,440,912	877,877	176,649	1,054,526
	2000	2,536,559	1,640,469	4,177,028	786,875	136,008	922,883
	2005	1,897,688	1,155,330	3,053,018	622,641	119,406	742,047
	2010	2,397,242	939,093	3,336,335	722,674	116,772	839,446
	2015	4,328,982b	1,145,736b	5,474,718b	803,303b	149,915b	953,218b
Walleye	1990	2,566,366	860,118	3,426,484	1,280,045	326,961	1,607,006
	1995	2,303,600	874,222	3,177,822	974,545	248,554	1,223,099
	2000	2,635,086	834,448	3,469,534	911,004	169,636	1,080,640
	2005	2,368,187	697,081	3,065,268	789,821	147,920	937,741
	2010	2,942,619	730,141	3,672,760	977,886	144,856	1,122,742
	2015	7,333,770b	1,064,378b	8,398,148b	1,564,652b	194,058	1,758,710b
Perch	1990	2,423,886	147,359	2,571,245	1,410,403	83,204	1,493,607
	1995	2,461,922	169,740	2,631,662	1,269,461	75,140	1,344,601
	2000	2,390,472	183,191	2,573,663	1,041,162	61,400	1,102,562
	2005	1,207,327	108,453	1,315,780	513,172	39,451	552,623
	2010	1,854,506	137,395	1,991,901	642,782	47,369	690,151
	2015	2,073,853b	317,984	2,391,837e	619,185b	93,319	712,504b
Lake trout	1990	175,592	138,273	313,865	83,861	34,337	118,198
	1995	97,020	138,539	235,559	32,470	29,018	61,488
	2000	157,800	281,390	439,190	31,582	21,975	53,557
	2005	102,791	175,045	277,836	22,838	17,511	40,349
	2010	114,677	144,82	259,498	20,893	14,116	35,009
	2015	509,501c	116,131	625,632c	80,403d	10,559	90,962c
Major species ¹	1990	7,937,968	2,220,873	10,158,841	3,899,918	660,341	4,560,259
	1995	7,172,995	2,312,960	9,485,955	3,154,353	529,361	3,683,714
	2000	7,719,917	2,939,498	10,659,415	2,770,623	389,019	3,159,642
	2005	5,575,993	2,135,909	7,711,902	1,948,472	324,288	2,272,760
	2010	7,309,044	1,951,450	9,260,494	2,364,235	323,113	2,687,348
	2015	14,246,106	2,644,229	16,890,335	3,067,543	447,851	3,515,394
Stocked trout ²	1990	171,679	39,207	210,886	106,853	17,960	124,813
	1995	179,046	17,471	196,517	88,469	4,096	92,565
	2000	373,224	31,661	404,885	210,034	8,705	218,739
	2005	89,024	14,405	103,429	46,996	8,225	55,221
	2010	126,982	8,524	135,506	55,301	2,714	58,015
	2015	311,908	54,656	366,564	79,999	17,670	97,669
All species	1990	8,452,197	2,323,041	10,775,238	4,131,393	691,664	4,823,057
	1995	7,688,425	2,380,456	10,068,881	3,330,003	540,313	3,870,316
	2000	8,330,790	3,030,540	11,361,330	3,034,395	401,994	3,436,389
	2005	5,826,570	2,173,145	7,999,715	2,025,356	336,093	2,361,449
	2010	7,644,386	1,985,630	9,630,016	2,476,494	328,206	2,804,700
	2015	15,059,333b	2,747,689	17,807,022b	3,239,875b	474,880	3,714,755a

¹ Major species include walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, and lake trout

² Stocked trout include rainbow, brook, brown trout and splake

Sixty-four per cent of the total harvest in 2015 occurred in the Southern Management Zone, with the Central Management Zone accounting for 31 per cent of the harvest and the Northern Management Zone five per cent. Nearly 58 per cent of the total harvest came from three principal areas of the province: South, Southwest Central and North Central survey areas.

Table 11. Number of fish caught and kept per angler-day in Saskatchewan, 1990-2015

	Fish per angler day					
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015
Caught	4.7	4.5	5.5	4.3	4.3	4.6
Kept	2.1	1.7	1.7	1.3	1.2	1.0

Table 12. Proportion of fish kept by active anglers in Saskatchewan, 1985-2015

Species	Year	Resident			Non-resident			Total
		Licensed	Senior	Total	Canadian	Other	Total	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Major Species ¹	1985	65	81	66	55	26	34	58
	1990	47	73	49	37	24	30	45
	1995	43	55	44	35	17	23	39
	2000	...	...	36	22	9	13	30
	2005	...	...	35	26	9	15	29
	2010	...	...	32	23	10	17	29
	2015	...	...	22	20	11	17	21
Stocked Species ²	1985	84	89	84	71	64	70	83
	1990	62	76	62	49	16	46	59
	1995	47	77	49	23	35	23	47
	2000	...	...	56	48	7	27	54
	2005	...	...	53	58	49	57	53
	2010	...	...	44	29	73	32	43
	2015	...	...	26	32	59	32	27
Other Species ³	1985	67	85	68	87	18	45	65
	1990	37	29	36	28	12	21	34
	1995	24	46	26	20	9	13	24
	2000	...	...	23	18	3	7	20
	2005	...	...	19	26	5	16	18
	2010	...	...	27	18	10	11	25
	2015	...	...	18	20	13	19	19
All Species	1985	66	81	66	56	26	35	58
	1990	47	72	49	37	24	30	45
	1995	42	56	43	34	17	23	38
	2000	...	...	36	23	9	13	30
	2005	...	...	35	27	9	15	30
	2010	...	...	33	23	10	17	29
	2015	...	...	22	20	11	17	21

¹ Major species include walleye, northern pike, perch, and lake trout

² Stocked trout include rainbow, brook, brown trout and splake

³ Other species include lake whitefish, goldeye, grayling, burbot, and fish not identified by respondents

5.0. Angler Expenditures and Investments

5.1. Expenditures

In 2015, anglers spent approximately \$206 million on goods and services directly related to sport fishing. Food, lodging, transportation and fishing packages accounted for 84 per cent of this total.

Saskatchewan residents spent a total of \$155 million or \$1,066 per angler, Canadian residents \$32 million or \$949 per angler, and other non-residents \$19 million or \$1,833 per angler (Table 13).

5.2. Investments

Anglers in Saskatchewan invested approximately \$620 million in major durable goods and property in 2015, with boats/boating equipment, camping equipment, special vehicles and real estate accounting for 93 per cent of the total value of investments. Of this total, 56 per cent or approximately \$349 million was directly or wholly attributable to sport fishing (Table 14).

The average investment of resident anglers was \$3,354, Canadian resident anglers \$3,670 and other non-resident anglers \$801. Eighty per cent of the investments were made by Saskatchewan residents.

Overall, expenditures and investments by anglers in Saskatchewan during 2015 totaled more than \$826 million, of which approximately \$555 million was attributed directly to sport fishing. These figures indicate a 66 per cent increase in expenditures and investments since 2010 (Table 15).

Table 13. Expenditures directly attributable to sport fishing in Saskatchewan, 2015

Expenditure	Resident	Non-Resident		Total	Total
		Canadian	Other		
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Food and lodging	52,717,512 ^b	11,542,383	3,061,986	14,604,369	67,321,881 ^b
Travel costs	42,815,403 ^b	8,061,527 ^b	2,138,797 ^b	10,200,324 ^b	53,015,727 ^a
Household boat costs	25,831,192 ^b	3,255,730 ^c	249,856 ^c	3,505,586 ^c	29,336,778 ^b
Fishing services ¹	7,330,756	2,033,919	1,098,328	3,132,247	10,463,003
Fishing supplies	18,242,122 ^b	2,281,047 ^b	308,837 ^b	2,589,884 ^b	20,832,006 ^b
Other expenditures	1,281,527 ^e	844,099 ^e	347,214 ^e	1,191,313 ^e	2,472,840 ^d
Total	148,218,512	28,018,705	7,205,018	35,223,723	183,442,235
Packages²	6,936,841^c	3,885,454^c	12,116,123^b	16,001,577^b	22,938,418^b
Total	155,155,353^b	31,904,159^b	19,321,141^b	51,225,300^b	206,380,653^a
Average per active adult angler	1,066	949	1,833	1,160	1,090

¹ Fishing services include boat rentals, guide costs, licence fees and access fees

² Packages include fly-in lodge, charter boat, etc., costs.

Table 14. Major purchases and investments relating in part or in whole to sport fishing in Saskatchewan in 2015

Purchase	Resident	Non-Resident			Total
		Canadian	Other	Total	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Fishing equipment	27,982,753 ^b	1,409,761 ^c	154,362 ^d	1,564,123 ^c	29,546,876 ^b
Boats/boating equipment	129,138,483	16,575,675 ^e	139,473 ^e	16,715,148 ^e	145,853,631 ^c
Camping equipment	62,832,421 ^c	1,651,477 ^e	8,573 ^e	1,660,050 ^e	64,492,471 ^c
Special vehicles	113,459,234 ^d	5,077,782 ^e	0	5,077,782 ^e	118,537,016 ^c
Land and buildings	140,275,207 ^e	98,064,876 ^e	8,117,993 ^e	106,182,869 ^e	246,458,076 ^d
Other investments	14,332,247 ^b	646,051 ^d	26,877 ^e	672,928 ^d	15,005,175 ^b
Total	488,020,345^c	123,425,622^e	8,447,278^e	131,872,900^e	619,893,245^c
Average per active adult angler	3,354	3,670	801	2,986	3,274
Totals attributable to sport fishing	279,014,418 ^c	61,306,262 ^d	8,440,525 ^e	69,746,786 ^d	348,761,204 ^b
Average per active angler	1,917	1,823	801	1,579	1,842

Table 15. Major purchases and investments relating in part or in whole to sport fishing in Saskatchewan 1995-2015

Expenditure	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Expenditures on sport fishing activities	95,393,147	108,167,299	120,032,879	133,820,495	206,380,653 ^a
Major purchases and investments	177,983,362	146,831,714	192,790,267	362,399,836	619,893,245 ^c
Total purchases and investments	273,376,509	254,999,013	312,823,146	496,220,331	826,273,898
Purchases and investments attributable to angling	82,594,905	72,944,840	96,248,320	168,133,146	348,761,204 ^b
Expenditures, purchases and investments attributable to angling	177,988,052	181,112,139	216,281,199	301,953,641	555,141,857

6.0. Conclusions

This survey confirms that sport fishing remains an important socio-economic component of the natural resource sector for the province. This survey indicates that anglers caught an estimated 17.8 million fish in 2015, of which 3.7 million were harvested, weighing an estimated 3.2 million kilograms. The proportion of fish kept continues to decline as more anglers are practicing catch and release fishing either voluntarily or as required by more conservation oriented angling limits.

An estimated 297,084 active anglers spent approximately 3.9 million days fishing in Saskatchewan in 2015. Approximately 234,924 Saskatchewan residents of all ages continued to participate in sport fishing. Of the total active anglers in the province, approximately 107,758 were under the age of 16. Overall, participation in sport fishing in Saskatchewan has increased in recent years, with the number of active adult anglers improving steadily since 2005.

Anglers accounted for over \$826 million being invested in the province in 2015. Approximately \$206 million was spent on goods and services directly relating to sport fishing, including items such as food, lodging, transportation and fishing packages. A further \$620 million was spent on major purchases and investments in durable goods such as boats, special vehicles and property, of which \$349 million was directly attributable to sport fishing. In total, anglers invested more than \$826 million in Saskatchewan in 2015, of which approximately \$555 million was directly or wholly attributable to sport fishing.

7.0. Data Quality and Comparability

Data validation and weighting strategies changed in 2015 and care should be taken when making comparisons between this survey and previous surveys. Estimates for larger domains should see less impact due to the minor changes in the validation and weighting strategies. The coefficient of variations (CVs) of the final estimates should also be taken into account when trying to make comparisons to earlier editions of the survey. The range of CVs below provide guidelines as to the use of the data and are included in the tables where applicable:

Coefficient of Variation	Grades	Guideline
Less than 5.00%	a	Data can be used without condition
5.01% to 15.00%	b	Data can be used with caution
15.01% to 25.00%	c	Data should be used with caution
25.01% to 35.00%	d	Data should be used with caution
Greater than 35.00%	e	Data should be used with extreme caution