



# Fisheries Management Plan – Five Year Review 2010-15

## Executive Summary

### Background

The Fisheries Management Plan, released by Saskatchewan's Ministry of Environment in 2010, provides a framework for maintaining and enhancing the values and benefits of Saskatchewan's fishery. The plan identifies challenges and opportunities that can affect Saskatchewan's fisheries resources and the achievement of fisheries management goals and objectives. Significant consultation was carried out prior to the development of the plan, and input was incorporated into the document.

Four outcomes are identified as key elements of the plan:

- Sustainable management;
- Protect and accommodate the Treaty and Aboriginal right to fish;
- Allocation to optimize social and economic benefits;
- Shared responsibility and public engagement.

Twelve performance indicators are intended to measure the effectiveness of plan implementation in achieving these outcomes.

A total of 51 action items were developed to achieve the outcomes. In some cases, specific and detailed actions are identified. In other cases, a management approach is taken to guide future decisions and policies.

The Fisheries Management Plan is designed to be a dynamic document, flexible and adaptable to a wide range of future conditions. An adaptive management approach is taken with reviews every five years to evaluate the progress in achieving plan outcomes and continuing appropriateness of plan principles and objectives.

This document provides the first five-year evaluation of the plan's implementation and the ministry's performance at achieving the plan's outcomes. The ministry's Fisheries Advisory Committee provided input and advice into the review.

## Review Results

Review of the plan's guiding principles indicated they remain relevant to the plan's implementation and to provincial fisheries management activities in general.

Considerable progress was made implementing the plan's action items from 2010 to 2015: of the 51 listed, 21 are complete and significant progress was made on 11 others. Twenty-three actions are considered ongoing. Since 2014, considerable effort has been expended on actions to address the risks of aquatic invasive species.

Although some performance indicators were difficult to assess, and not all were achieved, the four plan outcomes have been met overall.



## Recommendations

Several recommendations are made for continued plan implementation over the next five years (2016 to 2020).

Actions identified as a priority for the next five years include:

- assessment of the vulnerability of Saskatchewan's aquatic species to climate change, and development of a strategy to address potential impacts;
- development of a fisheries enhancement plan which provides direction for future projects, and contains a process for monitoring and evaluating program success;
- review and refinement of fisheries productivity models for use in Saskatchewan;
- further refinement of the standardized field data collection and reporting, and the development of population management objectives for individual waters;
- partnering with First Nations and Métis to improve communications and information sharing; and
- providing adequate resources to address significant threats to the fishery, such as the risks posed by aquatic invasive species.

Performance indicators will be reviewed prior to the next five-year plan review to determine if they provide an appropriate measure of achievement for their associated outcome. Indicators and data collected to measure them will be modified as a result.

The next review of the plan will be delayed by a year (until 2021) in order to incorporate the 2020 federal-provincial angler survey results into the performance assessment.

