
Angling in Manitoba

2005 Survey of Recreational Angling

Manitoba
spirited energy

Manitoba 
Water Stewardship

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2005 MANITOBA ANGLING SURVEY NOTES OF INTEREST

There were 166,433 licensed adult anglers in Manitoba in 2005 (down 11% from 2000). Of these, 77% were residents, 6% were from other Canadian provinces/territories, and 17% were from outside of Canada.

In 2004, Manitoba introduced a Canadian resident licence. Prior to this, the "resident" category included Manitobans and other Canadians.

Over 82% of Canadian resident anglers are from Saskatchewan and Alberta, while 63% of nonresidents are from the West North Central area of the U.S. (North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri).

Anglers fished for approximately 2.6 million days (down 4% from 2000), of which 351,825 days were spent fishing through the ice. Resident anglers accounted for nearly 90% of the total days fished.

Approximately 12 million fish were caught (down 14% from 2000). The primary species caught were walleye (6.1 million fish), northern pike (3.3 million), and perch (1.1 million fish).

The overall release rate was 78% in 2005 (up slightly from 2000). The stocked trout release rate increased from 58% in 2000 to 78% in 2005.

Of the respondents who indicated that they kept fish, 92% indicated it was for consumption by themselves or their households.

Anglers spent \$106.3 million in Manitoba on activities and supplies directly related to fishing, down 11% from 2000. An additional \$110.0 million was spent on major purchases or investments attributable to fishing (+20% from 2000).

The quality of the angling experience in Manitoba in 2005 was rated highly by all anglers; 73% of residents, 82% of Canadian residents, and 92% of nonresidents rated their experience from "excellent" to "good".

Almost 60% of Canadian resident and nonresident anglers indicated that the primary reason they chose Manitoba as a fishing destination was the superior quality of angling.

INTRODUCTION

The seventh national survey of recreational angling in Canada was conducted in 2005. As with previous surveys, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans conducted the survey in cooperation with provincial and territorial agencies. Questions used in the survey were selected to provide continuity within jurisdictions and allow comparisons with other survey years. The survey results provide the only national information on activity and harvest rates in our recreational fisheries, and provide a detailed source on the economic dimensions of this activity.

Nationally, there was a 10% decline in the number of active adult anglers since 2000, the majority of loss being with resident anglers. The number of days fished also dropped by 10% and total catch declined by 7%. The number of fish kept dropped by 16%. The release rate increased slightly from 64% in 2000 to 67% in 2005, showing continued support by anglers to be less consumptive. Economically, there was a 4% decrease in expenditures related directly to angling.

In 2004, Manitoba introduced a Canadian Resident Licence for anglers residing in Canada but outside of Manitoba. Prior to this, Canadian residents were defined as residents. When comparing results from 1995 and 2000 surveys, Canadian residents will be separated from resident statistics.

In Manitoba, the total number of licensed adult anglers decreased by 10.5% from 185,971 in 2000 to 166,433 in 2005. Resident and nonresident licence sales decreased 9.7% and 13.1% respectively when compared to 2000. Angling effort declined slightly in Manitoba by 5.7% between 2000 and 2005, while total catch decreased 13%. The overall release rate for fish caught in 2005 (78%) was up slightly from 2000.

As with previous surveys, questionnaires were sent to anglers randomly selected from licence sales. 2,800 questionnaires were mailed to resident anglers, and 1,600 to Canadian residents and nonresidents of Canada. The data in this report gives a general overview of the results for Manitoba.

ANGLER PROFILE

There were 166,433 licensed adult anglers in Manitoba in 2005. Of these, 77% were residents, 6% were Canadian residents and 17% nonresidents (Table 1). Of Manitoba residents, 35% opted for a regular licence and 55% a conservation licence. Resident seniors comprised 10% of total licences issued (note: senior conservation licence is free). Canadian resident licence sales were 17% regular and 83% conservation. Of nonresidents, 16% and 84% purchased a regular and conservation licence respectively. When compared to 2000 survey results, overall there was a 10% decline in resident angling licence sales, and a combined 13% decline in Canadian resident and nonresident sales.

The average number of years fished in Manitoba by all licensed anglers was 21.5. Of this, residents averaged 24.7, Canadian residents 14.1, and nonresidents 9.4 years.

Of active adult anglers in all categories, 81% and 19% were male and female respectively. The number of active resident female anglers was 20%, similar to 2000.

The number of active anglers among children under 16 living with licensed anglers comprised 24% (resident), 21% (Canadian resident) and 9% (nonresident). The number of active anglers among children under 16 living with licensed anglers dropped slightly from 24% (2000) to 21% (2005).

In 2005, there were 12,967 seniors conservation licence holders, up 52% from 2000. Of these, 24% did not fish. Of all active seniors licence holders, females represented 21%.

The average age of licensed anglers was 49 for resident and Canadian resident anglers, and 52 for nonresident anglers. Resident male anglers averaged 49 years of age in 2005 (compared to 43 in 2000) while resident female anglers averaged 48 years of age (compared to 41 in 2000). Canadian resident male and female anglers averaged 50 and 46 years of age, while nonresident male and female anglers average 53 and 49 years respectively.

Resident purchases of Conservation Licences remained stable (55% in 2005 compared to 57% in 2000). About 83% of Canadian residents and 84% of nonresidents purchased a Conservation Licence (compared to 60% and 83% in 2000).

In total, Canadian resident and nonresidents purchased 37,528 angling licenses in 2005, down 13% from 2000. Of Canadian resident anglers, approximately 82% were from Saskatchewan and Alberta (Table 2). The vast majority of nonresident anglers come from the United States (99.8%). Most of these anglers came from the West North Central area (Figure 1). Data concerning nonresident trip characteristics, where they obtain trip information and why they selected Manitoba can be found on page 16.

Table 1: Numbers and characteristics of anglers in Manitoba by licence type.

	Resident			Canadian Resident (d)		Nonresident		Total
	Regular (c)	Conserv.	Senior	Regular	Conserv.	Regular	Conserv.	
Total Licensed Angling population (a) – Adults	44,821	71,117	12,967	1,697	8,478	4,257	23,096	166,433
Active Adults Anglers								
- Males	30,335	56,967	7,818	1,414	6,342	3,982	20,582	127,441
- Females	12,185	11,577	2,098	226	1,812	229	1,956	30,083
Total	42,520	68,544	9,916	1,640	8,154	4,211	22,538	157,524
Children (b)	37,251			2,558		2,794		42,604
Total Active Anglers - All Ages	158,231			12,352		29,543		200,126

(a) Individuals who purchased an angling licence in Manitoba in 2005. This group provides the basis for the statistical information in this report.

(b) Individuals under 16 years of age - minimum number as reported by survey respondents.

(c) Includes individuals over 65 who purchased a Regular Licence.

(d) Canadians who live in provinces/territories other than Manitoba and who fished in Manitoba in 2005.

Table 2: Origin of Canadian resident and nonresident licensed anglers in Manitoba.

Province - State Group	Numbers
Canadian:	
Nova Scotia	65
Quebec	129
Ontario	946
Saskatchewan	5,419
Alberta	2,912
British Columbia	704
Canadian Total	10,177
Non-Canadian (U.S.A.):	
Mid Atlantic	465
East North Central	5,070
West North Central	17,032
Mountain	1,253
Pacific	744
South Atlantic	1,070
East South Central	418
West South Central	884
New England	93
Non-Canadian Total	27,029
TOTAL	37,206



Figure 1: Regional distribution of United States residents who held Manitoba licenses in 2005.

ANGLING EFFORT

"Angling effort" is measured in days, where all or part of a day is considered one unit of effort.

Anglers in Manitoba fished for approximately 2.6 million days in 2005 (Table 3) slightly down from 2.71 million days in 2000. Resident anglers accounted for 90% of the total, Canadian residents 3%, and nonresidents 7% of the total days fished. Average number of days fished per active resident angler was 19, Canadian resident angler 9, and nonresident angler 7. The overall average was 16.2 days which was slightly higher than the 2000 average (15.3 days fished).

The estimated number of anglers under 16 decreased from 55,171 (2000) to 42,604 (2005) however, the total days fished remained stable. As in previous years, resident youth are the most active, accounting for 92% of this effort.

Anglers spent about 351,825 days fishing through the ice (Table 3) as compared to 412,222 days in 2000. In 2005, this represented 14% of the total angling effort and of those who ice fished, resident anglers comprised 95% of effort, Canadian residents 3% and nonresidents 2%. The average number of days anglers ice fished remained stable (2.2 in 2005 compared to 2.3 in 2000).

For the purposes of this survey, the province is divided into seven areas and these areas have not significantly changed since 1985 (Figure 3). This allows for comparisons of effort and catch rates by area and survey year.

In 2005, 49% of all angling effort took place in Areas 4 and 7. Of the angling effort in these areas, the majority were resident anglers. Although Areas 4 and 7 still represent the most angling effort in Manitoba, there was a slight decline (-3.5% from 2000). In most regions, the percentage of anglers days expended remained stable from 2000 with the exception of the Southern (Area 4) that decreased by 9%. This shift resulted in an increase in angler days in the Northwestern (Area 2) and Whiteshell / Nopiming (Area 7) fishing areas.

The majority of nonresident effort was focused in Northern (23.9%), North Western (26.8%) and Southern (26.9%) areas. As in previous surveys, Southern area fishing activity was predominantly in the Buffalo Bay and the Red River channel catfish fishery.

Table 3: Angling effort in Manitoba

	Resident	Canadian Resident	Nonresident	Total
Adult Anglers				
Days Fished - Open Water	1,954,183	77,326	171,197	2,202,706
Days Ice Fished	334,578	11,540	5,707	351,825
Total Days Fished	2,288,761	88,866	176,904	2,554,531
No. of Active Adult Anglers	120,980	9,794	26,749	157,524
Average Days/Angler - Open Water	16.2	7.9	6.4	14.0
Average Days/Angler - Ice Fishing	2.8	1.2	0.2	2.2
Average Days/Angler - Total	19.0	9.1	6.6	16.2
Anglers under 16 Years				
Total Days Fished	302,632	13,422	14,564	330,619
No. of Active Anglers	37,251	2,558	2,794	42,604
Average Days/Angler	8.1	5.2	5.2	7.8

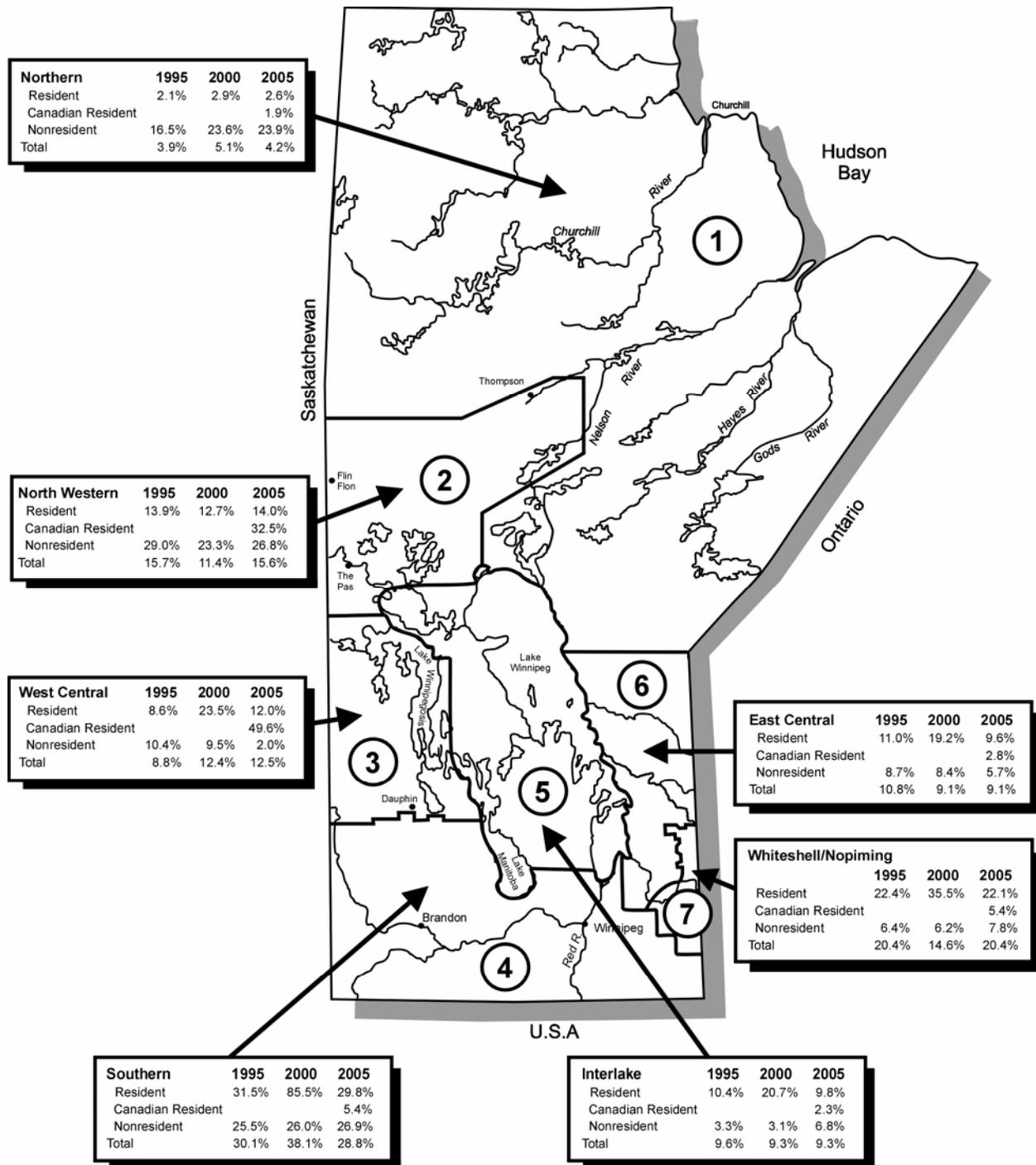


Figure 2: Percentage of angler-days expended by anglers in each fishing area of Manitoba in 2005 compared to 2000 and 1995.

CATCH AND HARVEST

Approximately 12 million fish were caught by anglers in Manitoba (Table 4). The predominant species caught were walleye (51%), pike (27%) and perch (9%). Of the total catch, residents landed 72%, nonresidents 25% and Canadian residents 3%. The average catch per resident angler was 72 fish. The average catch per Canadian resident was 41 fish and nonresident 111 fish.

In comparison to 2000, the most notable changes in catch rates were Perch (-51%), Northern Pike (-21%), Channel Catfish (-20%) and Smallmouth Bass (+33%).

Anglers fishing in Manitoba retained approximately 2.6 million fish, with an overall release rate of 78%. Of active adult anglers, residents released 74% of their catch, while Canadian residents and nonresidents released 78% and 92% respectively. When divided into the seven areas of the province, the release rate was highest in the Northern area at 93% versus 71% in the Interlake area. Compared to 2000, the overall release rate for fish caught increased 2%.

For the two major species, the release rate for walleye was 72% and pike was 89%. Release rates remained relatively the same as in 2000. The stocked trout release rate increased from 58% (2000) to 78% (2005).

Anglers were asked if they released any fish that they caught in Manitoba in 2005 and, if so, whether it was because it was mandatory, voluntary, or for both reasons. Of those who responded to the question, 90% of residents, 87% of Canadian residents, and 96% of nonresidents said they had released fish. When asked why, 42% of all anglers indicated it was voluntary while 6% indicated it was mandatory.

Resident anglers were asked to estimate the total weight of the fish that they kept. Of those who responded, almost 1.5 million kgs of fish was kept, at an average of 16 kgs per angler. Of this, over 92% of the fish kept were eaten by respondents or members of their household. This consumption rate was consistent with 2000 survey results.

Table 4: Number of fish caught and retained by species.

Fish Species	Resident	Canadian Resident	Nonresident	Total
No. of Fish Caught				
Walleye	4,284,077	259,198	1,594,862	6,138,137
Pike	2,023,720	80,387	1,185,268	3,289,375
Perch	1,030,708	20,410	32,761	1,083,879
Lake Trout	180,286	14,596	66,982	261,864
Smallmouth Bass	325,047	2,378	28,305	355,730
Channel Catfish	188,721	8,146	46,984	243,851
Stocked Trout	108,440	6,461	3,722	118,622
Other	564,472	6,245	6,508	577,224
Total Fish Caught	8,705,471	397,820	2,965,391	12,068,682
No. of Active Adult Anglers	120,980	9,794	26,749	157,524
Fish Caught per Active Adult Angler	72	41	111	77
No. of Fish Retained				
Walleye	1,453,204	60,771	188,717	1,702,691
Pike	296,106	14,803	44,162	355,070
Perch	337,236	5,945	6,669	349,850
Lake Trout	37,372	2,837	3,950	44,159
Smallmouth Bass	15,500	259	1,020	16,778
Channel Catfish	7,719	--	931	8,650
Stocked Trout	25,479	663	278	26,420
Other	105,543	574	2,095	108,212
Total Fish Retained	2,278,159	85,851	247,822	2,611,832
Fish Kept per Active Adult Angler	19	9	9	17
Percent of Fish Released	74%	78%	92%	78%

ANGLING EXPENDITURES

In 2005, anglers spent \$106.3 million in Manitoba on activities and supplies directly attributable to fishing (Table 5). Resident expenditures comprised 60%, Canadian residents 4%, and nonresidents 36% of total direct expenditures in the province. On average, residents spent \$530, Canadian residents spent \$437, and nonresident spent \$1417 on angling. Overall, direct expenditures on angling were down 12% from 2000. The most significant decline was observed in total package sales (-39%), fishing licence fees (-23%) and accommodations (-20%).

Direct expenditures on ice fishing decreased slightly compared to 2000 but only comprised 4% of the total, with residents contributing 93% all expenditures on ice fishing (Table 6). On average, residents spent \$31, Canadian residents spent \$19, and nonresident spent \$4 on ice fishing.

Anglers also made major purchases and investments related in whole or in part to recreational angling (Table 7). Residents comprised nearly 98% of all major purchases and investments equaling \$256 million. The survey also asked what portion of major purchases and investments were wholly attributable to angling in Manitoba (Table 8). Of this, resident anglers accounted for nearly 97% of all purchases (\$110 million). In addition, residents spent over \$6 million directly on ice fishing (Table 9).

Table 5: Expenditures directly attributable to recreational fishing in Manitoba.

Expenditures	Resident	Canadian Resident	Nonresident	Total
Total Package Costs	\$2,068,950	\$652,163	\$23,040,148	\$25,761,261
Accommodation	\$2,363,230	\$481,121	\$3,540,485	\$6,384,836
Campsite Fees	\$3,754,568	\$214,319	\$792,943	\$4,761,830
Food	\$14,003,615	\$1,066,828	\$2,631,388	\$17,701,831
Travel	\$20,978,207	\$899,690	\$3,523,802	\$25,401,699
Household-owned Boat Costs	\$11,982,816	\$328,624	\$837,614	\$13,149,054
Boat Rentals	\$546,967	\$60,824	\$550,209	\$1,158,000
Fishing supplies	\$5,863,643	\$268,307	\$711,862	\$6,843,812
Guide Services	\$150,384	\$19,415	\$544,721	\$714,521
Fishing Licence Fees	\$1,316,499	\$211,887	\$839,494	\$2,367,880
Access Fees	\$868,907	\$32,596	\$50,639	\$952,142
Other	\$192,477	\$41,596	\$840,187	\$1,074,260
Total Direct Expenditures	\$64,090,265	\$4,277,369	\$37,903,491	\$106,271,125
No. of Active Anglers	120,980	9,794	26,749	157,524
Ave. per Active Angler	\$529.76	\$436.73	\$1,417.00	\$674.63
No. of Angler-Days	2,288,761	88,866	176,904	2,554,531
Ave. per Angler-Day	\$28.00	\$48.13	\$214.26	\$41.60

Table 6: Expenditures directly attributable to ice fishing in Manitoba.

Expenditures	Resident	Canadian Resident	Nonresident	Total
Total Expenditures	\$3,765,135	\$183,849	\$102,782	\$4,051,766
No. of Active Anglers	120,980	9,794	26,749	157,524
Ave. per Active Angler	\$31.12	\$18.77	\$3.84	\$25.72
No. of Angler-Days of Ice Fishing	334,578	11,540	5,707	351,825
Ave. Per Angler-Day	\$11.25	\$15.93	\$18.00	\$11.52

Table 7: Major purchases or investments relating in whole or in part to recreational fishing in Manitoba.

Expenditures	Resident	Canadian Resident	Nonresident	Total
Fishing Equipment	\$8,090,573	\$122,311	\$402,351	\$8,615,235
Boating Equipment	\$59,103,761	\$233,611	\$39,305	\$59,376,677
Camping equipment	\$34,931,775	\$1,843,030	\$15,650	\$36,790,454
Special Vehicles	\$78,457,751	\$997,117	\$9,403	\$79,464,271
Land/Buildings	\$71,542,816	--	\$1,564,240	\$73,107,056
Other	\$4,122,686	\$49,320	\$61,554	\$4,233,560
Total Major Purchases	\$256,249,362	\$3,245,388	\$2,092,503	\$261,587,253
No. of Active Anglers	120,980	9,794	26,749	157,524
Ave. per Active Angler	\$2,118.11	\$331.36	\$78.23	\$1,660.62

Table 8: Major purchases wholly attributed to recreational fishing in Manitoba.

Expenditures	Resident	Canadian Resident	Nonresident	Total
Fishing Equipment	\$8,090,576	\$122,311	\$402,351	\$8,615,235
Boating Equipment	\$44,655,777	\$233,594	\$39,300	\$44,928,671
Camping equipment	\$14,279,570	\$1,235,817	\$15,498	\$15,530,885
Special Vehicles	\$23,174,429	\$32,886	\$9,403	\$23,216,718
Land/Buildings	\$12,971,793	--	\$987,441	\$13,959,234
Other	\$3,686,366	\$46,037	\$58,680	\$3,788,082
Total Major Purchases	\$106,855,509	\$1,670,645	\$1,512,672	\$110,038,825
No. of Active Anglers	120,980	9,794	26,749	157,524
Ave. per Active Angler	\$883.25	\$170.58	\$56.55	\$698.55

Table 9: Major purchases made solely for ice fishing in Manitoba.

Expenditures	Resident	Canadian Resident	Nonresident	Total
Total Major Purchases	\$6,339,384	\$12,728	\$4,231	\$6,356,343
No. of Active Anglers	120,980	9,794	26,749	157,524
Ave. per Active Angler	\$52.4	\$1.30	\$0.16	\$40.35

BAIT USE

Anglers were asked about their use of and preference for various types of bait. The first part of the question asked anglers to rate bait/lures in order of use and how much processed and/or live bait they purchased. The second part of the question asked if anglers used live bait fish, processed bait fish and/or live leeches that they caught themselves for their own use.

About 62% of all resident anglers selected frozen/salted bait fish as their first or second choice while 27% of residents stated that they never used this type of bait (Table 10). For residents, lures were the next most often selected (41%), followed by worms (38%), live bait fish (14%), live leeches (8%) and "other" bait (4%). Almost 75% of residents stated that they never used live leeches, and 73% never used live bait fish (although residents had the highest rate of use of live bait fish). These percentages were consistent with 2000 survey results.

Canadian residents had similar preferences to residents with frozen/salted bait fish being their most often used bait followed by lures and worms; however, they had the highest preference for leeches (16%). They were the least likely to select live bait fish (5%). These trends were similar in 2000.

Nonresident preferences differed from the others, with lures being their top choice (68%). Their next most selected bait was worms (29%) and frozen/salted bait fish (28%). Again, bait preference were similar to 2000.

Over 671,300 packages of frozen/salted bait fish were purchased by all anglers (Table 11). Residents accounted for 91% of total sales. Worms were the next most often purchased bait (333,082 dozen) and again residents were the major buyers (78%). Approximately 165,769 dozen live bait fish were sold in the province of which residents purchased 85%. Residents also bought 80% of the 162,923 dozen live leeches sold in Manitoba.

Anglers were also asked if they used any bait that they caught themselves. Less than 5% of resident anglers said that they caught live bait fish for their own use while only 3% caught and used their own live leeches. Only 6% caught and processed their own frozen/salted bait fish for personal use. Nonresidents were even less active with only 1% catching and using their own live bait fish, and only 2% using their own leeches or processing their own frozen/salted bait fish.

Table 10. Bait Preference

Bait Type	Resident		Canadian Resident		Nonresident	
	1st & 2nd Choice	Never selected	1st & 2nd Choice	Never selected	1st & 2nd Choice	Never selected
Frozen/Salted Bait Fish	62%	27%	43%	50%	28%	64%
Worms	38%	45%	25%	70%	29%	64%
Live Bait Fish	14%	73%	5%	87%	9%	85%
Live Leeches	8%	75%	16%	78%	9%	77%
Lures	41%	36%	46%	40%	68%	21%
Other Bait	4%	83%	9%	84%	2%	91%

Table 11. Bait purchased

Bait Type & Amount Purchased	Residents	Canadian Resident	Nonresident	Total
Packages of Frozen/Salted Bait Fish	610,899	21,301	39,107	671,307
Dozens of Worms	258,870	9,043	65,169	333,082
Dozens of Live Bait Fish	140,817	4,538	20,414	165,769
Dozens of Live Leeches	130,014	9,537	23,371	162,923

CANADIAN RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT TRIP CHARACTERISTICS

Canadian residents and nonresidents were asked several questions regarding trip information. This included why they selected Manitoba as a fishing destination and what sources of information they used when planning their trip.

Canadian residents who purchased angling licences made 86,927 trips to Manitoba of which 41% were for fishing. In comparison, nonresidents made 65,883 trips to Manitoba of which 85% were for fishing. Of the 92,226 fishing trips made in total by non-Manitobans (Table 12), fishing was the main reason for over 71,898 visits and the secondary reason for 8,143 trips. For 2,195 trips, angling was decided upon after arriving in Manitoba. When compared to 2000, the percentage of all trips and fishing days were similar. Canadian resident and nonresident anglers spent 449,846 days in Manitoba and of these, 265,770 days were spent fishing. When compared to 2000, the percentage of all trips and fishing days were similar.

Canadian residents and nonresidents were also asked what primary factors played a role in selecting Manitoba as a fishing destination over other places in 2005. The question was structured to allow anglers to select more than one reason and anglers were not asked to rank their selections.

Almost 60% of respondents stated that they selected Manitoba for the superior quality of angling. About 57% indicated that they had previously visited Manitoba while 52% stated that they wanted to be with family and friends. Ease of travel to Manitoba had a 33% response while 23% had referrals from other anglers. Conservation oriented angling regulations and superior quality of service were both noted by 24% of respondents. Less expensive and diversity of angling opportunities were both noted by 16% of respondents, while 5% indicated availability of information about Manitoba.

Canadian residents and nonresidents were asked if there had been no fishing opportunities in Manitoba in 2005, what they would have done. Of Canadian residents who responded, 34% said they would not have come; 46% would have substituted other activities, and 20% would have stayed a shorter time. Of nonresidents who responded, 80% would not have come, 13% said they would have substituted other activities, and 7% would have stayed a shorter time.

Anglers were also asked to rate information sources that they used when planning fishing trips to Manitoba. using a scale of 1- did not use, 2 - sometimes and 3 - often. Data showed that friends, family and other anglers were the most often used source of information with a score of 2.25. This was followed by internet/web sites (1.41), brochures and pamphlets (1.33), outdoor/sport shows (1.24), bait and tackle shops (1.13), magazines/newspapers (1.10), travel agent/tour operator and tourism ads on television or radio (1.08 each), video tapes (1.05), Manitoba Water Stewardship offices (1.04), and clubs and associations (1.02).

Table 12. Trip characteristics of Canadian resident and nonresident anglers in Manitoba (2000 versus 2005).

	2000	2005
Trips to Manitoba - All Reasons	184,079	152,809
Fishing Trips to Manitoba	113,074	92,236
- % of All Trips	61%	60%
Fishing Trips:		
- Main Reason for Visit	93,030	71,898
- Secondary Reason	12,433	18,143
- Decided Upon After Arrival	2,103	2,195
Day Trips for Fishing	52,086	31,905
Overnight Trips for Fishing	60,988	60,331
Days Spent in Manitoba for All Reasons	508,389	449,486
Days Spent Fishing	324,443	265,770
- % Fishing Days	64%	59%
Total Nights Spent on Fishing Trips	292,814	256,799

ANGLING IN STOCKED WATERS

All anglers were surveyed about angling in waters stocked with trout. For the purposes of these questions, all rainbow, brown and brook trout noted in the data are considered to be from stocked waters.

In 2005, 9.5% of resident anglers, 8% of Canadian residents, and 2% of nonresident anglers fished in stocked waters. These anglers fished approximately 68,000 days for stocked trout, an average of five days per angler (up slightly from 2000). This represents 2.7% of the total angling effort. Approximately 93% of angling effort in stocked waters was by resident anglers, 5% by Canadian residents, and 2% by nonresidents.

Resident anglers caught a total of 108,440 stocked fish and released 77% (up 20% from 2000) of their catch. In comparison, Canadian residents and nonresidents caught 6,461 (release rate 90%) and 3,722 (release rate 93%) respectively.

The majority of fish caught in stocked trout waters occurred in the West Central, Whiteshell / Nopiming and North Western areas. This trend reflects Manitoba's focus on stocking trout in these specific areas.

ANGLER SATISFACTION

Questions relating to angling satisfaction were asked of all anglers. In 2005, 73% of resident anglers rated their angling experience in Manitoba from "excellent" to "good". In comparison (i.e. excellent to good), Canadian resident and nonresident anglers rated their angling experience at 82% and 92% respectively. This was up slightly from 2000 responses.

Anglers were asked questions relating to the time they spent fishing compared to the last survey year and what they felt should be done to improve angling.

The first question asked anglers if they fished more, less or the same number of days in 2005 as in previous years. 35% of residents indicated that they fished the same number of days, 14% stated they increased their time fishing and 47% stated that they fished less time (3% did not fish in Manitoba prior to 2005). For Canadian residents, 39% fished the same number of days, 17% increased their time fishing, and 32% decreased their time (12% did not fish in Manitoba prior to 2005). For nonresidents, 56% spent the same amount of time fishing in Manitoba, 12% increased their time, and 14% spent less time fishing (19% did not fish in Manitoba prior to 2005).

Those who responded that they fished less were asked why, and were given a number of responses to choose from. They could choose any number of the reasons listed and were not asked to rate their selections. The most often selected answer by all angler groups was "not enough leisure time" (23% of residents, 34% of Canadian residents, and 19% of nonresidents). For residents anglers, this was followed by "weather" (15%), "poor fishing" (15%), "family responsibilities" (12%), and "conflicting interests" (11%). The least common reasons were "complex regulations" (2%) and "lack of information" (0.3%).

Similarly, Canadian residents (34%) and nonresidents (19%) cited "not enough leisure time" as their main reason for declining fishing activity. Following this, Canadian residents listed "conflicting interests" (13%) and "weather" (13%) as their next reasons why, while nonresidents indicated "weather" (16%) and "poor fishing" (15%) were the next least determining factors. For Canadian residents and nonresidents, "fish sought not available" (2%) and "lack of fishing information" (1%) were the least reasons why their fishing activity lessened.

The second part of the question asked only resident anglers how they rated fishing in 2005 as compared to 2000 if they had fished for at least five years. Approximately 15% of the respondents had not fished for at least five years, 10% indicated that angling had improved, 35% stated that it had remained the same and 33% stated that it had declined.

Resident anglers who indicated that angling had declined were asked to rate on a scale of one (not important) to five (very important), what options they feel would improve angling in Manitoba. The response selected as most important was "more stocking programs" followed closely by "more habitat improvement". Others listed in order of importance included "increase fines/penalties", "maximum size limits", "minimum size limits", "slot limits", and "increase facilities". The least important options were "more catch and release regulations" and "reduced creel limits".

OTHER FACTS OF INTEREST

Several other questions were asked in the 2005 survey and the following data was gathered.

Licence Fees

85% of resident respondents stated that licence fees were appropriate while 13% said that licence fees were too high.

68% of all resident respondents said they would not be willing to pay a higher licence fee. Of the people who were willing to pay more, 44% indicated that \$5.00 would be a reasonable amount.

Competitive Fishing Events (Derbies/Tournaments)

87% of residents, 84% of Canadian residents, and 64% of nonresidents agreed with holding competitive fishing events (derbies and tournaments) in Manitoba.

13% of residents, 5% of Canadian residents, and 1% of nonresidents actually participated in a competitive fishing event in Manitoba in 2005.

80% of residents, 77% of Canadian residents, and 87% of nonresidents agreed that angling regulation should not be "waived" for competitive fishing events.

Volunteer Work / Angling Groups

Resident anglers stated that they contributed 25,926 days of volunteer work in 2005 in support of Manitoba's recreational fishery.

On average, anglers volunteered 4.3 days in 2005.

60% of resident anglers felt that angling groups do not represent their views.

Promotional programs

63% of resident anglers were aware of Manitoba's Family Fishing Weekend (FFW). Of those, only 18% participated.

19% of resident anglers were aware of National Fishing Week. Of those, 70% heard about this program through print media and radio. Only 14% indicated that they fished during this period.