

## **Shell River Watershed**

This watershed encompasses an area roughly from the Saskatchewan border to just east of the Shell River and from south of the Lake of the Prairies north to the Duck Mountains.

The major concern in this watershed would be the protection of existing natural riparian buffers from negative anthropogenic activities. A secondary concern is the ever increasing amount of drainage activities in this watershed.

In this watershed, 3 lake aeration systems have been installed and have resulted in the creation of popular trout fisheries. These waterbodies are Twin Lake, West Goose Lake and East Goose Lake.

Numerous waterbodies are stocked on an annual basis with either indigenous or salmonoid fish species.

Lake of the Prairies, which is a North American renowned walleye fishery is situated at the upper end of the Assiniboine River and has a huge economic impact to the area. There are concerns about the potential negative habitat impacts that could result if the proposal to raise the reservoir 6 feet is implemented.

Five COSEWIC listed fish species are known or could be present in this watershed and they are Lake Sturgeon, Maple Leaf Mussel, Silver Chub, Chestnut Lamprey and Big Mouth Buffalo.

Overall Watershed Health Assessment of the Shell River Watershed would be "healthy with concerns".