

**Alberta Conservation Association
2009/10 Project Summary Report**

Project Name: *Lower Notikewin River Drainage Fish Inventory*

Fisheries Program Manager: Peter Aku

Project Leader: Clayton James

Primary ACA staff on project:

Nathan Carruthers and Clayton James

Partnerships

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development

Introduction

The Notikewin drainage is an important fishery for Walleye anglers and is subject to a wide variety of industrial activities including forestry and oil and gas extraction. Ongoing development of roads, seismic lines, cutlines and pipelines have led to extensive fragmentation and degradation of fish habitat throughout the watershed. What is not known is the effect these developments have had on fish populations, including Walleye, throughout the drainage, and to what extent populations have the ability to recover following decline. The 2009/10 survey was intended to be the first phase (Phase 1) of a multi-year project. Phase 1 activities were to include development of a study design and preliminary ground-truthing of study sites. However, this project was put on hold after a program review.