

**Alberta Conservation Association
2015/16 Project Summary Report**

Project Name: New Lake Aeration Development

Fisheries Program Manager: Peter Aku

Project Leaders: Dave Jackson and Chad Judd

Introduction

Alberta Conservation Association aerates 16 waterbodies throughout Alberta during the winter months to reduce the chance of winter fish kills and provide Albertans with recreational angling in areas of the province where such fishing opportunities are otherwise limited. With a levy increase in 2014, additional funds were allocated to the Fisheries Program to expand our aeration project. We identified West Dollar and Grovedale lakes in the Peace River region and Hansen's Reservoir and Winchell Lake in the Rocky Mountain House region as sites for developing new aeration infrastructure in 2015/16. Hansen's Reservoir currently has two windmill aerators, but they have been ineffective at maintaining adequate oxygen levels year round. We conducted water quality sampling at Winchell Lake during the spring, measured dissolved oxygen monthly at Hansen's Reservoir, and collected baseline water quality and bathymetry data at West Dollar Lake. We held discussions with Mountain View County and Fortis Alberta regarding access to county property and power installations to Winchell Lake and Hansen's Reservoir. Discussions are also ongoing with Alberta Environment and Parks and the Municipal District of Greenview regarding land disposition and fisheries access site development at West Dollar Lake. However, our plans to develop and deploy surface aeration infrastructure on these four waterbodies in 2015 was put on hold pending resolution of the open-water liability issues associated with Section 263 of the Criminal Code.