Alberta Conservation Association 2015/16 Project Summary Report

Project Name: Sawn Lake Walleye Fishery Development

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Introduction

Alberta has the lowest proportion of fish-bearing waters relative to licensed anglers of all provinces in Canada. This dilemma of too many anglers and too few fisheries is perhaps the biggest challenge for provincial fisheries management. In addition, stakeholders have clearly communicated to Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) their desire to see fishing opportunities expanded in the province. This project was developed in attempt to address this issue by developing an additional walleye fishery at Sawn Lake in north-central Alberta. Our approach to this project was to capture and transfer adult walleye from the adjacent Haig Lake, which has a high abundance of walleye. However, the project was suspended due to misalignment of current Alberta Environment and Parks management goals and priorities for the lake. New fisheries management objectives are being developed for the lake, which may pave the way for ACA to revisit this project.