



Competitive Fishing Management

Fisheries Round Table
October 2006
David Walty



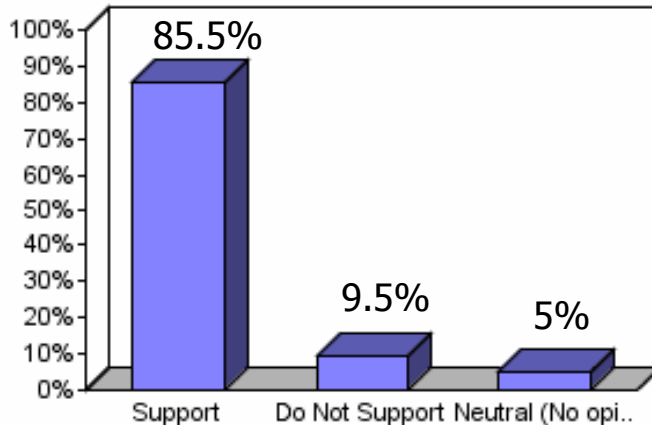
Direction from the Public

Fish Conservation Strategy – online survey

Asked about support for including a statement about the need to regulate all commercial uses of fish, including competitive fishing events:

“Competitive fishing events (tournaments and derbies) will be managed to minimize impacts on fish populations and traditional recreational fishing through the development of policy, standards and controls regarding competitive fishing.”

Fish Conservation Strategy – online survey results



STRONG SUPPORT

Competitive Fishing Event Regulations and Licensing have been implemented.

The following documents have been developed:

- CFE Strategy document
- Public Review Document
- Question and Answer document (web)
- Poster (web)
- Licensing system has been set up.
- Applications at all Districts. (web)
- Licences (Small, Medium and Large Events) with set conditions for each issued by Fisheries Biologists in-charge of lake.
- Check List (for monitoring events)
- Best Management Practices
- Fact Sheet on phasing in conditions on licences.



Licensing

Legislation to implement licensing was in place by August 2006.

- <20 applications were processed
- 9 licences were issued

Strategy for 2007

- Inform event organizers they require a licence in 2007 before they start advertising the event
- Support staff with processing applications and issuing licences
- Deal with issues as they occur



Auditing Events

We developed an audit form to measure event performance, use of Best Management practices and adherence to licence conditions.

- 4 events were audited at Lesser Slave Lake in 2006
- A monitoring plan will be developed for 2007 to:
 - Audit a number of the larger events
 - Report on the number of licensed events by type
 - Summarize the event reports



Best Management Practices

- The BMP fact sheets are on the web.
- CFE organizers and stakeholders are invited to review and provide feedback. (November and December)
- We will update the fact sheets incorporating accepted recommendations.



Two fish rule

As a 2006 transition measure, CFE participants were allowed to weigh-in 2 walleye in lakes with only a one walleye limit, while FMB looked for a reasonable legal solution to this issue.

Status:

- There were some complaints at LSL about the 2006 approach.
- Alberta has not been able to devise or find a reasonable legal solution in any other jurisdiction in Canada

Decision

- As advised last year, since no reasonable legal solution can be found, future tournaments will have to follow the daily angling possession limit for that species in that water, even if the tournament is catch-and-release



New Rules for 2007

- Holding fish after weigh-in and transporting to release sites is not permitted. Fish must be released directly into the lake from the weigh-in site or via a water ramp
- Registered CFE participants must follow the fishing regulations for the water body specified on the licence
- CFEs must schedule 2 weigh-in periods per day
- Event organizers must have an Adverse Conditions Contingency Plan developed prior to the event
- All event advertisements or postings must include the CFE licence number issued for the event.

END