

What is Fish Futures Inc?

Fish Futures Inc. is a non-profit corporation and a registered charitable organization dedicated to the conservation and enhancement of freshwater fisheries through:

- Sponsorship, development and encouragement of research projects
- Habitat preservation, enhancement and management projects
- Public education to increase awareness

of the value of freshwater fisheries and the need for conservation and enhancement of fish stocks and habitat.

Fish Futures is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of members of the public and representatives of government, industry and the scientific community.

For more information about Fish Futures Inc. please contact us at:



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Something New Every Year...

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hours." Guests enjoy door prizes, cocktails and a chance to mingle before the Master Angler Auction, Silent Auction, Live Auction, and Catch of the Day contest.

The individual who spends the most money at the auction is picked up by limosine and driven to the Banquet the following year.

The event organizers are keen to make this event unique – so each year they try something new.

2001 saw the addition of a Casting Contest: Participants had three attempts to cast their lines off a balcony into a fish bowl placed fifty feet away. The successful contestant would have won a new boat.

The food, entertainment, opportunity to socialize and 400+ prizes and auction items are certainly a draw, however there is something even more significant to the evening.

"A lot of people take our fisheries resources for granted," says Bones, "Because of our involvement with the scientific committee... we are able to communicate to (the angling community) information about the projects that don't receive a lot of publicity."

Thus, anglers can keep informed of the latest projects through the link with Fish Futures.

The banquet is also a major fundraiser for Fish Futures Inc. Proceeds from the evening fund specific angling and fisheries habitat enhancement projects.

Last year the proceeds paid for fishing rods for children participating in the Urban Angling Program, among other projects.

The Lyons Lake Accessible Family Fishing Project, completed three years ago, was funded through proceeds from the banquet.

Projects are carefully selected for funding by the Fish Futures Inc. board of directors.

This year the evening raised approximately \$30,000 for angling and fisheries habitat enhancement and conservation projects.

While this year's projects have not yet been announced, guests who return to next year's banquet can expect to hear what projects they helped to fund through their participation in the preceding year's banquet and auctions.

Visitor Centre

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spawning fish (using models) and more.

Two lucky children won a new fishing rod and door prizes included posters, framed fish prints, sweatshirts, t-shirts & a diamond willow walking stick.



Many thanks to the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation who donated pickeral to feed the masses, Peter Slezak of Leckie's Net and Twine who provided gifts for door prizes, & Manitoba Habitat



Heritage Corporation & the Fisheries Enhancement Initiative of Manitoba Conservation who provided prints for the giveaway.



Fish Futures Inc.

Fish News

Grand Opening at the Whiteshell Hatchery

New Visitor Centre offers Angling, Fish and Conservation Education

Four hundred people packed the yard of the Whiteshell Hatchery for the Grand Opening of a new visitor centre on July 21.

According to speaker Trevor Smitt, head of fish culture with Manitoba Conservation, there has always been public interest in the Whiteshell Hatchery. The new visitor centre now provides a means of communicating with those who have an interest in learning about fisheries & the hatchery.

The hatchery has been raising fish to stock Manitoba's lakes & streams since its construction in the 1940's. Fish raised at the hatchery include: rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, lake trout, arctic char, splake and sparr.

The 1200 square foot visitor centre offers self-guiding fisheries interpretive materials. Visitors can learn about various species of fish and their habitat, the history of the hatchery, and the value of Manitoba's fisheries.

The highlight of the day was a traditional Shore Lunch, serving fried walleye with salad, baked potatoes & pork & beans.

Guests also enjoyed fly tying & fly casting demonstrations, tours of the hatchery & the interpretive centre, demonstrations of

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Mark Your Calendar...

For The Annual Fish Futures Banquet and Auction

The first Thursday in every May is THE date to look forward to.

On that evening, Fish Futures Inc. hosts its annual banquet in the luxurious Royal Crown Ballroom of the Fort Garry Hotel, and it has become an event to remember.

The event has in fact become so popular that while tickets were initially sold

individually, they are now often bought by the table.

Fish, divinely prepared by the hotel, head the main course. "The meal is always superb" states George Bones of the Fish Futures Dinner Committee.

The banquet runs from 5pm until the "wee

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Fish News

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Lyons Lake Unique in Manitoba

Accessible Fishing + Family Education = Fun for Everyone!

Since 1999 Lyons Lake has offered features that no other facility in Manitoba can boast of.



That is, the combination of a wheelchair accessible fishing platform with angling and fisheries resource education aimed at families.

Fish Futures Inc. and Manitoba Conservation Fisheries Branch teamed up to construct the facility, which is close to the Whiteshell Fish Hatchery.

"This is a shining example of what can be achieved through the partnership of both public and private organizations" says Lorimer Thompson, Chief of Fisheries Habitat for Manitoba Conservation Fisheries Branch.

Scholarship Winner Studies Cisco

Is The Short Jawed Cisco Threatened in Manitoba's Lakes?

Lee Murray is a M.Sc. student at the University of Manitoba.

He was one of two winners of the 2001 Dr. Ken Stewart Scholarship in Aquatic Biology, funded by Fish Futures Inc.

Murray was inspired to consider graduate studies in part by his interest in a fish taxonomy course he took during his undergraduate degree.

His research, under advisor Dr. Jim Reist of the Freshwater

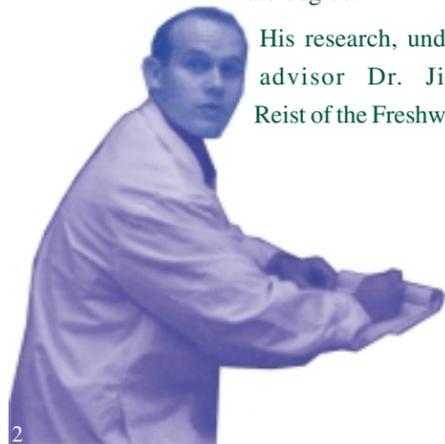
Institute, centers on the short-jawed cisco whose population is threatened in the Great Lakes. Little is currently known about the Manitoba populations.

Murray sampled the cisco from deep water lakes where they are likely to found.

Presently he is in the process of identifying the sampled fish to the species level. Short jawed cisco and lake cisco are very similar species and are differentiated in part by their gill raker count.

To assist in identification, Murray will compare his samples with some taken from the Ontario population.

Murray's work will help to determine whether the short-jawed cisco should also be considered threatened in Manitoba.



Stories Abound at Fishing Derby



2001 Fish Winnipeg Corporate/Media Challenge a Great Success!

The Fish Winnipeg Media/Corporate Challenge was held June 19th, 2001.

The one day angling event was designed to introduce Winnipeggers to the first class fishery located in the city, showcase other urban angling programs, promote angling as a

The event raised over \$10,000

healthy, self-esteem building outdoor leisure activity for our youth and to raise money to provide angling opportunities for at risk, inner city youth in support of the Urban Angling Partnership (UAP).



During the media portion of the event, 14 pro-fishing guides provided boats, tackle, bait and their time to take members of the media fishing in the early morning to provide them with the experience of fishing on our city rivers.

Next year's event will be bigger & better

This year, CJOB Radio was crowned the 2001 Fish Winnipeg Media Challenge champions. In the afternoon, 23 boats of corporate sponsors went fishing to determine the 2001 Corporate Champions.

The fishing was excellent and at the evening awards banquet dinner, fishing stories abounded.

The group from Elliott and Page won this years bragging rights landing an incredible 550 cm of fish.

To add insult to injury, Mike Robinson from E&P landed the biggest fish of the day, a monster catfish measuring 87cm in length.

The event raised over **\$10,000** that was tar-

geted at the Youth Angling Program which enables over 500 kids to enjoy an angling experience in the city.

Every child who participated in the program received a new rod and reel combination courtesy of Fish Futures.

Next year's event promises to be even bigger and better (June 18th, 2002). For more information about Fish Winnipeg, please contact Don Lamont at (204) 987-1440 or John Toone at (204) 956-3550.

Update on Zebra Mussel Migration

Keeping Zebra Mussels OUT of Manitoba...

Since their introduction to North America, zebra mussels have colonized waters in or neighboring 18 states and 2 provinces.

Zebra mussels can produce up to 1 million eggs per year. When the microscopic veligers hatch they hang suspended in the water for several weeks before they attach to any hard surface and begin to secrete their hard shell.

Recent Sightings

Spring 1999 - Missouri River near Sioux City, Iowa (live mussel)

June 30, 1999 - boat at Royal Wpg Yaght Club (dead mussels)

August 1999 - zebra mussel found in lower Meramec River

Summer 2001 - 30 half shells found at water intake pipe near Kansas City.

Manitoba."

Factors in our favor include: a top notch education program, increasing awareness of the problem and prevention factors, and colder and longer winters than those of the Great Lakes watershed, which reduce the spawning season of the mussels.

To ensure that live zebra mussels never enter the Hudson's Bay watershed every boater and recreational water user must ensure that all of their equipment has been emptied, cleaned thoroughly and dried before it is transferred to any other water body.

Zebra Mussel Biology

- "zebra mussels" include the zebra mussel and the quagga mussel
- Temperature for survival: 0 - 40C
- Egg laying temp range: above 12C
- Size range: (microscopic - 5 cm)
- Lifespan: about 5 yrs

The mussels can be transported to another water body in any amount of water including in buckets or bilge water, or attached to any hard surface including boat hulls and water skis.

Fortunately for Manitobans and the Hudson's Bay Watershed, zebra mussels have not yet colonized our waters.

However, on June 30, 1999 zebra mussels were reported on a boat trailered to the Royal Winnipeg Yaght Club. All mussels found on the boat were dead.

According to Wendy Ralley, water quality specialist with Manitoba Conservation, zebra mussel colonization is not a given in this province. "We have a lot in our favor in

Efforts in Manitoba have thus centered on education and inspection. "The response has been very positive" says Ralley, who notes that most boaters entering Manitoba from the USA are very aware of the dangers of zebra mussel migration and other invasive exotic species.

Manitoba Conservation & the Canadian Coast Guard check buoys for mussels. Manitoba Hydro checks its facilities and the City of Winnipeg monitors its water intake.

For more information or to report a zebra mussel sighting contact Manitoba Conservation at 945-8146