

Fish Futures Inc.

Conservation and Enhancement
of Freshwater Fisheries



www.fishfutures.net

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Fish News

FISH FUTURES BANQUET IS ON THE MOVE

NEW LOCATION - CANAD INNS POLO PARK

KISSISSING LAKE LODGE

RODGER'S FISHING LODGE

NUELTIN FLY-IN LODGES

ASH RAPIDS LODGE

CROWDUCK LAKE LODGE



**SPECIAL GUEST
WAYNE IZUMI
IN ATTENDANCE**

GUNISAO LAKE LODGE

WEBBER'S LODGES

GOD'S LAKE LODGE

KEG BACKYARD BBQ

Laurie River Lodge



Also In this Issue:

STOP THE RUSTY CRAYFISH! - DATES & REGULATIONS 2007

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FISH FUTURES BANQUET IS ON THE MOVE

After more than a decade of excellence at the Royal Crown Banquet and Conference Centre the Fish Futures Banquet will be moving to a new location for the 2007 Banquet.

The new location will be the Canad Inns – Polo Park.

The Fish Futures Banquet has enjoyed twelve fantastic years of entertaining its guests to what has become one of the most anticipated events of the year. The Royal Crown has been a huge part of the success of this event and we would like to thank all of the management and staff at the Royal Crown for twelve years of tremendous success.

The popularity and growth of the Banquet has convinced the Banquet Committee that a new, larger venue was essential to accommodate the future growth and success of the Banquet.

This year's Banquet is **Thursday, May 3rd, 2007** at the Canad Inns Polo Park. Mark this date on your calendar and make sure to note the new location.

While the location is new, we have many of our all-time favourites back again this year. The "**Silver Six**" draw will be Crowduck Lake Lodge and the "**Fab Four**" draw will be Laurie River Lodge. Our **Live Auction** will include: a Lund boat and trailer package, The Keg Backyard BBQ for 16 people, and adventures trips to many of Canada's best trophy fishing lodges. Please see the next issue of *Fish News* for more details.

One of the new events at this year's banquet will be the "**Texas Hold-em**" tournament we will be holding prior to dinner. A limited number of lucky participants will put on their best poker faces for a chance to win a special prize package. Our Silent Auction is also shaping up to be as good as ever, and a few new "feature" items will be available this year.

The Fish Futures Banquet Committee is proud to announce that special guest **Wayne Izumi of Izumi Outdoors Inc.** will be attending this year's fundraiser. The next issue of *Fish News* will provide more details on Wayne's attendance and will highlight other special events and prizes.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Fish Futures Banquet Committee

STOP THE RUSTY CRAYFISH!

THE POSSESSION OF CRAYFISH PROHIBITED IN MANITOBA

Effective immediately, the possession of crayfish in Manitoba is prohibited. This measure is intended to help stop the rusty crayfish from entering Manitoba waters. The rusty crayfish is an aggressive and invasive species that feeds heavily on aquatic vegetation (destroying important spawning and nursery habitat), and competes with juvenile fish for benthic food organisms.

Rusty crayfish populations can increase rapidly, and have been documented to:

- a) out-compete and displace native crayfish species,
- b) negatively impact many fish species by feeding on their eggs,
- c) damage fishing nets through entanglement, and
- d) damage fish caught in commercial nets by feeding on them.

There are two native species of crayfish found in Manitoba (the northern and calico/papershell crayfish). Rusty crayfish were first reported in Lake of the Woods in 1991. In 2005, rusty crayfish were collected in the Winnipeg River, five kilometers downstream of the Norman dam (Kenora, ON). There are reports of rusty crayfish being captured on the Winnipeg River system, near Minaki.

In 2006, Department of Fisheries and Oceans conducted an inventory along the Winnipeg River system but did not find any rusty crayfish. However, rusty crayfish have spread to several North American watersheds, in part as the result of bait bucket transfers.

This ban on possessing crayfish in Manitoba is a proactive step undertaken by the Fisheries Branch after consultation with the Manitoba Wildlife Federation, Manitoba Bass Anglers Association, Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters Association, as well as lodges along the Winnipeg River. All supported the proposed ban, indicating that the use of crayfish as bait by anglers is extremely low and not an issue.



Rusty Crayfish have large claws and rusty/red spot on each side of their body.



*"Working Today
for Tomorrow's Fisheries Resource"*

What is Fish Futures Inc.?

Fish Futures Inc. is a non-profit, 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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IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2007

- Fish Futures Spring Banquet - Canad Inns Polo Park - May 3rd
- Fishing Season Opens – Southern Division - May 12th
- Fishing Season Opens – Northwest & North Central Divisions – May 19th
- Family Fishing Weekend – June 9th and 10th
- Fish Winnipeg Corporate & Media Challenge - June 12th
- Winnipeg Fish Festival - July 7th
- Youth Fishing Camps - July and August
- Urban Fishing Derby - September 15th (date may change)

NEW REGULATIONS FOR 2007

1. The possession of crayfish is prohibited.
2. High Quality Management limits apply to Waskaiowaka, Campbell and Pelletier lakes (Northeast Division).
3. On Rocky Lake, all northern pike over 75 cm and all walleye over 55 cm must be released.
4. The walleye limit is four and all walleye over 55 cm must be released on Three Finger Lake.
5. On Neso Lake, all pike over 75 cm must be released.
6. For Patterson Lake, all trout over 45 cm must be released.
7. On Singush Lake, the walleye limit is two and all walleye between 45 cm and 70 cm must be released.
8. The lower end of the Area "A" slot limit (eastern Manitoba) has been raised from 42 cm to 45 cm.
9. Blueberry, Hadashville, Raspberry, Snowberry ponds and Kingfisher Lake will be added to the stocked trout waters list.
10. To protect the limited number of lake trout populations in the Southern Division, all lake trout over 65 cm must be released.