## Sport Fishing in Yukon 2005

## Summary Report of the Seventh Survey of Recreational Fishing in Canada

Environment Environnement

## Introduction

## Preface

This report summarises the results of a survey of sport fishing in Yukon in 2005. The Yukon survey is part of a national survey that takes place in each province and territory across Canada: the National Survey of Recreational Fishing in Canada. The 2005 edition is the seventh in a series carried out every five years.

The survey collects information about the recreational fishery from both resident and non-resident anglers. Information on a broad array of topics is collected, including the origin of anglers, angler demographics, expenditures and investments related to angling, the kind and number of fish harvested, the amount of time spent fishing, values, satisfaction, quality of fishing, and opinions about specific fisheries management issues. These data are used to evaluate the importance of recreational fishing to the public, anglers, the sport fishing industry, and fisheries management agencies. Because of the long times series no available, survey data also provide information on trends in recreational fishing across Canada. These data are used by provincial and territorial fisheries management agencies to make informed management decisions.

The survey was conducted in 2006 by the Fisheries Section of the Fish and Wildlife Branch of the Yukon Department of Environment in co-operation with the Surveys Unit, Economic and Commercial Analysis Directorate, of Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).

## Survey background

In 1970, recreational fisheries managers from across Canada met to discuss matters of common interest and concern. Participants realised that effective management of the recreational fisheries required a national dataset of basic information on the size, value, socio-economic performance and potential of Canada's sport fisheries. At the time no comprehensive information existed, but data from the only previous survey in 1961, indicated that millions of Canadians and hundreds of millions of dollars were involved.

The idea of a national survey was soon born and fisheries agencies from across the country launched the first nationally co-ordinated set of surveys for the 1975 calendar year. These surveys are intended to provide authoritative data on the magnitude and importance of Canada's sport fisheries and consistent and comparable data from a common group of questions. The success of the 1975 survey led to a second survey in 1980 and a strong commitment to continue the surveys at five-year intervals.

## Methods

## Survey design

Survey questionnaires are developed based on the common national survey design so that results can be compiled and compared across the country. In addition to the nationally common questions, the Yukon questionnaire also includes questions specific Yukon fisheries and issues. The survey included questions about:

- fishing activity: time spent fishing, type of waters, species caught and kept
- stocked lakes program
- satisfaction with the fishing experience
- assessment of the status and trends of Yukon's fisheries
- opinion on fisheries management
- financial expenditure information on fishing and fishing related activities
- basic demographic information.

The survey questionnaire also included a map of Yukon. The Yukon was divided into Regions 1 through 7 which were based on the road network within the territory (Fig. 1).

## Survey implementation

Resident and non-resident anglers were selected using stratified, systematic random sampling of data sets of anglers who held a fishing licence during the survey year. Surveys were mailed out to the random subset of anglers along with a cover letter that explained the purpose of the survey and encouraged respondents to participate. Seven weeks following the first mail-out a second mail-out to all non-respondents was done, which increased the response rate. Completed surveys were sorted, screened, coded, and analyzed.


Figure 1: Map of Yukon, showing seven regional divisions for purpose of measuring fishing effort

## Results and Discussion

## Survey response

Seventeen hundred questionnaires (1000 residents and 700 nonresidents) were sent out. Of these, 680 residents and 304 non-residents returned completed surveys for response rates of $68 \%$ and $43 \%$ respectively.

## Angler profile

In 2005, 15, 14 ** anglers held Yukon angling licences (Table 1). 53\% (8,018) were sold to Yukoners, $21 \%$ to Canadians from outside Yukon, and $26 \%$ to non-Canadians.

| Table 1: Licence classes of anglers licenced to fish in Yukon, 2005. <br> Licence <br> Type <br> A1 Type of Angler |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | :---: |
| A2 | Licences <br> Sold | Percent |  |
| A3 | Resident -season | 6,374 | 42 |
| A4 | Resident (under 16) -season | 525 | 3 |
| A7* | First Nation -season | 643 | 4 |
| B1 | Duplicate | 476 | 3 |
| B3 | Canadian non-resident -season | 79 | --- |
| B4 | Canadian non-resident (under 16) -season | 1,507 | 10 |
| B5 | Canadian non-resident First Nation -season | 143 | 1 |
| B6 | Canadian non-resident (6 day) | 44 | .3 |
| B7* | Canadian non-resident (1 day) | 1,183 | 8 |
| C1 | Duplicate | 337 | 2 |
| C3 | Other non-resident -season | 1 | --- |
| C5 | Other non-resident (under 16) -season | 1,878 | 12 |
| C6 | Other non-resident (6 day) | 127 | .8 |
| C7* | Other non-resident (1 day) | 965 | 6 |
| D1 | Duplicate | 647 | 4 |
| Total | Alaska resident (resident season) | 0 | ---- |
| * The number of anglers is less than the number of licences issued reflecting multiple licence |  |  |  |
| purchases by the same angler for term licences. | 15,221 |  |  |

Sixty-nine percent of active resident adult anglers were male; 31\% were female. The average age of all adult anglers was 50 years (Table 2).

| Table 2: Age and sex of licensed anglers in Yukon, 2005 |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Sex | Type of Angler | Average Age | Anglers |
| Male | Resident | 46.6 | 4,590 |
|  | Canadian non-resident | 53.3 | 2,477 |
|  | Other non-resident | 56.6 | 3,009 |
|  | Total | 51.2 | 10,076 |
| Female | Resident | 44.5 | 2,081 |
|  | Canadian non-resident | 47.9 | 313 |
|  | Other non-resident | 51.7 | 279 |
|  | Total | 45.7 | 2,672 |
| Total | Resident | 45.9 | 6,671 |
|  | Canadian non-resident | 52.7 | 2,790 |
|  | Other non-resident | 56.2 | 3,287 |
|  | Total | 50.1 | 12,748 |

Approximately 3\% of resident anglers rated themselves as experts, 43\% rated themselves as average, and $16 \%$ rated themselves as beginners (Table 3). For all non-resident anglers $38 \%$ considered themselves experienced, $33 \%$ average anglers, and $14 \%$ beginner.

| Table 3: How did anglers rate their skill levels in 2005 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Resident | Canadian non-resident | Other non-resident | Total |  |
| No Response | 398 | 338 | 208 | 944 |  |
| Expert | 204 | 146 | 288 | 638 |  |
| Experienced | 2,240 | 1,001 | 1,396 | 4,637 |  |
| Average | 2,951 | 1,066 | 1,032 | 5,049 |  |
| Beginner | 1,106 | 382 | 504 | 1,992 |  |
| Total | 6,899 | 2,933 | 3,428 | 13,260 |  |

Attitudes of anglers towards live release fishing are summarised in Table 4. Fifty-six percent of anglers voluntarily practised live release fishing in the Yukon in 2005, down from 64\% in 2000.

Table 4: Attitude of Active Anglers on Live Release in Yukon, 2005

| Table 4: Attitude of Active Anglers on Live Release in Yukon, 2005 | Did not <br> Practice <br> $\%$ | Did <br> Practice <br> $\%$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Practised |  |  | Mandatory <br> $\%$ | Voluntary <br> $\%$ |
| Resident | 5.7 | 52 | 43 | 26 | 66 |
| Canadian non-resident | 4.7 | 72 | 24 | 26 | 63 |
| Other <br> non-resident | 16 | 52 | 32 | 19 | 73 |
| Average | 8.7 | 56 | 35 | 24 | 67 |

Anglers were asked if they use barbless hooks while angling. 96\% of Yukon anglers and $88 \%$ of non-resident Canadians used barbless hooks while angling (Table 5). The acceptance and use of barbless hooks by Yukon residents has been consistently increasing over the years.

| Table 5: Anglers who use barbless hooks in Yukon, 2005 |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Resident \% | Canadian <br> non-resident \% | Other <br> non-resident \% |
| Yes | 96 | 88 | 77 |
| No | 4.0 | 10 | 21 |

## Angling effort

Anglers fished in the open water season, in the Yukon from late April to mid October, a total of 99,372 days in 2005. On average, all anglers spent nine days fishing, with Yukon anglers averaging the highest at over 13 days.
Yukoners fished a total of 8,238 days through the ice, while non-residents, who mostly fish the Yukon in the summer months, spent only 388 days ice fishing (Table 6).

| Table 6: Days Fished in Yukon, 2005 |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Type of Angler |  | Total days | Ice days |
| Resident | Sum | 66,899 | 8,238 |
|  | Mean | 13.3 | 1.6 |
| Canadian non-resident | Sum | 13,187 | 106 |
|  | Mean | 4.9 | 0.0 |
| Other non-resident | Sum | 19,286 | 282 |
|  | Mean | 6.1 | 0.1 |
| Total | Sum | 99,372 | 8,626 |
|  | Mean | 9.1 | 0.8 |

Of the 6,899 resident season and senior Yukon anglers who bought a licence, only 5,050 actually fished during the fishing season (Table 7). (First Nations information is not available and information on youth anglers is provided in Table 8).

| Table 7: Active anglers in Yukon, 2005 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Resident | Canadian non- <br> resident | Other non- <br> resident | Total |  |
| Yes | 5,050 | 2,677 | 3,162 | 10,889 |  |
| No | 1,849 | 256 | 266 | 2,371 |  |
| Total | 6,899 | 2,933 | 3,428 | 13,260 |  |

Yukon seniors and youth under 16 were active participants in sportfishing and fished for close to 10,000 days (Table 8).

| Table 8: Activity of other household members in Yukon, 2005 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Under 16 <br> fished | Days under <br> 16 fished | Average | Over 65 <br> fished | Days over 65 <br> fished | Average |
| Resident | 1,480 | 6,812 | 4.6 | 76 | 907 | 11.9 |
| Canadian non-resident | 362 | 1,046 | 2.9 | - | - | - |
| Other non-resident | 131 | 782 | 6.0 | - | - | - |
| Total | 1,974 | 8,640 | 4.4 | 76 | 907 | 11.9 |

For the purpose of analysis, the Yukon's sport fishery was divided into seven regions. Resident anglers showed a decided preference for the south central region - 3 , (which is the area that contains most of the resident population), and where they spent over thirty-six percent of their time fishing. Table 9 shows that resident anglers prefer to fish in both regions 3 and 5. Both these regions border the City of Whitehorse therefore easily accessible in evenings and also have the popular southern lakes system of Marsh and Tagish Lakes.

For their part non-resident non-Canadian anglers favoured Region 4 in the southeast.

Table 9: Days Fished by Region of Yukon, 2005

| Table 9: Days Fished by Region of Yukon, 2005 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Type of <br> Angler |  | Region <br> $\mathbf{1}$ | Region <br> $\mathbf{2}$ | Region <br> $\mathbf{3}$ | Region <br> $\mathbf{4}$ | Region <br> $\mathbf{5}$ | Region <br> $\mathbf{6}$ | Region <br> $\mathbf{7}$ | Total <br> days <br> fished |
| Resident | Sum | 6,233 | 1,287 | 24,316 | 6,979 | 18,909 | 7,346 | 1,829 | 66,899 |
|  | Mean | 5.1 | 2.8 | 9.3 | 9.9 | 8.4 | 9.7 | 4.8 | 13.3 |
| Canadian <br> non-resident | Sum | 2,112 | 214 | 3,188 | 2,729 | 2,380 | 1,691 | 872 | 13,187 |
|  | Mean | 3.3 | 1.7 | 3.9 | 4.4 | 3.3 | 4.1 | 2.1 | 4.9 |
| Other non- <br> resident | Sum | 3,525 | 341 | 1,652 | 4,795 | 3,901 | 3,186 | 1,887 | 19,286 |
|  | Mean | 3.7 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 5.3 | 5.8 | 4.3 | 4.9 | 6.1 |
| Total | Sum | 11,870 | 1,842 | 29,156 | 14,503 | 25,191 | 12,223 | 4,588 | 99,372 |
|  | Mean | 4.2 | 2.6 | 7.4 | 6.5 | 6.9 | 6.4 | 3.9 | 9.1 |

Resident anglers have fished for an average of 16 years in Yukon, while Canadian non-resident anglers have fished for an average of 4 years in the Yukon (Table 10).

| Table 10: Years fished for recreation in the Yukon, 2005 |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Type of Angler | Average | Anglers |
| Resident | 15.6 | 6,884 |
| Canadian non-resident | 3.7 | 2,915 |
| Other non-resident | 2.4 | 3,414 |
| Total | 9.6 | 13,213 |

## Harvest

In 2005, anglers in the Yukon caught an estimated 275,000 fish of all species combined and retained 51,300 of them (Table 11).

| Table 11: Harvest of Fish Species by Anglers in Yukon, 2005. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fish <br> Species | Resident |  | Canadian <br> non-resident |  | Other <br> non-resident |  | Total |  |
|  | Caught | Kept | Caught | Kept | Caught | Kept | Caught | Kept |
| Arctic Grayling | 28,099 | 7,815 | 20,087 | 3,166 | 56,182 | 4,960 | 104,475 | 15,941 |
| Lake Trout | 31,311 | 11,823 | 9,084 | 2,493 | 28,888 | 1,485 | 69,283 | 15,801 |
| Rainbow Trout | 6,583 | 1,548 | 801 | 292 | 7,648 | 1,011 | 15,032 | 2,850 |
| Northern Pike | 28,579 | 5,950 | 13,301 | 1,427 | 27,449 | 2,936 | 69,328 | 10,312 |
| Whitefish | 1,865 | 1,472 | 709 | 103 | 948 | 154 | 3,522 | 1,729 |
| Dolly Varden | 485 | 208 | 0 | 0 | 955 | 42 | 1,440 | 250 |
| Bull Trout | 771 | 285 | 287 | 36 | 1,149 | 89 | 2,207 | 410 |
| Arctic Char | 2,068 | 898 | 59 | 59 | 204 | 0 | 2,331 | 957 |
| Chinook | 1,309 | 370 | 214 | 66 | 129 | 78 | 1,652 | 514 |
| Sockeye | 15 | 15 | 15 | 0 | 33 | 0 | 63 | 15 |
| Coho | 212 | 150 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 212 | 150 |
| Other | 2,230 | 1,941 | 468 | 192 | 2,911 | 252 | 5,609 | 2,385 |
| Total | 103,526 | 32,476 | 45,023 | 7,834 | 126,496 | 11,006 | 275,046 | 51,315 |

Resident anglers caught $38 \%$ of the total number of fish caught by all anglers and kept only $31 \%$ of these. Non-resident Canadian anglers caught $16 \%$ of the total number of fish caught and kept only $17 \%$ of these, while non-resident non-Canadians caught $46 \%$ of the total number of fish and kept only $9 \%$. Nonresident non-Canadians were very active anglers and caught over 23,000 more fish than Yukon residents.

Arctic grayling, northern pike and lake trout were the most widely caught species. Arctic grayling accounted for $38 \%$ of the total catch (by number) while lake trout and northern pike each accounted for $25 \%$ of the catch.

Yukon residents were surveyed for the retention and use of fish caught in 2005. Anglers kept 85,964 pounds of all fish species caught and ate approximately $93 \%$ of their catch.

Table: 12 Top three species preferences provided by anglers fishing in Yukon in 2005

|  | Resident | Canadian non- <br> resident | Other non- <br> resident | Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Arctic grayling | 2,305 | 1,280 | 1,418 | 5,004 |
| Lake trout | 3,473 | 1,248 | 1,605 | 6,326 |
| Northern pike | 1,765 | 759 | 1,461 | 3,985 |
| Rainbow trout | 1,368 | 646 | 719 | 2,733 |
| Whitefish | 262 | 30 | 144 | 435 |
| Dolly Varden | 370 | 110 | 371 | 850 |
| Bull trout | 66 | 65 | 60 | 190 |
| Coho salmon | 412 | 109 | 73 | 595 |
| Sockeye salmon | 666 | 173 | 114 | 954 |
| Chinook salmon | 824 | 300 | 199 | 1,323 |
| Arctic char | 771 | 261 | 84 | 1,115 |
| Other fish | 208 | 30 | 31 | 268 |
| Total | 4,394 | 1,945 | 2,361 | 8,699 |

## Salmon fishing

Salmon fishing is a popular fall fishery for Yukon residents, but pressure all depends upon closures put in placer by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Yukoners account for the highest pressure on salmon stocks in the Yukon, although this pressure is still quite low. Only $11 \%$ of Yukon residents fished for salmon in 2005 (Table 13). Fisheries and Oceans, Canada is responsible for the management of salmon.

| Table 13: Did the angler fish for salmon in Yukon, 2005 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Resident | Canadian non-resident | Other non-resident | Total |  |
| Yes | 563 | 128 | 65 | 756 |  |
| No | 4,487 | 2,549 | 3,097 | 10,133 |  |
| Total | 5,050 | 2,677 | 3,162 | 10,889 |  |

Salmon are found within the Yukon and Tatshenshini River systems only. The Yukon River system is a popular fishing spot for Yukon residents, with Tatchun Creek accounting for 778 days fished. Non-resident anglers fished few days and only fished on the Takhini, Teslin and Mayo Rivers.

| Table 14: Days fished for salmon in the Yukon River System in Yukon, 2005 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Tatchun <br> Creek | Takhini <br> River | Teslin <br> River | Mayo <br> River | Morley <br> River | Other |
| Resident | 778 | 31 | 73 | 31 | - | - |
| Canadian non-resident | - | 30 | 133 | 295 | - | - |
| Other non-resident | - | - | - | - | - | 214 |
| Total | 778 | 60 | 206 | 326 | - | 214 |

The Tatshenshini River system was the favourite spot for non-residents anglers where they spent 246 days fishing.

| Table 15: Days fished for salmon in the Tatshenshini River System in Yukon, 2005 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Klukshu River | Blanchard <br> River | Village <br> Creek | Takhanne <br> River | Other |
| Resident | 540 | 31 | - | - | 92 |
| Canadian non-resident | 107 | - | - | - | 7 |
| Other non-resident | 111 | - | - | 28 | 99 |
| Total | 757 | 31 | - | 28 | 199 |

## Angler opinion and perception

Anglers were asked to rate the quality of, and satisfaction with, their 2005 recreational fishing experience in the Yukon and also asked their opinion of the importance of specific factors in improving the Yukon fishery. Yukon anglers stated that the stocking program, improving facilities and increasing fines and enforcement were extremely important. The majority of non-resident anglers provided no response.

Anglers were asked to rate the quality of fishing in the Yukon in 2005. Anglers rated fishing in the Yukon as good to excellent (Table 16). Non-resident anglers still consider the fishing in the Yukon to be excellent at $20 \%$ of respondents. While only $13 \%$ of Yukoners thought the fishing was excellent.

| Table 16: Rating of fishing in the Yukon, 2005 |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Resident | Canadian <br> non-resident | Other <br> non-resident | Total |
| No Response | 169 | 156 | 160 | 485 |
| Excellent | 829 | 775 | 1,084 | 2,688 |
| Very Good | 1,352 | 525 | 795 | 2,672 |
| Good | 1,708 | 679 | 566 | 2,953 |
| Fair | 663 | 285 | 273 | 1,221 |
| Poor | 328 | 257 | 283 | 868 |
| Total | 5,049 | 2,677 | 3,161 | 10,887 |

Resident anglers were asked about the importance of programs aimed at education and angler assistance. Of the nine options anglers said that habitat protection programs, fisheries enhancement programs and live release training were very important. Programs such as tackle loaner and ice fishing clinics were not important education programs (Table 17).

| Table 17: Resident anglers' assessments of various programs aimed at education and angler <br> assistanceVery <br> important |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Important | Not <br> important | No opinion |  |  |
| School based education programs | 1,730 | 1,719 | 431 | 1,169 |
| Young angler programs | 1,599 | 1,923 | 358 | 1,169 |
| Tackle loaner programs | 300 | 1,183 | 1,549 | 2,018 |
| Skills development programs | 809 | 1,969 | 840 | 1,431 |
| Live release training | 2,093 | 1,619 | 397 | 942 |
| Ice fishing clinics | 585 | 1,641 | 1,291 | 1,517 |
| Fisheries enhancement programs | 1,791 | 1,696 | 328 | 1,235 |
| Species ID programs | 1,399 | 2,189 | 362 | 1,100 |
| Habitat protection programs | 2,562 | 1,442 | 158 | 887 |

Anglers spent a total of 99,434 days fishing in the Yukon with just over 12\%, or 12,167 days, spent fishing on the Marsh/Tagish Lakes system, $86 \%$ being from resident anglers. Ten percent of lake trout caught and $16 \%$ of lake trout kept in Yukon came from within this system (Table 18).

| Table: 18 Angling activity on the Marsh / Tagish Lake system in Yukon, 2005 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Resident | Canadian <br> non-resident | Other non- <br> resident | Total |  |
| Total Days Fished | 10,503 | 1,387 | 277 | 12,167 |  |
| Average | 8.1 | 4.0 | 1.5 | 6.6 |  |
| Trout Caught | 3,879 | 938 | 643 | 5,460 |  |
| Average | 3.0 | 2.7 | 3.4 | 3.0 |  |
| Trout Kept | 1,922 | 301 | 208 | 2,431 |  |
| Average | 1.5 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 1.3 |  |

Yukon anglers direct a large percentage of their fishing effort on lake trout.
Lake trout are one of the most important angled fish in the Yukon and are an important part of the management of freshwater fish. Anglers were asked their opinion of the state of lake trout stocks in Yukon in 2005. Resident anglers who are the heaviest harvesters of lake trout were of the opinion that stocks were remaining steady or decreasing, though a majority of all anglers having no opinion (Table 19).

| Table 19: Angler opinion regarding the state of lake trout stocks in Yukon, 2005 |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Resident | Canadian <br> non-resident | Other non- <br> resident | Total |
| No Response | 247 | 603 | 476 | 1,326 |
| Increasing | 154 | 44 | 28 | 226 |
| Remaining steady | 1,249 | 300 | 378 | 1,927 |
| Decreasing | 1,272 | 130 | 153 | 1,555 |
| No Opinion | 2,127 | 1,600 | 2,127 | 5,854 |
| Total | 5,049 | 2,677 | 3,162 | 10,888 |

## Motivations

Non-resident anglers made 9,497 trips to the Yukon in 2005 and spent a total of 97,708 days in the Yukon (Table 20).

Table: 20 Trip information for anglers visiting Yukon, 2005

|  | Trips | Days | Fishing <br> trips | 1-day fishing <br> trips | Nights spent <br> on fishing trips |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Canadian non-resident | 4,002 | 54,504 | 3,030 | 83 | 40,420 |
| Other non-resident | 5,495 | 43,204 | 3,824 | 114 | 33,742 |
| Total | 9,497 | 97,708 | 6,854 | 197 | 74,162 |

Sixty-four percent of all non-resident anglers said they would have substituted other activities if there had been no fishing opportunities (Table 21).

Table: 21 Attitude of non-resident Anglers if there had been no fishing opportunities in Yukon, 2005.

| Activity | Canadian non-resident | Other non-resident |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Stayed Shorter Time | 13.1 | 14.3 |
| Substituted Other Activities | 66.3 | 53.4 |
| Not come at all | 13.3 | 28.6 |

Anglers rated fishing in the Yukon as good to excellent (Table 22). Nonresidents still consider the fishing in the Yukon to be excellent at $20 \%$ of those surveyed, while only 13\%of Yukoners thought the fishing was excellent.

Table: 22 Attitude of Active Anglers on the quality of fishing in Yukon, 2005.

|  | Resident <br> $\%$ | Canadian non- <br> resident \% | Other non-resident <br> $\%$ | Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Excellent | 16.4 | 28.9 | 34.2 | 24.7 |
| Very Good | 26.8 | 19.6 | 25.1 | 24.2 |
| Good | 33.8 | 25.3 | 17.9 | 27.1 |
| Fair | 13.1 | 10.6 | 8.6 | 11.2 |
| Poor | 6.5 | 9.6 | 8.9 | 7.9 |
| No Response | 3.3 | 9.6 | 5.1 | 4.4 |

## Stocking program

In 2005, 11 lakes were stocked with 60,000 thousand rainbow trout fry. Other species stocked included kokanee salmon, bull trout and arctic char. Yukon's trout stocking program was rated as very important by Yukon resident anglers who also accounted for the highest number of anglers (Table 23). Only $3 \%$ of nonresident anglers indicated that they had fished in a stocked lake in 2005 (Table 24).

| Table: 23 How did anglers rate the importance of the stocking program in Yukon, 2005 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Resident | Canadian <br> non-resident | Other <br> non-resident | Total | $\%$ |
| Very important | 605 | 64 | 42 | 711 | 52 |
| Important | 370 | 39 | 113 | 522 | 38 |
| Not important | 31 | - | 14 | 45 | 3.3 |
| No opinion | 46 | - | 28 | 74 | 5.4 |
| Total | 1,067 | 103 | 197 | 1,367 |  |


| Table: 24 Did the angler fish stocked lakes in Yukon, 2005 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Resident | Canadian non- <br> resident | Other <br> non-resident | Total | $\%$ |
| Yes | 1,067 | 102 | 197 | 1,366 | 12.4 |
| No | 3,982 | 2,575 | 2,965 | 9,522 | 87.6 |
| Total | 5,049 | 2,677 | 3,162 | 10,888 |  |

Opinions on the quality of fishing in stocked lakes varied between angler groups with residents having a fair to very good experience and non-residents having differing opinions with the majority having poor or good fishing quality (Table 25).

Table: 25 Opinion of anglers on the quality of stocked lake fishing in Yukon, 2005

| Rating | Resident \% | Canadian <br> non-resident \% | Other <br> non-resident \% | All Anglers \% |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Excellent | 11 | 36 | 7 | 13 |
| Very Good | 19 | 0 | 14 | 17 |
| Good | 26 | 41 | 28 | 27 |
| Fair | 28 | 9 | 14 | 24 |
| Poor | 12 | 15 | 28 | 14 |
| No response | 3.3 | 0 | 7 | 4 |

It is estimated that in 2005, licensed anglers spent 7,581 days fishing at stocked lakes in Yukon. This represents $7.6 \%$ of the total number of days $(99,434)$ spent fishing territory-wide during the year. Of the days fished,
pressure from resident anglers was greatest on Fisheye Lake at 1,591 days followed by Hidden Lakes at 1,417 days, Scout Lake at 936 days and Cantlie Lake at 732 days; while all non-residents anglers only fished 852 days on all lakes, up from 184 days in 2000, with the majority fishing on Haldane and Wrong Lakes at 155 days each.

## Expenditures and investments

Anglers in the Yukon invested $\$ 11$ million on major durables and property in 2005 (Table 26) of which $\$ 6.5$ million or $59 \%$ was wholly attributed to recreational fishing activities. Boats and fishing equipment attracted a total, from all anglers, of $\$ 3.8$ million, while special vehicles (ATV's, snowmobiles, camper trucks, etc.) were popular items for residents only, accounting for $\$ 2.6$ million.

Table: 26 Major Purchases of Durables and Property attributable in whole or in part to Recreational Fishing in Yukon, 2005.

| Expenditures \$ | Resident | Canadian <br> non-resident | Other non- <br> resident | Total | Wholly <br> Attributable to <br> Sport fishing |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fishing Equipment | 582,112 | 48,215 | 47,789 | 678,115 | 678,115 |
| Boating Equipment | $4,086,001$ | 65,478 | 6,504 | $4,157,983$ | $3,146,387$ |
| Camping Equipment | $2,153,618$ | 20,381 | 52,409 | $2,226,408$ | $1,033,819$ |
| Special Vehicles | $2,662,282$ | -- | 89,696 | $2,751,981$ | 853,009 |
| Land/Buildings | 707,452 | 214,230 | 33,758 | 955,441 | 548,983 |
| Other Purchases | 202,703 | 18,688 | 36,360 | 257,750 | 219,497 |
| Total Investments | $10,394,174$ | 366,991 | 266,515 | $11,027,679$ | $6,479,809$ |
| Wholly Attributable to <br> Sport Fishing | $5,940,565$ | 354,733 | 184,512 | $6,479,809$ |  |

Yukon residents spent $\$ 5.9$ million attributed wholly to sport fishing or $92 \%$ of the total spent by all anglers.

In direct expenditures non-resident non-Canadian anglers accounted for the most money spent at $\$ 6.9$ million, $\$ 4$ million more than Yukon anglers. This was most likely related to the amount that non-resident non-Canadian anglers spent on lodge packages ( $\$ 3.9$ million, Table 27).

| Table: 27 Direct Expenditures made in Yukon, 2005. <br> Expenditures <br> Resident | Canadian non- <br> resident | Other non-resident | Total |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Packages | - | 487,312 | $3,901,003$ | $4,388,315$ |
| Accommodation | 18,948 | 234,584 | 606,048 | 859,580 |
| Campsite Fees | 75,603 | 125,526 | 146,509 | 347,638 |
| Food Costs | 843,719 | 430,511 | 584,599 | $1,858,829$ |
| Travel Costs | $1,111,781$ | 710,966 | 857,737 | $2,680,484$ |
| Household Boat Costs | 496,378 | 60,514 | 40,884 | 597,775 |
| Boat Rental | 22,504 | 8,998 | 20,528 | 52,030 |
| Fishing Supplies | 253,625 | 66,934 | 105,223 | 425,783 |
| Guide Services | 616 | 16,508 | 184,145 | 201,269 |
| Licence Fees | 96,839 | 58,341 | 90,391 | 245,571 |
| Access Fees | 3,689 | 5,309 | 13,341 | 22,339 |
| Other Costs | 4,851 | 48,238 | 337,305 | 390,394 |
| Total Direct Expenditures | $2,928,551$ | $2,253,741$ | $6,887,714$ | $12,070,005$ |

## Comparison to 2000 results

Total licensed angling population for resident anglers increased by $24 \%$ in 2005, while non-resident licensed anglers decreased by $12 \%$. Yukon anglers were more active in 2005 while non-resident active anglers decreased by $6.8 \%$.

Resident anglers fished more in 2005 by over 29\%, with an increase of close to 17,000 days. Non-residents decreased their fishing activity by $7.6 \%$, spending approximately 32,861 days fishing in 2005 as compared to 35,569 days in 2000.

The total fish caught and retained of all species combined was down by 4\% for residents from 33,992 in 2000 to 32,476 in 2005.

Total direct expenditures by all licensed anglers in the Yukon increased by $23 \%$ in 2005 , from $\$ 9.8$ million spent in 2000 to $\$ 12$ million in 2005. Resident anglers spending increased by $17 \%$ in 2005, while non-resident anglers increased by $25 \%$.

The major purchase and investment category increased by $55 \%$ for Yukoners, with the amount wholly attributable to sport fishing increasing by $67 \%$.

Non-residents made the most significant increase in purchases wholly attributable to sport fishing by increasing their spending by 108\% (Table 28).

| Table: 28 Comparisons of Angler Characteristics, Days Fished, Species Harvested and expenditures in Yukon for 2000 and 2005. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Residents |  |  | Non-residents |  | Total |  |  |  |
|  | 2000 | 2005 | $\%$ <br> Change | 2000 | 2005 | $\%$ <br> Change | 2000 | 2005 | $\%$ <br> Change |
| Total Licensed <br> Angling Population | 6,476 | 8,018 | $24 \%$ | 8,077 | 7,123 | $-12 \%$ | 14,553 | 15,141 | $4.00 \%$ |
| Total Active Adult <br> Anglers | 4,756 | 5,050 | $6.20 \%$ | 6,267 | 5,839 | $-6.80 \%$ | 11,023 | 10,889 | $-1.20 \%$ |
| Total Days Fishing | 58,337 | 75,137 | $29 \%$ | 35,569 | 32,861 | $-7.60 \%$ | 93,906 | 107,998 | $15 \%$ |
| Total Fish Caught <br> and Retained | 33,992 | 32,476 | $-4.40 \%$ | 16,918 | 18,840 | $11 \%$ | 50,910 | 50,316 | $-1.20 \%$ |
| Total Direct <br> Expenditures | $2,508,545$ | $2,928,551$ | $17 \%$ | $7,314,192$ | $9,141,455$ | $25 \%$ | $9,822,737$ | $12,070,006$ | $23 \%$ |
| Major Purchases <br> and Investments | $6,695,084$ | $10,394,174$ | $55 \%$ | 570,539 | 633,506 | $11 \%$ | $7,265,623$ | $11,027,680$ | $52 \%$ |
| Total Attributable to <br> Sport Fishing | $3,554,600$ | $5,940,565$ | $67 \%$ | 259,118 | 539,245 | $108 \%$ | $3,813,718$ | $6,479,810$ | $70 \%$ |

## Conclusions

The results of the 2005 survey of sport fishing in the Yukon show that angling remains a popular recreational activity and although there has been a decrease in participation by non-residents, Yukoners are enjoying this popular family activity in greater numbers than in 2000.

In 2005 15, 141 licensed adult anglers participated in fishing, 8,018 of whom were residents of the Yukon and 7,123 were non-residents.

Licensed anglers spent approximately 107,998 days fishing in the Yukon in $2005,15 \%$ more than in 2000 . The total number of fish caught and kept by licensed anglers was 50,316 fish down by $1.2 \%$ from 2000.

In 2005, anglers spent a total of $\$ 11$ million on major purchase and investments and $\$ 6.4$ million totally attributable to sport fishing.

