

## **Wabamun Lake Fisheries and the CN Train Spill**

Fisheries Management of Sustainable Resource Development continues to be heavily involved in monitoring the effects of the train spill on fish populations in Lake Wabamun. Unlike what was observed for birds and mammals, there have been no short-term impacts reported for fish. Although dead fish have been seen along the shoreline, they have been found in low numbers and within the range of what can be expected from natural causes.

Sport fishing is permitted at Wabamun Lake and the Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations should be consulted for applicable size and bag limits. The fish consumption advisory applied to the lake by Capital Health remains in place.

Based on scientific evidence from oil spills in other jurisdictions, we have identified potential concerns for the fish communities in Wabamun Lake. We are addressing these fisheries concerns in collaboration with Alberta Environment, Environment Canada, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Health Canada, Capital Health and CN through a variety of studies. We have a considerable amount of pre-spill information on the sport fisheries in Wabamun Lake and we will continue to monitor these populations to determine whether their survival and reproduction has been negatively impacted by the train spill. Minnow species are being studied to ensure that they have recolonized oiled areas and areas where aquatic vegetation was removed to recover spilled oil.

Further questions regarding fish populations in Wabamun Lake can be forwarded to Delinda Ryerson (Fisheries Biologist) at (780) 289-9400.