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YUKON ANGLERS ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL FISHERY SURVEY

WHITEHORSE – Close to 1,900 Yukon resident and non-resident anglers will be getting a questionnaire in the mail, this week, as part of a national initiative delivered locally by Environment Yukon’s fisheries section.

The 2005 Survey of Recreational Fishing in Canada - the seventh national survey carried out at five-year intervals since 1975 - will be sent to anglers, chosen at random, who held a licence in 2005. The forms are going out to 1,000 Yukon, 425 Canadian and 475 non-Canadian anglers.

“This survey is important for Yukon anglers in that it is one way for them to speak directly to federal and territorial fisheries managers and provide valuable information for future planning,” Environment Minister Dennis Fentie said.

“The participation of every angler is critical to the success of the survey. I encourage anglers to devote a small amount of their time to tell us about their fishing activities. Everyone’s answers are important. Even anglers who only fished one or two days should complete the questionnaire and send it back,” Fentie said.

Coordinated by Statistical Services of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the survey is conducted by every province and territory to gather data on freshwater fishing and saltwater fishing throughout Canada.

To develop an understanding of Canada’s sport fishery the survey asks anglers for their opinions, as well as questions about their fishing experience, their fishing locations, the number of fish caught and the amount of time spent fishing.

The year 2000 survey estimated that 14,553 licensed anglers fished for 93,900 days and caught 263,436 fish, keeping only 50,910 of the fish they caught. These anglers invested \$14 million directly to sport fishing in the Yukon.

More information on the Survey of Recreational Fishing in Canada is available from the Federal Fisheries toll free number: 1-800-298-9935 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST), or by visiting their website at http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/communic/statistics/main_e.htm.

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