



Recreational fishing in Canada generates an average of more than 250 million meals annually.

RECREATIONAL FISHING IN CANADA

The Wild Harvest Initiative® team is now completing its first ever analysis on the food-related benefits of recreational fishing. Our initial study, well underway, focuses on Canadian recreational fish harvests spanning from 1995 to 2015. The harvest records for this period were derived from the *Survey of Recreational Fishing in Canada*, a nationwide survey conducted every five years to explore the extent and magnitude of recreational fishing, with a

concentration on inland fishing activities.

To complete this analysis, live and consumable weights were first derived and assigned to each fish species harvested in Canada. This required rigorous research, involving a variety of academic and grey literature; mathematical calculation; and stringent quality assurance testing.

The application of weights enabled novel estimates of both biomass and meal-equivalence, which were also subject to rigid quality assurance testing.

Research is currently underway to facilitate domestic replacement costs and economic value calculations.

Preliminary Results

There are approximately 55 unique fish species recreationally harvested in Canada, as well as 22 grouped species. Grouped species are often reported according to genus or family, for instance as "Trout" rather than "Rainbow Trout."

According to our analysis, an estimated 81,703,000 fish are harvested on an average annual basis in Canada. This constitutes an average

annual biomass of approximately 89,618,000 kg or 197,573,000 lbs. This further equates to a total consumable weight of 43,663,000 kg or 96,259,000 lbs. Using a standard

6-oz serving, we estimate that recreational fishing in Canada generates approximately 256,690,000 meals per year.

A formal report for public release is forthcoming.

Table 1: Annual Average Amount of Food from Recreational Fish Harvests in Canada (1995-2015)

ANNUAL AVERAGE AMOUNT OF FOOD FROM RECREATIONAL FISH HARVESTS IN CANADA (1995-2015)			
Province	Live weight of harvest (lbs)	Consumable weight of harvest (lbs)	Number of meals (6-oz serving)
CANADA	197,573,000	96,259,000	256,690,000
Alberta	8,249,000	4,238,000	11,300,000
British Columbia	39,073,000	18,217,000	48,580,000
Manitoba	6,062,000	2,841,000	7,575,000
New Brunswick	2,086,000	1,159,000	3,090,000
Newfoundland & Labrador	15,445,000	7,517,000	20,046,000
Northwest Territories*	261,000	135,000	361,000
Nova Scotia	2,367,000	1,276,000	3,403,000
Nunavut*	25,000	13,000	35,000
Ontario	50,329,000	22,746,000	60,656,000
Prince Edward Island	627,000	319,000	850,000
Quebec	62,906,000	32,795,000	87,453,000
Saskatchewan	9,846,000	4,851,000	12,935,000
Yukon	242,000	124,000	332,000

* Average based on 2000-2015 figures to account for Nunavut's creation as a territory in 1999

OTHER PROGRESS REPORTING

Wild Harvest Initiative® Database

Hunting and Harvest Data Analyses

The collection of hunting records for the period 2016-2019 remains ongoing.

Economic Valuation

Work to derive domestic replacement costs to enable economic analyses of hunting harvest data remains ongoing. Conservation Visions has recently purchased several datasets to assist this research.

Database Updates

Conservation Visions is working with Triware Technologies to determine best options to modify the existing Wild Harvest Initiative® database to enable remote access and explore controlled integrations with other large databases. The latter would facilitate data sharing and joint analyses with other organizations and institutions engaged in interdisciplinary research.

Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Index

We are pleased to announce that the Wyoming Game and Fish Department has joined fellow WHI Partnership Alliance members, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the Nevada Department of Conservation, in undertaking the Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Survey.

Conservation Visions has recently purchased the required survey software to enable these important projects. [Qualtricssm](#) is being used.

The WHI team is currently engaging with department personnel at each of the four partner agencies to develop and finalize survey questionnaires.

We anticipate the first survey being launched during the next quarter.

Wild Harvest Initiative[®] Partnership Alliance

Welcoming New Partners

We warmly welcome the New Mexico Wildlife Federation to the Wild Harvest Initiative[®] Partnership Alliance.

A press release announcing our recent partnership with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department was released on March 2nd, 2021. It can be viewed here:

[https://www.prweb.com/releases/wyoming_game_and_fish_department](https://www.prweb.com/releases/wyoming_game_and_fish_department_partners_with_conservation_visions_wild_harvest_initiative_to_examine_benefits_of_wild_harvested_food/prweb17767042.htm)

[nt_partners_with_conservation_visions_wild_harvest_initiative_to_examine_benefits_of_wild_harvested_food/prweb17767042.htm](https://www.prweb.com/releases/wyoming_game_and_fish_department_partners_with_conservation_visions_wild_harvest_initiative_to_examine_benefits_of_wild_harvested_food/prweb17767042.htm)

Communications

WHI Factsheets

A new WHI factsheet was released this past quarter. It focused on wild turkey (attached).

A third sheet, focused on elk, will be released in April.

Presentations and Conferences

In January, Conservation Visions participated in the Wild Sheep Foundation's "Sheep Week 2021." Shane Mahoney led two sessions, one of which focused on the Wild Harvest Initiative[®]. During the WHI session, Shane was joined by WSF CEO Gray Thornton. The session explained the program's rationale and purpose, as well as defining its modern relevance and value, specifically to hunters, and, especially, to sheep hunters. It was successful not just in showcasing the Initiative and new research, but in highlighting our Partners' very meaningful investment in, and engagement, with the program.

"Ours to Save, Ours to Lose"

On February 9, the New Mexico Wildlife Federation hosted a meeting, "Ours to Save, Ours to Lose: A Modern Valuation of New Mexico's Wildlife." Diverse stakeholders from around the state were invited to attend and learn more about the Wild Harvest Initiative[®] and its relevance

to conservation and sustainable use priorities in New Mexico.

The meeting, which was very well-organized by NMWF, was also well-attended and sparked an energetic and positive discussion. Conservation Visions will continue to explore related outcomes and opportunities.

Sports Afield Article

Conservation Visions provided an article this past quarter for Sports Afield magazine (vol. 244(2)), which highlights the initial findings of the Texas Sharing Survey Report. This article, "A Culture of Shared Generosity," presents not only entirely new insights and evidence with respect to meat sharing (in Texas) but also reflects on how the spirit of generosity can unlock a new portrait of hunters.

BHA Article

Conservation Visions also provided an article to the Winter 2021 issue of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers' Backcountry Journal. This article, "Exploring the Modern Relevance of Natural Foraging," discusses humanity's history and connection with natural foraging activities and introduces the Wild Harvest Initiative[®] to the readership as a critical effort to broaden society's understanding of this connection and to foster a resurgent interest in nature and natural foraging.

The article can be found here:

<https://www.backcountryhunters.org/exploring-the-modern-relevance-of-natural-foraging>

THE WILD HARVEST INITIATIVE® PARTNERSHIP ALLIANCE



Not pictured are Sean Olmstead and Richard A. "Dick" Corbett