

## **Castor Pond will not be stocked with Fish in 2017**

Update: 2017 ACA Fish Stocking Program

As many anglers are likely aware, in the fall of 2016, whirling disease was discovered in Alberta, including within several commercial hatcheries. While the parasite responsible for the disease has no impact on humans, it can be extremely debilitating to trout, salmon and whitefish (for more information on whirling disease: <http://aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/wildlife-diseases/whirling-disease/default.aspx>).

Because of the disruption in the commercial hatchery fish production, ACA has been forced to make some changes to our stocking program this year. The number of fish available to ACA is approximately 60 per cent of our normal stocking program. While this is not an ideal situation, we have worked with our suppliers to ensure all ponds that are currently approved for stocking by the Provincial Government will receive fish as per the schedule in the table below.

At this point in time, there is no indication that any ponds that ACA stocks contain whirling disease; however, to be cautious and ensure protection of our native fisheries, Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) has undertaken a screening of all ponds stocked by ACA to determine the risk of fish escapement. Through the initial screening process, 11 ponds have been identified as requiring further assessment. We will work closely with AEP staff to aid in the assessment of these ponds and determine mitigation measures as required that will allow these ponds to be given approval for stocking.

Whirling disease is a serious risk to Alberta's fisheries. Please do your part to stop the spread of the disease and ensure you inform others to check out the AEP website: <http://aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/wildlife-diseases/whirling-disease/stop-the-spread.aspx>.

If you have any question or concerns please do not hesitate to contact ACA at [info@ab-conservation.com](mailto:info@ab-conservation.com).