



## FRIENDS OF THE EARTH BRIEFING

### DEVILS LAKE OUTLET JEOPARDIZES MANITOBA NATURAL ASSETS

**North Dakota is completing construction of an outlet to drain Devils Lake into the broader Hudson Bay drainage system including the Sheyenne River, the Red River Basin and Lake Winnipeg. The environmental impacts have not been adequately assessed. One potentially severe impact will be the introduction of alien invasive species (non-native plants, fish, invertebrates and possibly pathogens) that will jeopardize Manitoba's natural assets.**

#### **Commercial Fishing:**

- Manitoba's commercial freshwater fishery generated \$31.8 million in 2002-03, of which \$20.9 million came from Lake Winnipeg.
- Manitoba accounts for half of Canada's freshwater fishery by value.<sup>1</sup> Lake Winnipeg accounts for over two-thirds of Manitoba's commercial fishery, and around 35% of the Canadian freshwater fishery as a whole.
- Over 3,200 licensed fishers and hired helpers are employed annually in commercial fishing in Manitoba, over 30% of them on Lake Winnipeg.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2001/02, the average annual income per fisherman on Lake Winnipeg was \$19,697.<sup>3</sup>
- Of the 43 fish packing plants in Manitoba, 14 are located on Lake Winnipeg.

#### **Recreational fishing:**

- Anglers in Manitoba spend about \$120 million annually on expenses directly attributable to fishing. Over half of this amount (\$61 million) comes from non-resident anglers.<sup>4</sup>
- An additional \$178.6 million per year in major purchases and investments<sup>5</sup> in Manitoba are attributable in whole or in part to recreational fishing, \$4.3 million of which comes from non-resident anglers.

#### **Tourism:**

- Tourism generates \$32 million per year in the Inter-Lake (Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba) and Eastern regions of Manitoba.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, *State of Canada's Fishery – 2002, Fact Sheet*, [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/media/infocus/2003/20031205/freshwater\\_e.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/media/infocus/2003/20031205/freshwater_e.htm).

<sup>2</sup> *A Profile of Manitoba's Commercial Fishery*, Manitoba Conservation, Fisheries Branch, May 26, 2003, Table 6.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Table 7.

<sup>4</sup> Fisheries and Oceans Canada, *2000 Survey of Recreational Fishing in Canada*, [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/communc/statistics/recreational/canada/2000/index\\_e.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/communc/statistics/recreational/canada/2000/index_e.htm) Expenditures directly attributable to recreational fishing include package deals from outfitters, food and lodging, transportation costs, fishing services, fishing supplies, and other expenses.

<sup>5</sup> Expenses attributable to recreational fishing include fishing equipment, boating equipment, camping equipment, special vehicles, land and buildings, and other purchases.

<sup>6</sup> Inter-Lake Tourism Board. Figure for 1999.