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Chapter 16, Environment – Regulating Landfills, 2020 Report - Volume 1

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (New/Outstanding)	Page #	Current Status (implemented, partially implement, not implemented)	Action Taken to Implement since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>Outstanding: We recommended that the Ministry of Environment adopt guidance on landfills from the proposed Environmental Code as operating practice. (2013 Report – Volume 2; Public Accounts Committee agreement April 30, 2014) Status – Partially Implemented</p>	212	Implemented	The ministry has developed a solid waste management strategy. Based on the strategy, composting and solid waste guidance were updated in June 2020.	The ministry considers the recommendation implemented.	N/A
<p>Outstanding: We recommended that the Ministry of Environment perform landfill inspections in accordance with its established frequency requirements. (2013 Report – Volume 2; Public Accounts Committee agreement April 30, 2014) Status – Partially Implemented</p>	213	Implemented	2020 inspections were completed based on the new risk-based inspection protocol using in-person and remote inspections. All sites indicated by the protocol to require an inspection had inspections completed.	The ministry considers the recommendation implemented.	N/A

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Chapter 29, Environment – Preventing the Entry and Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species in Saskatchewan, 2020 Report - Volume 2

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (New/Outstanding)	Page #	Current Status (implemented, partially implement, not implemented)	Action Taken to Implement since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>Outstanding: We recommend that the Ministry of Environment measure the effectiveness of its aquatic invasive species public education and awareness campaign regularly. (2016 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement September 15, 2016) Status – Partially Implemented</p>	232	Implemented	Provincial survey results have been received, and will be used to guide outreach and awareness initiatives in 2021. Evaluation of effectiveness of social media and news releases is monitored on an on-going basis and approach revised annually. Targeted surveys, such as the Fed/Prov Anglers Survey will continue to be used moving forward to measure the effectiveness of outreach initiatives for AIS.	The ministry considers the recommendation implemented.	N/A
<p>Outstanding: We recommend that the Ministry of Environment complete and test a formal rapid response plan to mitigate the spread of aquatic invasive species in Saskatchewan waters. (2016 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement September 15, 2016) Status – Partially Implemented</p>	232	Partially Implemented	A draft early detection and rapid response plan has been developed and now includes a finalized crisis communications plan. Testing took place in January of 2021. The response plan is expected to be finalized by the end of Q4 2020-21.	Finalize the response plan based on the results of testing which was completed	March 2021

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Chapter 29, Environment – Sustainable Fish Population Management – 2019 Report Volume 2, Chapter 21

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (New/Outstanding)	Page #	Current Status (implemented, partially implement, not implemented)	Action Taken to Implement since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>New: We recommend the Ministry of Environment formally determine resources needed to meet timeframes outlined in its Fisheries Management Plan.</p>	142	Not Implemented		<p>The ministry will complete a thorough review of the plan and its action items to determine which of them are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • still applicable after 10 years, • no longer relevant, • beyond the mandate of the fisheries unit. <p>Based on this assessment, the ministry will be able to determine what resources are needed to complete these items.</p>	Full assessment to be completed in 2021
<p>New: We recommend the Ministry of Environment give staff written, standardized, science-based protocols for field data collection and reporting on fish populations and their health.</p>	143	Partially Implemented	A procedures manual has been developed for the most commonly used field assessment methods.	<p>The ministry plans to continue development of priority chapters being identified for completion to final draft stage by April 2021.</p> <p>Additional chapters have been identified for inclusion in the manual after this fiscal year.</p> <p>This procedures manual is proposed to be a living document that will be updated or amended as necessary.</p>	May 2021

<p>New: We recommend the Ministry of Environment keep its listing of lakes, and associated priority categories used to determine the frequency of assessing fish populations of water bodies up-to-date and accurate.</p>	145	Partially Implemented	A final draft of the priority matrix for fisheries assessments is completed and currently going through review and approval, pending additional information from the Water Security Agency.	As soon as the outstanding information is received from the Water Security Agency, the priority matrix will be in final draft and ready for approvals.	May 2021
<p>New We recommend the Ministry of Environment assess fish populations including their health using intervals determined through a scientific, risk-based approach.</p>	146	Partially Implemented	Intervals will be directly tied to the priority matrix being developed in association with this recommendation.	Upon completion of the priority matrix, intervals will be assigned based on level of risk and resources available.	May 2021
<p>New: We recommend the Ministry of Environment consider adopting the emerging practice of asking commercial fishers to submit additional key information about the health of fish populations in water bodies they use.</p>	147	Implemented	This was determined to not be practical considering the effort that would be required by commercial fishers to provide this information. The ministry has decided to, instead, work alongside commercial fishers to collect this data when commercial data would provide value to fisheries management.	The ministry considers the recommendation implemented.	N/A

<p>New: We recommend the Ministry of Environment create specific management plans for key high-risk fish species and/or high-usage water bodies.</p>	147	Partially Implemented	The ministry has determined that water body specific management plans should be developed, as needed, for high priority waterbodies or where management plans are needed to recovery populations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ministry will develop management plans for high-usage water bodies in conjunction with fish population assessments. • This will be an on-going process for several years following the update of the risk assessment as high use water bodies are assessed. • Once management plans are developed, the plan will be reassessed at each subsequent full lake assessment to ensure its relevance and usefulness in management of the fishery. 	May 2022
<p>New: We recommend the Ministry of Environment create specific management plans for key high-risk fish species and/or high-usage water bodies.</p>	147	Partially Implemented	The ministry has determined that water body specific management plans should be developed, as needed, for high priority waterbodies or where management plans are needed to recovery populations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ministry will develop management plans for high-usage water bodies in conjunction with fish population assessments. • This will be an on-going process for several years following the update of the risk assessment as high use water bodies are assessed. • Once management plans are developed, the plan will be reassessed at each subsequent full lake assessment to ensure its relevance and usefulness in management of the fishery. 	May 2022

<p>New We recommend the Ministry of Environment document, in its reports of fish populations and health of assessed water bodies, key decisions (e.g., key assumptions, sampling methods and sizes).</p>	149	Implemented	The reporting template has been updated and is used in production of current reports.	The ministry considers the recommendation implemented.	N/A
<p>New: We recommend the Ministry of Environment finalize analysis of fish data collected from water body assessments in a reasonable timeframe to allow for consideration before the next assessment season. (2019 Report – Volume 2)</p>	149	Implemented	A new report template (discussed previously) has been developed that will facilitate the completion of management reports for fisheries. Timelines for completion of reports are now in place as part of the Fisheries Unit annual planning.	The ministry considers the recommendation implemented.	N/A
<p>New: We recommend the Ministry of Environment develop a detailed strategy to assess the effectiveness of the Fisheries Management Plan including determining its success. (2019 Report – Volume 2)</p>	152	Not implemented	This will not be started until the Fisheries Management Plan review scheduled in 2021/22 is completed.		May 2022

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Chapter 29, Environment – Regulating Waste Diversion Through Recycling – 2020 Report Volume 2, Chapter 20

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (New/Outstanding)	Page #	Current Status (implemented, partially implement, not implemented)	Action Taken to Implement since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>New: We recommend the Ministry of Environment set written standard definitions for key information (including calculation methods) it requires operators of waste diversion recycling programs to report.</p>	137	Not implemented	Working on developing a plan of action.	<p>i. The ministry will work with the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment (CCME) and program operators to develop consistent definitions and calculation methods and consider opportunities to improve guidance during review of stewardship programs and regulations.</p> <p>ii. Through the CCME, Saskatchewan is working with other jurisdictions to develop a guidance document that will help move towards more consistent programs including definitions and methodologies. The guidance document is expected to be complete by end of 2021.</p>	<p>The guidance document is expected to be complete by end of 2021. Consideration for integrating into regulations or guidance will be ongoing as individual programs undergo scheduled review.</p>
<p>New: We recommend the Ministry of Environment obtain a more robust understanding of the composition of waste entering Saskatchewan landfills. (2020 Report – Volume 2)</p>	137	Not implemented	Working on developing a plan of action.	<p>i. The ministry will work with other ministries and agencies to better understand the waste composition.</p> <p>ii. It is acknowledged that better data is necessary to make informed decisions. We are currently investigating available data and identifying gaps which will aid in the development of an action plan to fully address this recommendation. This will likely require collaboration both internal to the Government of Saskatchewan and with external partners including municipalities.</p>	<p>Initial gap analysis underway. Next steps and timelines to be determined.</p>

<p>New: We recommend the Ministry of Environment use material-specific targets to assist in determining whether waste diversion recycling programs contribute to the achievement of the provincial waste reduction goal. (2020 Report – Volume 2)</p>	138	Not implemented	Working on developing a plan of action.	<p>i. The ministry will seek program specific targets for regulated waste diversion through consultation with stewardship program operators.</p> <p>ii. As committed to in the Solid Waste Management Strategy, all waste stewardship programs will be reviewed beginning with the program for household paper and packaging in early 2021. As part of these reviews, targets will be considered for each program that will move the province towards our overall goal of reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill. Timelines for subsequent reviews have not yet been established.</p>	Targets will be considered during program reviews starting with household paper and packaging in early 2021.
<p>New: We recommend the Ministry of Environment analyze the reasonability of program information reported by regulated waste diversion recycling programs. (2020 Report – Volume 2)</p>	140	Not implemented	Working on developing a plan of action.	<p>i. The ministry will analyze information provided in annual reports and consider trends, to more fully assess program performance and identify opportunities to improve efficiency and effectiveness.</p> <p>ii. Although an initial assessment of available data has been initiated, a more thorough analysis will be conducted following submission of 2020 annual reports in June 2021. This will become an ongoing and annual activity to better track trends and give an understanding of each program’s performance.</p>	Analysis will be initiated following submission of 2020 annual reports in June 2021.

<p>New: We recommend the Ministry of Environment periodically report to senior management on the rate of waste diversion through regulated recycling programs. (2020 Report – Volume 2)</p>	<p>142</p>	<p>Not implemented</p>	<p>Working on developing a plan of action.</p>	<p>i. The ministry will seek to enhance reporting to senior management on the performance of regulated waste stewardship and recycling programs.</p> <p>ii. The ministry will continue to report to senior management with progress on commitments in the Solid Waste Management Strategy on a quarterly basis. More detailed reporting will be provided following review and analysis of annual reports and will be supported by information collected as we address other of the auditor’s recommendations.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
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