

Behan Lake

Fisheries Management Objectives

Version Date: October 2017	Prepared by: Alicia Pruden-Beniuk	Reviewed by: Dwayne Latty	Approved by: Kathy Hendren
Waterbody ID: 4024	Surface Area: 1328(Ha)	Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8): La Biche River	Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8): 17050301
Sport Fish Species: Northern Pike, Yellow Perch			
Indigenous Fishery: yes			
Environment and Parks Region: Lower Athabasca Region (LAR)		Fisheries Management Zone: Northern Boreal 4 (NB4)	Fisheries Management Office: Lac La Biche

Background

Behan Lake is located approximately 60km north of the hamlet of Lac La Biche, and is the headwater of its only outflow, the Owl River. There are no tributaries to this lake. It is a shallow lake with a maximum depth of 5.5 m, and a mean depth of 1.21 m, that experiences winterkills. Pike and perch are present, and historic commercial catch records indicate walleye were once present in low densities. Walleye are no longer present in Behan Lake.

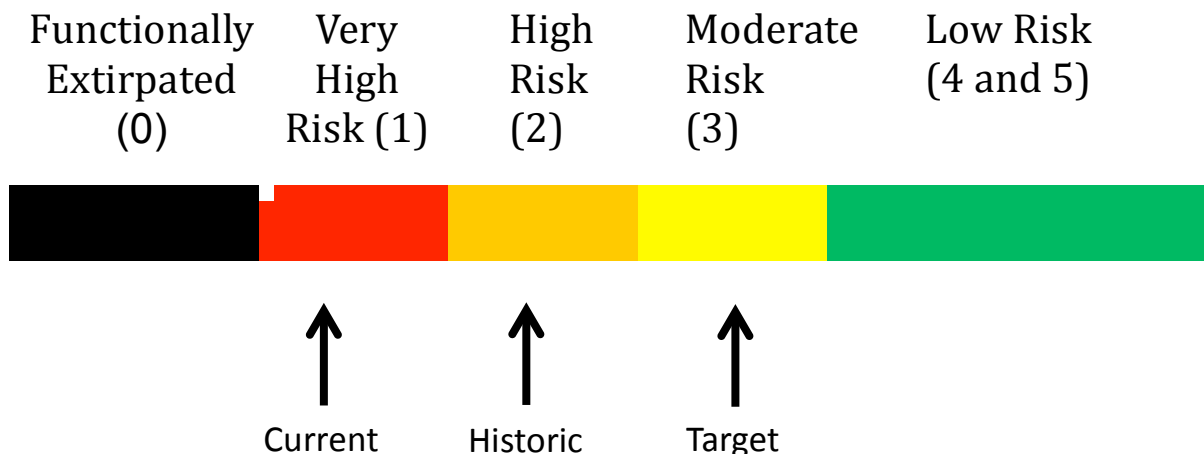
There are no roads to Behan Lake, Access is by ATV or snowmobiles, which likely limits recreational use. An Indian/Metis Domestic fishery exists on this lake but it is rarely used. Behan Lake was occasionally fished commercially from the 1940s through the 1960s.

Behan Lake is passively managed as no surveys have been conducted here.

Section 1. Fish Population Status

Northern Pike – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainable Index Adult Density Score



Yellow Perch – Adult Abundance – Undetermined

Section 2. Recreational Fishery Management Objectives and Management Summary

The **focal species** for recreational management is **Northern Pike**. The secondary species managed for recreational objectives are yellow perch. These sport-fisheries are not directly assessed at intervals, and therefore are passively managed. The **Overharvest Protection Need** is assessed as **Low**.

Northern Pike – The recreational fishery management objective for northern pike is **Sustainable Harvest**. The corresponding FSI score for the current adult density of northern pike was assessed as **Very High Risk** to sustainability. The pike population is not currently meeting the status and criteria for the objective of a sustainable harvest fishery. The current management action is harvest regulation of 3 Northern Pike over 63 cm. The new management action will be a **Zero Harvest** regulation for **Northern Pike**.

Yellow Perch – The recreational fishery management objective being applied is the provincial default (**Sustainable Harvest**). The status of the yellow perch population has not been assessed. The current management action is a regulation of 15 yellow perch, any size.

Management Summary

Management Priority	Species	Overharvest Protection Need	Management Action	Sport Fishing Harvest Regulation
1	Northern Pike	Low	Recovery – Sustainable Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 > 63 (2017-18)• C&R (Implementation on April 1, 2018)
2	Yellow Perch	Low	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	15 any size

**Recreational management objectives for Lake Whitefish, Yellow Perch, and Burbot have not been fully developed into management frameworks, and will be subject to change pending on-going work and development. However, general action statements have been listed for these species within the context of relative abundance, catch rates and trends associated with index netting assessments, in relation to the management of these species at a provincial level.*