

Blue Lake

Recreational Fisheries Management Objectives

Version Date: October 2017	Prepared by: Mike Blackburn	Reviewed by: Ryan Cox	Approved by: Dave Hugelschaffer (Resource Manager)
Waterbody ID: 4178	Surface Area: 11 (Ha)	Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8): Wildhay River	Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8): 17010302
Sport Fish Species: Northern Pike, Lake Whitefish, Walleye, Yellow Perch			
Indigenous Fishery: No			
Environment and Parks Region: Upper Athabasca Region (UAR)		Fisheries Management Zone: East Slopes 3 (ES3)	Fisheries Management Office: Edson

Background

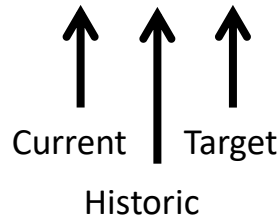
Blue Lake is within William A. Switzer Provincial Park located approximately 20 km northwest of Hinton. It supports a sport fishery for northern pike and lake whitefish that likely receives moderate to high angling pressure due to the provincial campground facilities. Blue Lake is in close proximity and connected to Gregg, Jarvis, Graveyard, and Cache lakes. Historically, Blue Lake was stocked with non-native brook trout in 1951 and 1954; and rainbow trout from 1965 in efforts to establish self-sustaining population, however sufficient recruitment to support a sustainable harvest has been non-existent.

Section 1. Fish Population Status

Northern Pike – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainable Index Adult Density Score

Functionally Extirpated (0)	Very High Risk (1)	High Risk (2)	Moderate Risk (3)	Low Risk (4 and 5)
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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 lake whitefish, and yellow perch. These sport-fisheries are indirectly assessed at intervals according to assessment at Gregg and Jarvis lakes, and therefore are passively managed. The **Overharvest Protection Need** is assessed as **High**.

Northern Pike – The current recreational fishery management objective for northern pike is **Sustainable Harvest**. The Fish Sustainability Index (FSI) score for the current mature density of northern pike was assessed as **High Risk** to sustainability. The northern pike population is currently not meeting the status and criteria for the objective of a sustainable harvest fishery. The current management action is to **promote recovery using a regulation of Catch and Release**. This is required change from the present 1 pike over 63cm regulation.

Lake Whitefish – The recreational fishery management objective being applied is the provincial default (**Sustainable Harvest**). The status of the lake whitefish population has not been assessed. The current management action is a regulation of 10 lake whitefish, any size.

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 perch, any size.

Management Summary

Management Priority	Species	Overharvest Protection Need	Management Action	Sport Fishing Harvest Regulation
1	Northern Pike	High	Recovery – Sustainable Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 > 63cm (2017-18). Catch and release (beginning April 1st 2018-19)
2	Lake Whitefish*	High	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	10 any size
3	Yellow Perch*	High	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.*