

Summary Information

Version Date: July 2018	Prepared by: Alicia Pruden-Beniuk	Reviewed by: Dwayne Latty	Approved by: Kathy Hendren
Waterbody ID: 4016	Surface Area: 67 (Ha)	Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8): La Biche River	Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8): 17050301
Sport Fish Species: Walleye, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch			
Indigenous Fishery: No			
Environment and Parks Region: Lower Athabasca Region (LAR)	Fisheries Management Zone: Northern Boreal 1 (NB1)	Fisheries Management Office: Lac La Biche	

Background

Claude Lake is located approximately 5 km northeast of the Hamlet of Lac La Biche. It is surrounded by residential and agricultural developments and has no public boat launches or campsites.

The lake has poor water quality resulting from very high sediment content. It is known to winterkill frequently and a near complete winterkill was reported in 2004. Claude Lake has an average depth of 2.0 m and a maximum depth of 12.5 m.

Although there are historic records of Walleye being found in this lake, most of those individuals are believed to be the result of unauthorized transfers. As this lake doesn't have suitable spawning habitat, frequently winterkills, and has poor water quality, Walleye populations within it will not be sustainable.

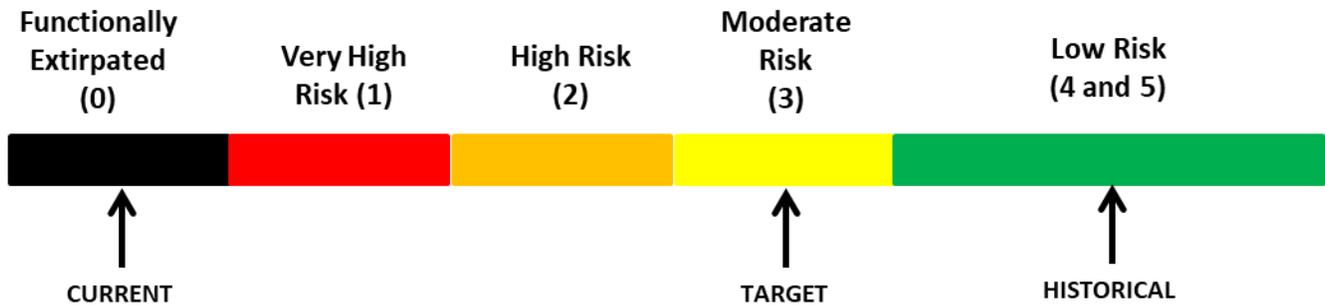
An inventory completed in the summer of 2017, confirmed the presence of both Walleye and Yellow Perch. The Walleye are of low density and are experiencing recruitment failure. Pike have been absent in the lake since the winterkill in 2004.

Recreational fishing occurs on this lake, but is limited as there is no developed public access. There was no active commercial fishery.

Fish Population Status

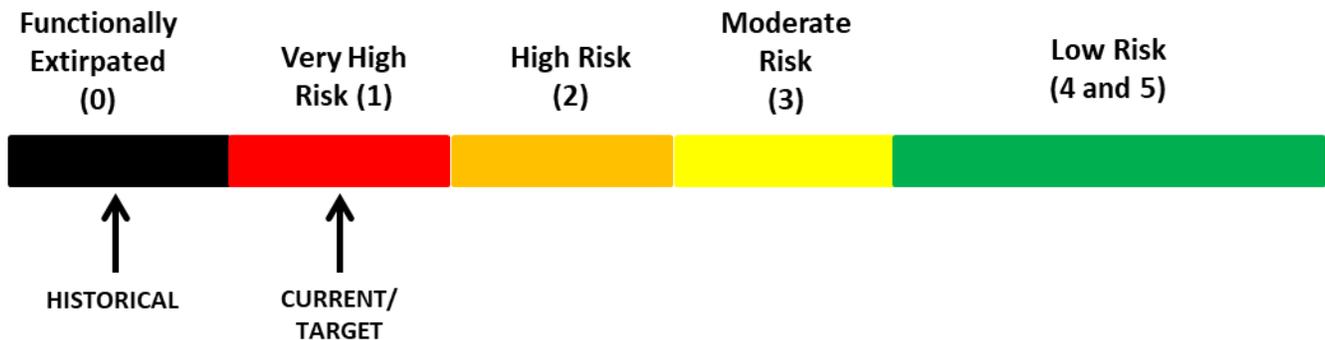
Northern Pike – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainability Index Adult Density Score



Walleye – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainability Index Adult Density Score



Yellow Perch- Adult Abundance - Undetermined

Recreational Fishery Management Objectives

The **focal species** for recreational management is **Yellow Perch**. The secondary species managed for recreational objectives are northern pike and walleye. These sport-fisheries are not assessed at regular intervals, and therefore are passively managed. The **Overharvest Protection Need** is assessed as **High Risk**.

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.

Northern Pike - The recreational fishery management objective for northern pike is **Sustainable Harvest**. The corresponding FSI score for the current mature density of northern pike was assessed at (0) **Functionally Extirpated**. The pike population is currently not meeting the status and criteria for the objective of a sustainable harvest fishery. The current management action is a harvest regulation of 3 northern pike over 63 cm. The new management action will be **Recovery** of Northern Pike with a **Zero Harvest** regulation.

Walleye - The recreational fishery management objective for walleye is **Liberal Harvest**. The corresponding FSI score for the current mature density of walleye was assessed as **High Risk** to sustainability. The current management action, a catch and release regulation for walleye will not be able to meet the objective of a

sustainable harvest fishery. Therefore, the proposed management action is a **Liberal Harvest regulation of 1 walleye, any size.**

Management Summary

Management Priority	Species	Overharvest Protection Need	Management Action	Sport Fishing Harvest Regulation
1	Yellow Perch*	High	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	15 any size
2	Northern Pike	High	Recovery – Sustainable Harvest	3 over 63 (current) C&R (new)
3	Walleye	High	Depletion - Liberal Harvest	C&R (Current) 1 any size (proposed)

**Recreational management objectives for lake whitefish and yellow perch 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.*