

Crane Lake

Recreational Fisheries Management Objectives

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Waterbody ID: 4351	Surface Area: 1,029 (Ha)	Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8): Marie Creek	Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8): 12020104
Sport Fish Species: Walleye, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch and Burbot			
Indigenous Fishery: Yes			
Environment and Parks Region: Lower Athabasca Region (LAR)	Fisheries Management Zone: Northern Boreal 1 (NB1)	Fisheries Management Office: Cold Lake	

Background

This FMO pertains to Crane Lake and all of its tributaries, and includes the outlet stream downstream to the road crossing at 534730 6041961 (UTM 12N). Crane Lake is a nutrient rich (eutrophic) lake with a surface area of 1,029.4 ha, a mean depth of 8.9 m, and a maximum depth of 25.9 m. This lake is a 3 hour drive from the City of Edmonton and half an hour from the City of Cold Lake.

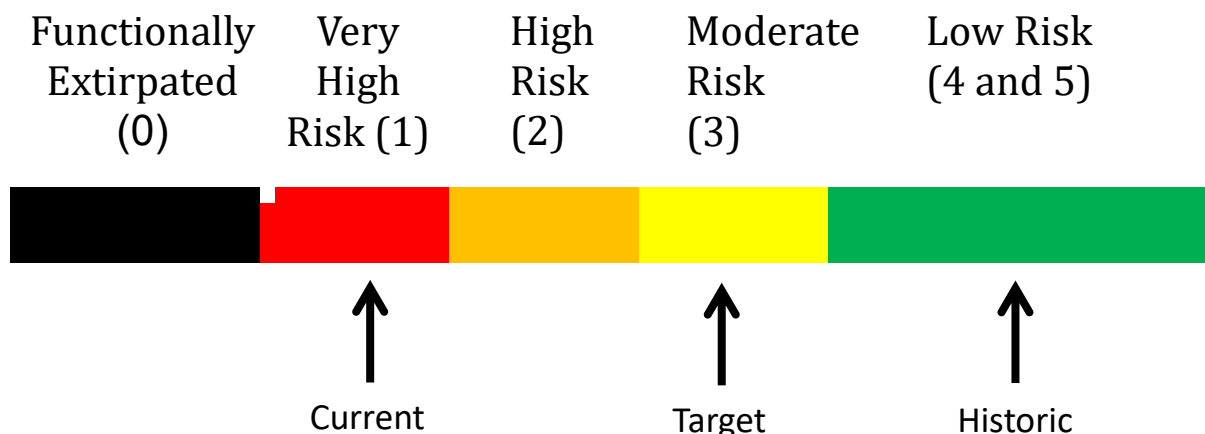
Most of the shoreline of Crane Lake is crown-owned; however, there is extensive cottage development and shoreline disturbance on the southwest part of the lake. There are also two municipal camping areas on the lakeshore. Recreational activity is high on Crane Lake. The Municipal District of Bonnyville is implementing a [riparian restoration pilot project](#) to restore the shoreline of Crane Lake which commenced in spring of 2016.

Crane Lake has a recreational fishing closure between April 1st and May 14th every year. The outlet stream to Crane Lake is also closed November 1st to May 31st each year.

Section 1. Fish Population Status

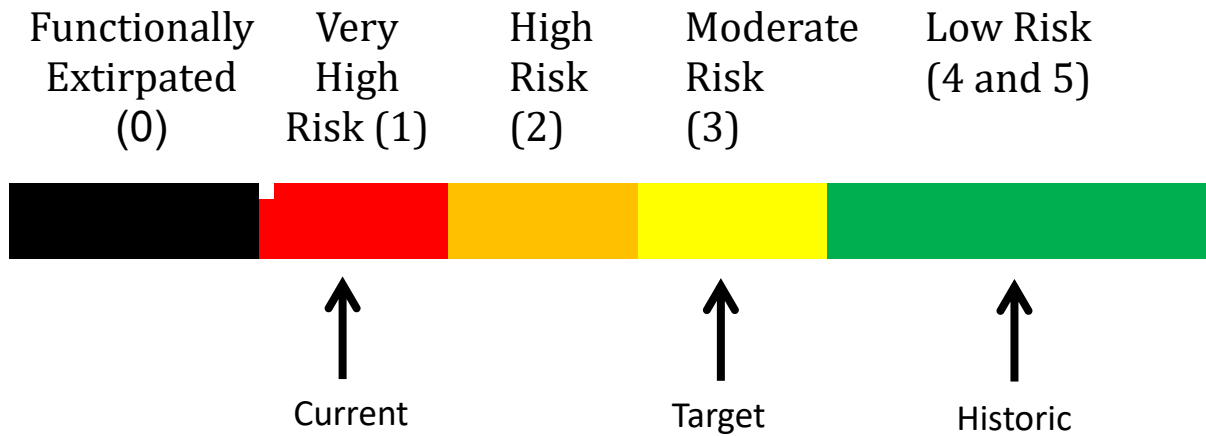
Walleye – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainable Index Adult Density Score



Northern Pike – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainable Index Adult Density Score



Yellow Perch- Adult Abundance – Undetermined
Burbot – Adult Abundance – Undetermined

Section 2. Recreational Fishery Management Objectives and Management Summary

The **focal species** for recreational management is **Walleye**. The secondary species managed for recreational objectives are Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, and Burbot. These sport-fisheries are directly assessed at intervals, and therefore are actively managed. The **Overharvest Protection Need** is assessed as **Moderate**.

Walleye – The current recreational fishery management objective for Walleye is **Sustainable Harvest**. The Fish Sustainability Index score for current adult density of Walleye was assessed as (2) **High Risk** to sustainability. The Walleye population is not currently meeting the status and criteria for the objective of a sustainable harvest fishery. The current management action is a **Zero Harvest** regulation for Walleye.

Northern Pike – The current recreational management objective for Northern Pike is **Sustainable Harvest**. The Fish Sustainability Index score for current adult density is (2) **High Risk** to sustainability. The Northern Pike population does not currently meet the status and criteria for the objective of a sustainable fishery. The current management action is a harvest regulation of **1 Northern Pike over 63 cm**. The required 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 population has not been assessed. The current management action is a regulation of **15 Yellow Perch, any size**.

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

Management Summary

Management Priority	Species	Overharvest Protection Need	Management Action	Sport Fishing Harvest Regulation
1	Walleye	Moderate	Recovery – Sustainable Harvest	Catch & Release
2	Northern Pike	Moderate	Recovery – Sustainable Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1>63 (2017-18) • Catch & Release (Implementation April 2018-19)
3	Yellow Perch*	Moderate	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	15 any size
4	Burbot*	Moderate	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	10 any size

*Recreational management objectives for 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.