

# Cross Coulee Reservoir

## Recreational Fisheries Management Objectives

Version Date: October 2017	Prepared by: Linda Winkel Fisheries Biologist	Reviewed by: Shane Petry Senior Fisheries Biologist	Approved by: (Resource Manager) Craig Johnson
Waterbody ID: 20947	Surface Area: 80 (Ha)	Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8): Cross Coulee Reservoir	Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8): 04010303
Sport Fish Species: Walleye, Northern Pike, Lake Whitefish, Burbot			
Indigenous Fishery: No			
Environment and Parks Region: South Saskatchewan Region		Fisheries Management Zone: Parkland Prairie 1 (PP1)	Fisheries Management Office: Lethbridge

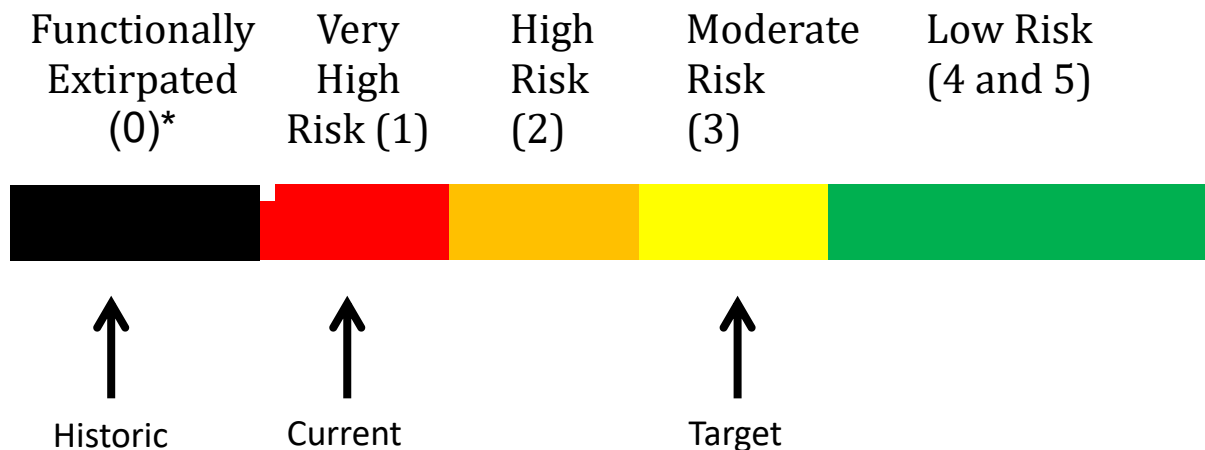
### Background

Cross Coulee Reservoir is located approximately 40 km southeast of Lethbridge. It supports a sport fishery for Walleye that likely receives low angling pressure due to low fish numbers. Other species (Northern Pike, Lake Whitefish, and Burbot) also support a limited sport fishery at this location. All sportfish populations have been established as a result of movement through the irrigation system.

### Section 1. Fish Population Status

#### Northern Pike – Adult Abundance

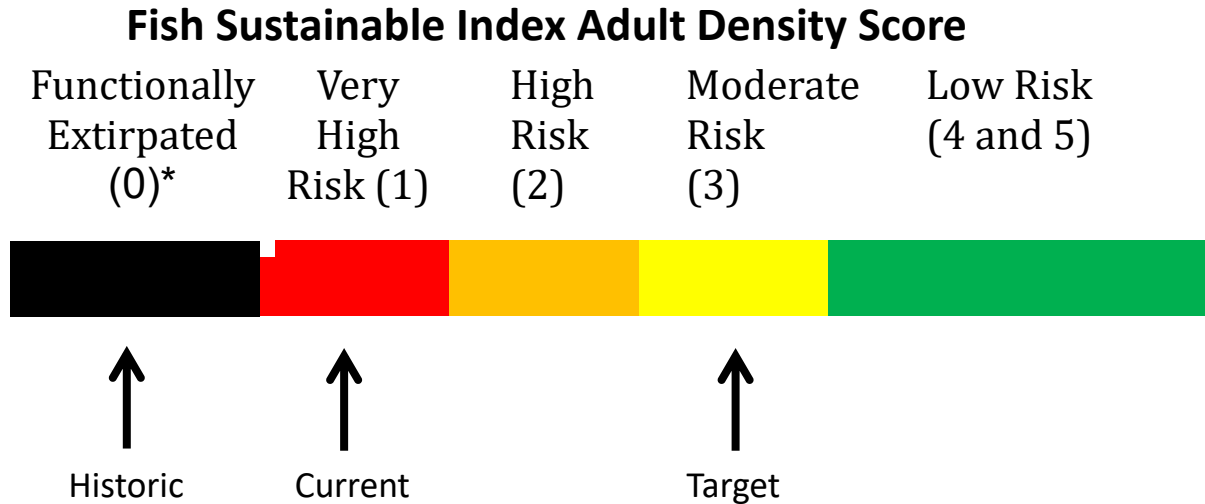
### Fish Sustainable Index Adult Density Score



\*Northern Pike were not historically found at this location

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Walleye – Adult Abundance



\* Walleye were not historically found at this location

Lake Whitefish – Adult Abundance – Undetermined (current sampling methodology does not address this species)

## 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, Lake Whitefish, and Burbot. These sport-fisheries are not assessed at intervals, and therefore are passively managed. The **Overharvest Protection Need** is assessed as **(2) High**.

**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 as **(2) High** to sustainability. The Northern Pike population is not currently meeting the status and criteria for the objective of a sustainable harvest fishery. The required management action to maintain this outcome is a **Catch and Release** regulation.

**Walleye** – The recreational fishery management objective for walleye is **Sustainable Harvest**. The corresponding FSI score for the current mature density of walleye was assessed at **(2) High** to sustainability. The Walleye population is currently not meeting the status and criteria for the objective of a sustainable harvest fishery. The required management action is **Catch and Release**.

**Lake Whitefish** – 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 **10 Lake Whitefish**, any size.

## Management Summary

Management Priority	Species	Overharvest Protection Need	Management Action	Sport Fishing Harvest Regulation
1	Walleye	(2) High	Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 &gt; 50cm (2017-18)</li> <li><b>Catch and Release (Implementation April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018-19)</b></li> </ul>
2	Northern Pike	(2) High	Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 &gt; 63cm (2017-18)</li> <li><b>Catch and Release (Implementation April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018-19)</b></li> </ul>
3	Lake Whitefish	(2) High	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	10 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.*