

Summary Information

Version Date: July 2018	Prepared by: Alicia Pruden-Beniuk	Reviewed by: Dwayne Latty	Approved by: Kathy Hendren
Waterbody ID: 4610	Surface Area: 1392 ha	Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8): Upper Beaver River	Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8): 12010101
Sport Fish Species: Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Lake Whitefish, Burbot			
Indigenous Fishery: Yes			
Environment and Parks Region: Lower Athabasca Region (LAR)		Fisheries Management Zone: Northern Boreal 1 (NB1)	Fisheries Management Office: Lac La Biche

Background

Fork Lake is approximately 38 km southeast of the Hamlet of Lac La Biche. Developments around the lake include one campground (with 43 sites), two boat launches, and residential subdivisions. There is also significant agricultural development in the area.

Fork Lake has many small tributaries but only one outlet, Fork Creek, which connects to the Beaver River. The water level in the lake has decreased over the years making the southwest arm of the lake nearly inaccessible by boat.

Reports indicate that a natural lake whitefish population was present in the lake until it winterkilled in the 1910's. Whitefish were re-stocked in the late 1940's or early 1950's. Records also indicate that in 1958 approximately half a million walleye fry were stocked into the lake. This species has since been extirpated.

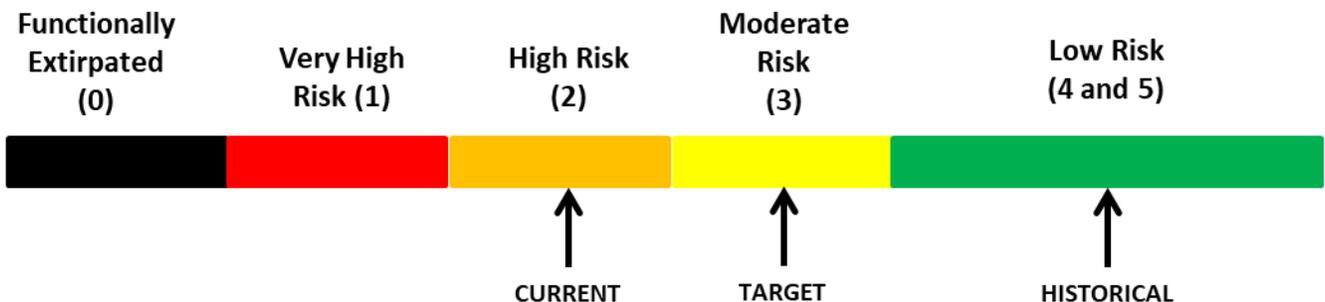
Fork Lake has an active recreational fishery as well as an Indian/Metis Domestic fishery. A very active commercial fishery existed from the 1940's to 2013, one year prior to the commercial fishery closure.

This lake is actively managed and three Fall Index Netting surveys have been completed (2008, 2013, and 2018). No creels have been completed.

Fish Population Status

Northern Pike – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainability Index Adult Density Score



Yellow Perch- Adult Abundance – Undetermined
Lake Whitefish- Adult Abundance - Undetermined

Recreational Fishery Management Objectives

The **focal species** for recreational management is **Northern Pike**. The secondary species managed for recreational objectives are yellow perch. These sport-fisheries are directly assessed at intervals, and therefore are actively managed. The **Overharvest Protection Need** is assessed as **moderate risk**.

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 **High Risk** to sustainability. The pike population is not currently meeting the status and criteria for the objective of a sustainable harvest fishery. The new management action is recovery using a **Catch and Release** regulation.

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.

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.

Management Summary

Management Priority	Species	Overharvest Protection Need	Management Action	Sport Fishing Harvest Regulation
1	Northern Pike	Moderate	Recovery – Sustainable Harvest	1 < 63 cm or 1 > 100 cm (current) C&R (new)
2	Yellow Perch	Moderate	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	15 any size
3	Lake Whitefish	Moderate	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	10 any size

**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.*