

Summary Information

Version Date: July 2018	Prepared by: Caroline Farkas	Reviewed by: Dwayne Latty	Approved by: Kathy Hendren
Waterbody ID: 4903	Surface Area: 937 ha	Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8): Upper Beaver River	Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8): 12010101
Sport Fish Species: Walleye, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Lake Whitefish, Burbot			
Indigenous Fishery: Yes			
Environment and Parks Region: Lower Athabasca Region (LAR)		Fisheries Management Zone: Northern Boreal (NB1)	Fisheries Management Office: Lac La Biche

Background

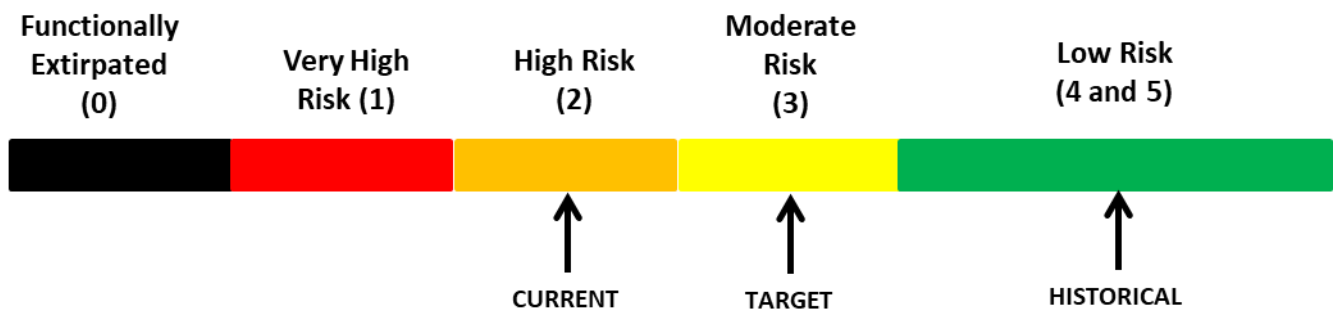
Ironwood Lake is located approximately 50 km southeast of the Hamlet of Lac La Biche. It supports a sport fishery for walleye and northern pike. The area surrounding the lake is protected as Lakeland Recreation Area with a campground situated on the southwest shoreline. The campground includes 20 unserviced camping stalls, a day use area and a single boat launch. Truck access to the lake is limited to a gravel road into the campground, and some ATV trails.

Alberta Health Services (AHS) has issued a consumption advisory for walleye and northern pike due to elevated mercury levels (see <http://mywildalberta.com/fishing/safety-procedures/documents/FishConsumptionLimitsAlberta-Feb24-2016.pdf>).

Fish Population Status

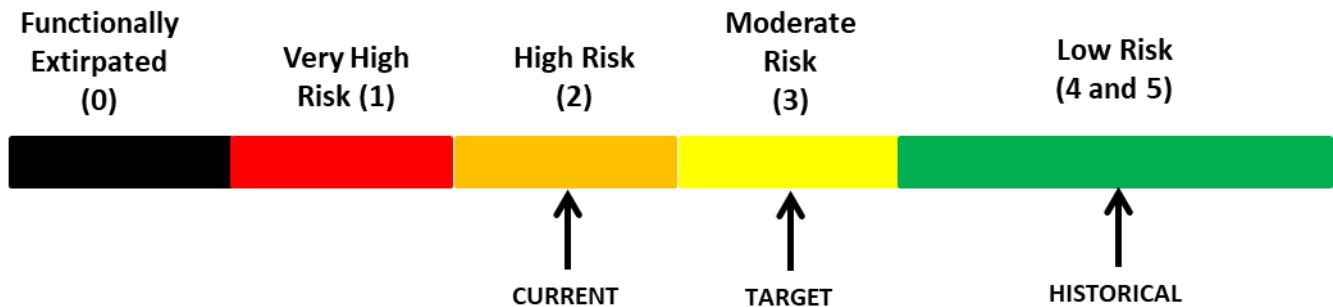
Northern Pike – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainability Index Adult Density Score



Walleye – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainability Index Adult Density Score



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

Recreational Fishery Management Objectives

The **focal species** for recreational management is **Walleye**. The secondary species managed for recreational objectives are northern pike, yellow perch, lake whitefish and burbot. These sport-fisheries are directly assessed at intervals, and therefore are actively managed. The **Overharvest Protection Need** is assessed as **Moderate to Low**.

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 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 to achieve this objective is through a **catch and release** regulation.

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 Risk** to sustainability. The northern pike population is not currently meeting the status and criteria for the objective of a sustainable harvest fishery. The new management action to maintain this outcome will be 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 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.

Burbot – The recreational fishery management objective being applied is the provincial default (**Sustainable Harvest**). The status of the burbot 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 to Low	Recovery – Sustainable Harvest	C&R (current)
2	Northern Pike	Moderate to Low	Recovery - Sustainable Harvest	1 > 63cm (current) C&R (new)
3	Yellow Perch*	Moderate to Low	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	15 any size
4	Lake Whitefish*	Moderate to Low	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	10 any size
5	Burbot*	Moderate to Low	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.