

Lac Bellevue

Recreational Fisheries Management Objectives

Version Date: October 2017	Prepared by: Owen Watkins	Reviewed by: Stephen Spencer	Approved by: John Tchir – Resource Manager
Waterbody ID: 4027	Surface Area: 461 (Ha)	Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8): North Saskatchewan and Mann Lakes	Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8): 11040101
Sport Fish Species: Walleye, Northern Pike, and Yellow Perch			
Indigenous Fishery: No			
Environment and Parks Region: Red Deer North Saskatchewan Region (RDNSR)	Fisheries Management Zone: Northern Boreal 1 (NB1)	Fisheries Management Office: Spruce Grove	

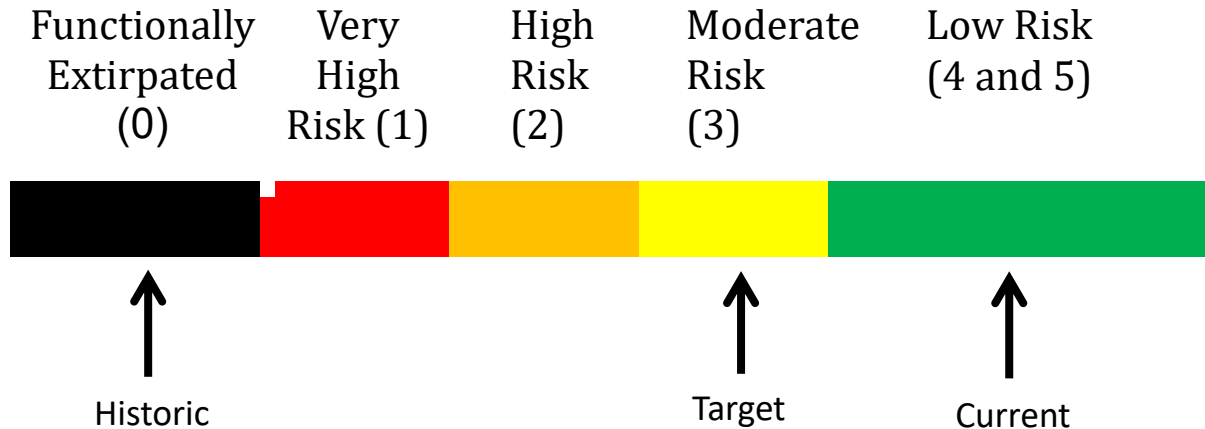
Background

Lac Bellevue is located approximately 180 km northeast of Edmonton, 25 km south of St. Paul, Alberta. Most of the shoreline and watershed are crown owned, however a high percentage of the watershed has been cleared for agriculture. Near the lake's shoreline there is a summer village and two campgrounds. There are two access points, one each at the north and south ends. Lac Bellevue supports a population of stocked Walleyes. Some Northern Pike and many Yellow Perch were stocked in the 1960's, however, there is some speculation that these two species were historically present. In 1971, approximately 250 adult Walleyes from the Beaver River were stocked into Lac Bellevue. In 1992, and 1994 a total of 63,000 Walleye fingerlings were stocked in effort to create a self-sustaining population. In 1996, the Walleye and Northern Pike populations were classified as collapsed, and were managed under a catch-and-release angling regulation. Surveys in 2003 and 2010 recorded an increase in the Walleye numbers allowing for harvest in 2017.

Section 1. Fish Population Status

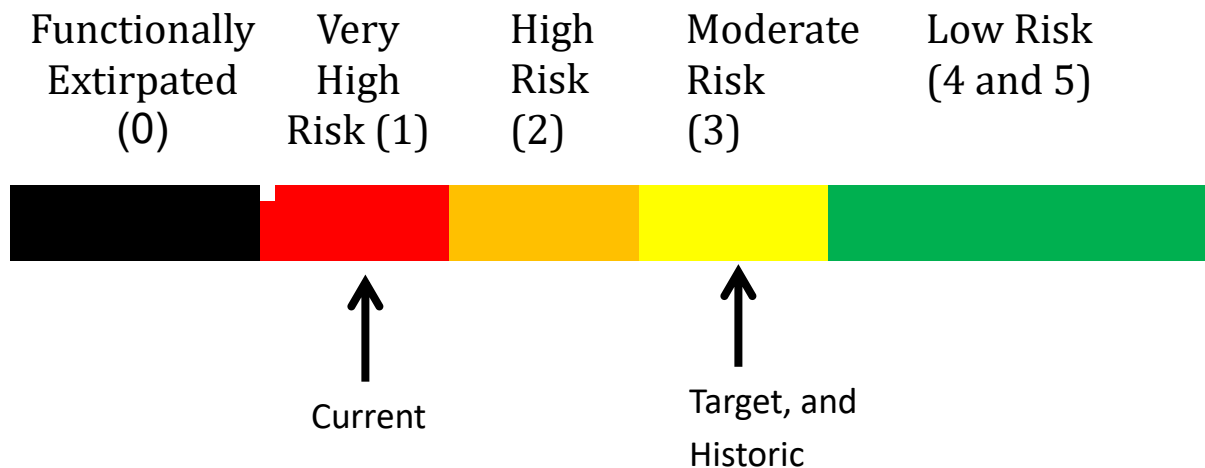
Walleye – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainable Index Adult Density Score



Northern Pike – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainable Index Adult Density Score



Section 2. Recreational Fishery Management Objectives and Management Summary

Prior to consultation with the public, the default **Recreational Fisheries Management Objective** for Alberta fisheries is **Sustainable Harvest**. The focal species for recreational management at Lac Bellevue is **Walleye**. The secondary species managed for recreational objectives are Northern Pike, and Yellow Perch. The fishery at Lac Bellevue is directly assessed at intervals, and therefore is **actively** managed. The **Overharvest Protection Need** is assessed as **Very High Risk**.

Walleye – The FSI score for Walleye at Lac Bellevue was assessed at (5) **Low Risk** to sustainability. The Walleye population is currently exceeding the Recreational Fisheries Management Objective of Sustainable Harvest. Therefore, the current management action is **Maintenance** through the **Special Harvest Licence** with a high allocation to reduce the overall density of Walleye without incidentally increasing fishing pressure on Northern Pike.

Northern Pike – The corresponding FSI score for Northern Pike was assessed at (1) **High Risk**. The Northern Pike population is currently not meeting the status and criteria for the objective of a sustainable harvest fishery. Therefore, the required management action is a **Recovery** regulation of **Catch and Release**. This is change from the current regulation of 1 pike over 63cm.

Yellow Perch – The status of the yellow perch population has not been assessed. The current management action is a regulation of 10 yellow perch, any size.

Management Summary

Management Priority	Species	Overharvest Protection Need	Management Action	Sport Fishing Harvest Regulation
Primary	Walleye	Very High	Maintenance - Sustainable Harvest	Special Harvest License
Secondary	Northern Pike	Very High	Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 > 63cm (2017-18) Catch and Release (Implementation April 1st, 2018-19)
Secondary	Yellow Perch*	Very High	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.