

Summary Information

Version Date: October 2018	Prepared by: Alicia Pruden-Beniuk	Reviewed by: Dwayne Latty	Approved by: Kathy Hendren
Waterbody ID: 4048	Surface Area: 23,652 ha	Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8): La Biche River	Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8): 17050301
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 1 (NB1)	Fisheries Management Office: Lac La Biche

Background

Lac La Biche lake is located adjacent to the Hamlet of Lac La Biche, which is 150 km northeast of Edmonton. It's the seventh largest lake in the province with a mean depth of 8.4 m and a max depth of 24.4 m

Lac La Biche has numerous inflows including the Owl River, Plamondon Creek, and the Red Deer Brook. There is only one outflow, the La Biche River, which connects this lake to the Athabasca River. This lake is very nutrient rich, and frequently experiences blue-green algal blooms in the summer.

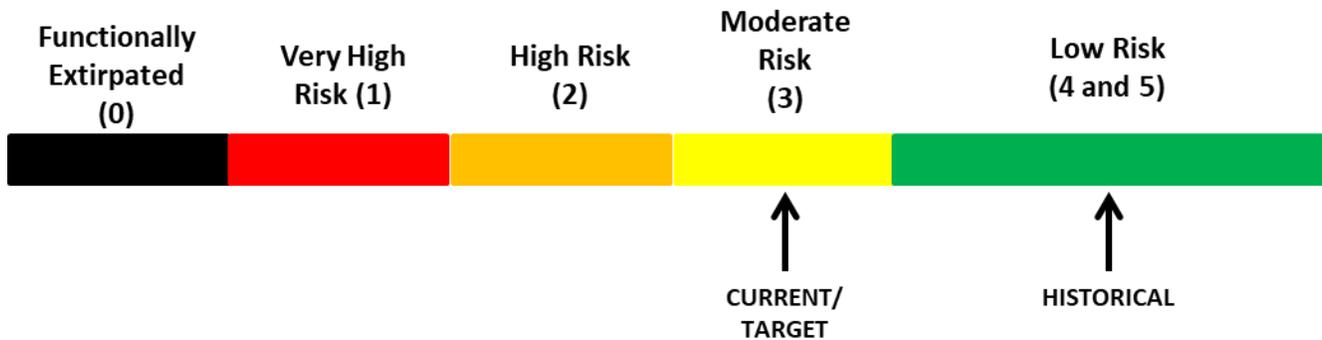
All the islands on the lake are part of Sir Winston Churchill Park. The largest of the Islands, Churchill Island (historically known as Big Island), has the majority of the park facilities including a 72 stall campground. There is one boat launch on the causeway, and nine other major boat launches located all around the lake.

Lac La Biche supports a domestic and recreational fishery. A commercial fishery was supported until 2014 when all commercial fishing was closed in the province. In the 1960's the walleye were all but removed from the lake from the decades of high commercial quotas and sportfishing limits. Walleye stocking commenced in the 1980's and 90's but was not successful. In 2005, the Lac La Biche Fishery Restoration Project commenced. The main purpose of the project was to restore walleye to the lake, improve the overall size and structure of the fish community, and to improve fishing opportunities. One of the main components to this project included the stocking of walleye fry and fingerlings. A total of 200 million fry and 425,000 fingerlings were stocked from 2006 - 2011.

Fish Population Status

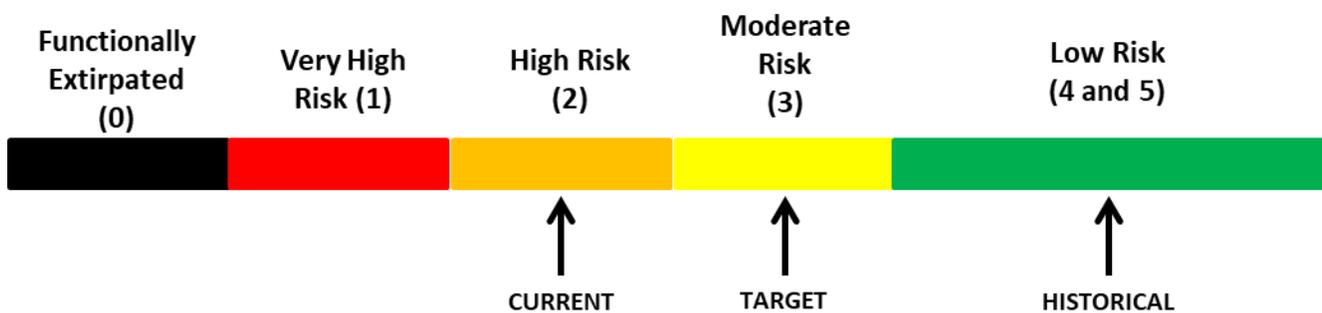
Walleye – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainability Index Adult Density Score



Northern Pike – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainability Index Adult Density Score



Yellow Perch- Adult Abundance - Undetermined

Recreational Fishery Management Objectives

The **focal species** for recreational management is currently **Walleye**. The current secondary species managed for recreational objectives are northern pike and yellow perch. These sport-fisheries are directly assessed at intervals, and therefore are actively managed. The **Overharvest Protection Need** is assessed as **High**.

Walleye - The current recreational fishery management objective for walleye is **Sustainable Harvest**. The corresponding Fish Sustainability Index score for the current mature density of walleye was assessed as a (3) **Moderate Risk** to sustainability. The current management action is continued recovery using a **Special Harvest Licence**.

Northern Pike - The recreational fishery management objective for northern pike is **Sustainable Harvest**. The corresponding Fish Sustainability Index score for the current mature density of northern pike was assessed at (2) **High Risk** to sustainability. The northern pike population is currently not meeting the status and criteria for the objective of a sustainable harvest fishery. The current regulation is a harvest limit of **1 Northern Pike over 75 cm**. The proposed management action is recovery using a **Catch and Release**

Yellow Perch – The recreational fishery management objective being applied is the provincial default (**Sustainable Harvest**). 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 3 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	High	Recovery – Sustainable Harvest	SHL
2	Northern Pike	High	Recovery – Sustainable Harvest	Catch and Release
3	Yellow Perch*	High	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	15 any size
4	Cisco/Lake Whitefish*	High	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	3 any size
5	Burbot	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.*