

Lac La Nonne

Recreational Fisheries Management Objectives

Version Date: October 2017	Prepared by: Marcel Macullo	Reviewed by: Marcel Macullo	Approved by: Curtis Brock
Waterbody ID: 5448	Surface Area: 1293 Ha	Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8): Lower Pembina River	Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8): 17030201
Sport Fish Species: Walleye, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Lake Whitefish, Burbot			
Indigenous Fishery: Yes			
Environment and Parks Region: Upper Athabasca Region (UAR)	Fisheries Management Zone: Northern Boreal 2 (NB2)	Fisheries Management Office: Athabasca	

Background

Lac La Nonne is located approximately 100 km northwest of Edmonton. It supports a sport fishery for walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, lake whitefish and burbot that receives very high angling pressure due to the local communities and villages, campground facilities and short distance from the Greater Edmonton area.

Historically, sport and non-sportfish were commercially fished in Lac La Nonne since the turn of the century, however detailed records only exist since the 1940s. Commercial Fishing no longer occurs in Alberta including Lac La Nonne.

Previous to 1998, Walleye angling limits were extremely liberal and resulted in a progressive decline in the classification of the walleye fishery to collapsed. In response, catch and release regulations were implemented from 1998 through 2009 and the fishery recovered. In order to create a sustainable harvest walleye fishery, a Special Harvest License (SHL) was implemented in 2010 and walleye tags were allocated. The SHL was used successfully until 2015 until a severe winterkill occurred. Since that event, walleye tags have not been allocated to expedite the recovery of the population. Index netting revealed that walleye and lake whitefish suffered substantial population decreases, whereas all other species decreased in abundance but to a lesser degree. Fish populations in Lac La Nonne are currently recovering.

Section 1. Fish Population Status

Walleye – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainable Index Adult Density Score

Functionally Extirpated (0)	Very High Risk (1)	High Risk (2)	Moderate Risk (3)	Low Risk (4 and 5)
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↑
Current

↑
Target

↑
Historic

Northern Pike – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainable Index Adult Density Score

Functionally Extirpated (0)	Very High Risk (1)	High Risk (2)	Moderate Risk (3)	Low Risk (4 and 5)
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↑
Current

↑
Target

↑
Historic

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

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, 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 **Very High**.

Walleye – The recreational fishery management objective for walleye is **Sustainable Harvest**. The corresponding FSI score for the current mature density of northern pike was assessed in 2016 as **(1) Very High Risk** to sustainability. The walleye population is currently not meeting the status and criteria for the objective of a sustainable harvest fishery. The current management action to recover the walleye population to this outcome is a regulation of **Catch and Release**.

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 in 2016 as **(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 required management action to recover the walleye population to this outcome is a regulation of **Catch and Release**.

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 **Sustainable Harvest**. The status of the burbot population has not been assessed. The current management action is a regulation of 2 burbot, any size.

Management Summary

Management Priority	Species	Overharvest Protection Need	Management Action	Sport Fishing Harvest Regulation
1	Northern Pike	High	Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 > 63cm (2017-18) Catch and Release (Implementation April 1st, 2018-19)
2	Walleye	High	Recovery	Catch and Release
3	Yellow Perch*	High	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	15 any size
4	Burbot	High	Sustainable Harvest	2 any size (Catch & Release Feb 1 – March 31)

*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.