

# May Lake

## Recreational Fisheries Management Objectives

<b>Version Date:</b> October 2017	<b>Prepared by:</b> Rebecca Skarsen	<b>Reviewed by:</b> Dwayne Latty	<b>Approved by:</b> Kathy Hendren
<b>Waterbody ID:</b> 5259	<b>Surface Area:</b> 332 (Ha)	<b>Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8):</b> Marie Creek	<b>Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8):</b> 12020104
<b>Sport Fish Species:</b> Walleye, Northern Pike, Lake Whitefish, Yellow Perch, and Burbot			
<b>Indigenous Fishery:</b> Yes			
<b>Environment and Parks Region:</b> Lower Athabasca Region (LAR)	<b>Fisheries Management Zone:</b> Northern Boreal 1 (NB1)		<b>Fisheries Management Office:</b> Cold Lake

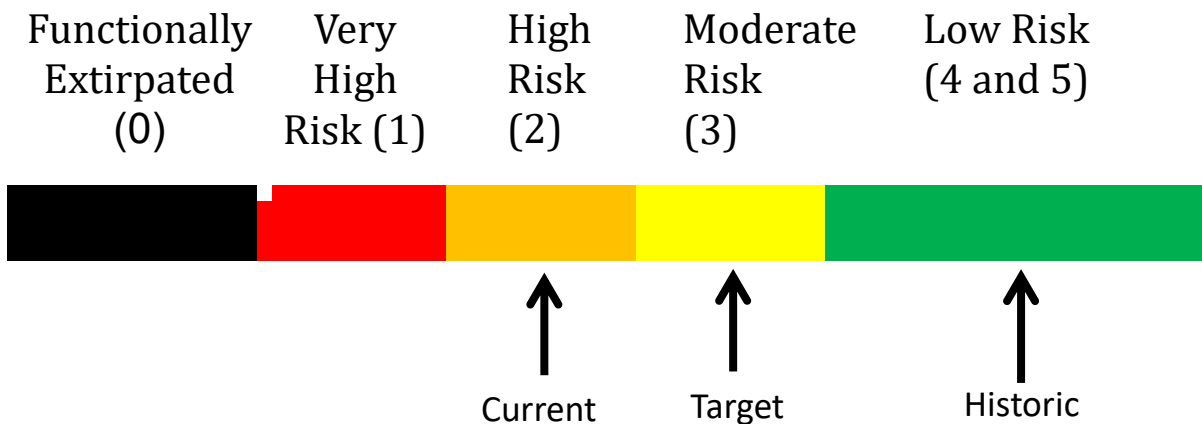
## Background

This FMO applies to May Lake and all its tributaries, including the inlet stream from Burnt Lake (only the section upstream to the road crossing at 539550 6070521 UTM 12N). It also includes the outlet creek, Marie Creek, downstream to 541188 6058787 UTM 12N. May Lake is a moderately nutrient rich (mesotrophic) lake with a surface area of 332 ha, a mean depth of 5.6 m, and a maximum depth of 14.5 m. May Lake is a 3.5 hour drive from the City of Edmonton and within one hour of the City of Cold Lake. All of the shoreline of May Lake is crown-owned and intact, with only a few undeveloped accesses. May Lake is closed to recreational fishing from April 1<sup>st</sup> to May 14<sup>th</sup> of each year.

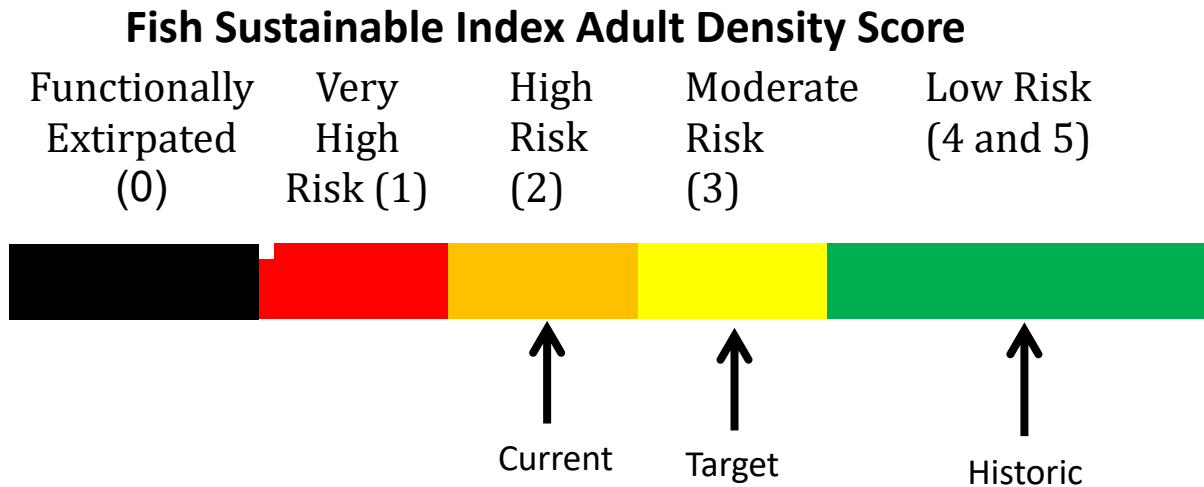
## Section 1. Fish Population Status

### Walleye – Adult Abundance

### Fish Sustainable Index Adult Density Score



Northern Pike – Adult Abundance



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

**Section 2. Recreational Fishery Management Objectives and Management Summary**

The **focal species** for recreational management is currently **Walleye**. The secondary species managed for recreational objectives are Northern Pike, Lake Whitefish, Yellow Perch, and Burbot. These sport-fisheries are directly assessed at intervals, and therefore are actively managed. The **Overharvest Protection Need** is assessed as **Low**.

**Walleye** – The recreational fishery management objective for Walleye is currently **Sustainable Harvest**. The corresponding FSI score for the current adult density of Walleye was assessed as (2) or **High Risk** to sustainability. The Walleye population does not currently meet the status and criteria for the objective of a sustainable harvest fishery. The current management action is a **Zero Harvest** Limit for Walleye.

**Northern Pike** – The recreational fishery management objective for Northern Pike is **Sustainable Harvest**. The corresponding FSI score for the current adult density of Northern Pike was assessed at (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 current management action is a harvest regulation of **1 Northern Pike over 63 cm**. The required management action will be a **Zero Harvest** Limit for Northern Pike.

**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 a total of **10 Lake Whitefish of any size**.

**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 of 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 of any size**.

## Management Summary

Management Priority	Species	Overharvest Protection Need	Management Action	Sport Fishing Harvest Regulation
1	Walleye	Low	Recovery – Sustainable Harvest	Zero Harvest
2	Northern Pike	Low	Recovery - Sustainable Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 &gt; 63 cm (2017-18)</li> <li>• <b>Catch &amp; Release (Implementation April 2018-19)</b></li> </ul>
3	Lake Whitefish*	Low	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	10 any size
4	Yellow Perch*	Low	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	15 any size
5	Burbot*	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.