

# Pastecho Lake

## Recreational Fisheries Management Objectives

<b>Version Date:</b> October 2017	<b>Prepared by:</b> Myles Brown	<b>Reviewed by:</b> Myles Brown	<b>Approved by:</b> Norbert Raffael
<b>Waterbody ID:</b> 5528	<b>Surface Area:</b> 416	<b>Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8):</b> Pastecho River	<b>Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8):</b> 18050107
<b>Sport Fish Species:</b> Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Lake Whitefish/Cisco			
<b>Indigenous Fishery:</b> No prior licenses			
<b>Environment and Parks Region:</b> Upper Athabasca Region (UAR)	<b>Fisheries Management Zone:</b> Northern Boreal 3 (NB3)		<b>Fisheries Management Office:</b> Slave Lake

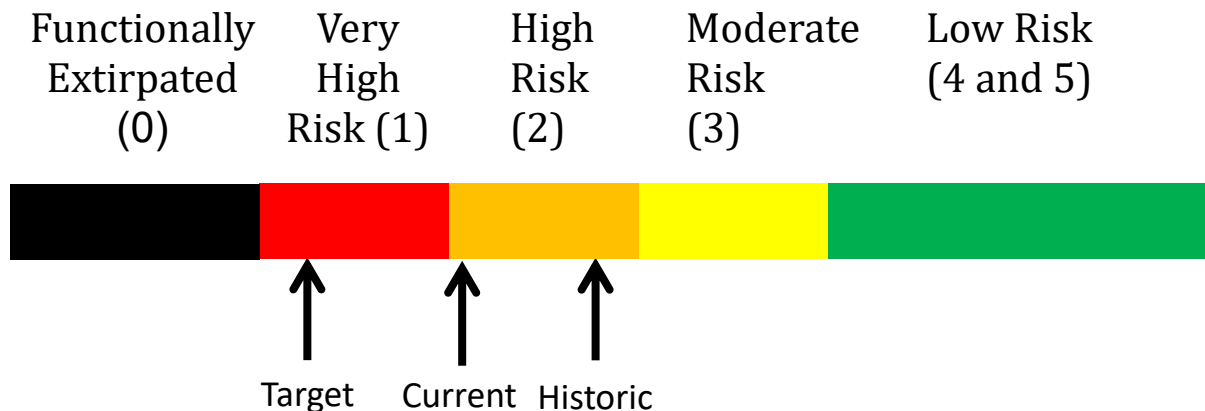
## Background

Pastecho Lake is a passively managed lake located approximately 76km east of Slave Lake. The lake is comprised of a single basin with a small bay to the southeast and is connected to the Muskwa River via the Pastecho River. The max depth is reported at 1.5m with an average depth of 1m. Mistehae Lake flows into Pastecho Lake via an unnamed tributary. Historical surveys indicate that due to the shallow depth of the lake, there are low winter dissolved oxygen levels that are likely naturally limiting for overwintering fish populations. Pastecho Lake currently supports recreational fishing pressure. The recreational fishery focuses on northern pike and periodically yellow perch. Due to the periodic low dissolved oxygen levels and shallow lake characteristics, the sport fish populations have high natural limitations to achieving sustainable populations. In the open water season the lake is accessible by ATV or OHV depending on moisture conditions, in the winter it can be accessed with OHV and snowmobiles. There are no seasonal or maintained roads that provide access to the lake. There are no designated camping facilities around the lake.

## Section 1. Fish Population Status

### Northern Pike – Adult Abundance

### Fish Sustainable Index Adult Density Score



**Yellow Perch – FSI Adult Abundance – Undetermined**  
**Lake Whitefish/Cisco – FSI Adult Abundance – Undetermined**

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

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

**Northern Pike** – The recreational fishery management objective for northern pike is **Liberal Harvest**. The corresponding FSI score for the current mature density of northern pike was assessed as **High Risk** to sustainability. The northern pike population is currently meeting the status and criteria for the objective of a liberal harvest fishery. The required management action to maintain this outcome is a regulation of **3 pike any size**. This is a change from the current regulation of 3 pike over 63cm.

**Yellow Perch** – The recreational fishery management objective being applied is the provincial default (**Passive Sustainable Harvest**). The status of the yellow perch population has not been assessed using FSI. The current management action is a maintenance regulation of **15 perch, any size**.

**Lake Whitefish/Cisco** – The recreational fishery management objective being applied is the provincial default (**Passive Sustainable Harvest**). Cisco in PASTECHO Lake can grow relatively large in size, and may be easily confused for Lake Whitefish. The status of the Lake Whitefish/Cisco population has not been assessed. The current management action is a maintenance regulation of a total of **10 Lake Whitefish or Cisco, combined, of any size**.

### Management Summary

Management Priority	Species	Overharvest Protection Need	Management Action	Sport Fishing Harvest Regulation
1	Northern Pike	Low	Maintenance – Passive Sustainable Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 &gt; 63cm (2017-18)</li> <li><b>3 any size (Implementation April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018-19)</b></li> </ul>
2	Yellow Perch*	Low	Maintenance – Passive Sustainable Harvest	15 any size
3	Cisco/Lake Whitefish*	Low	Maintenance – Passive Sustainable Harvest	10 any size

*\*Recreational management objectives for Lake Whitefish and Yellow Perch 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.*