

Paul Lake

Recreational Fisheries Management Objectives

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|---|---|--|--|
| Version Date: October 2017 | Prepared by: Myles Brown | Reviewed by: Myles Brown | Approved by: Norbert Raffael |
| Waterbody ID: 6217 | Surface Area: 440 | Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8): Fawcett River | Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8): 17040304 |
| Sport Fish Species: Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Lake Whitefish, Walleye | | | |
| Indigenous Fishery: No prior licenses | | | |
| Environment and Parks Region: Upper Athabasca Region (UAR) | Fisheries Management Zone: Northern Boreal 2 (NB2) | Fisheries Management Office: Slave Lake | |

Background

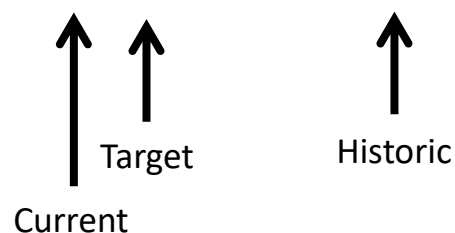
Paul Lake is a passively managed lake located approximately 52km east of Slave Lake. The lake is comprised of a single basin and is connected to Fawcett Lake by a tributary on the southeast side of the lake. Paul Lake supports Indigenous and recreational fishing pressure. The recreational fishery is focused on northern pike and periodically yellow perch. Walleye have been noted in the Paul Lake however historical data indicates they are present at very low abundance and are suspected to be migrants from Fawcett Lake which supports a resident population of Walleye. In the summer the lake is accessible by ATV, in the winter it can be accessed with a highway vehicle by a winter road if it is plowed or by ATV and snowmobile. There are no designated camping facilities around the lake.

Section 1. Fish Population Status

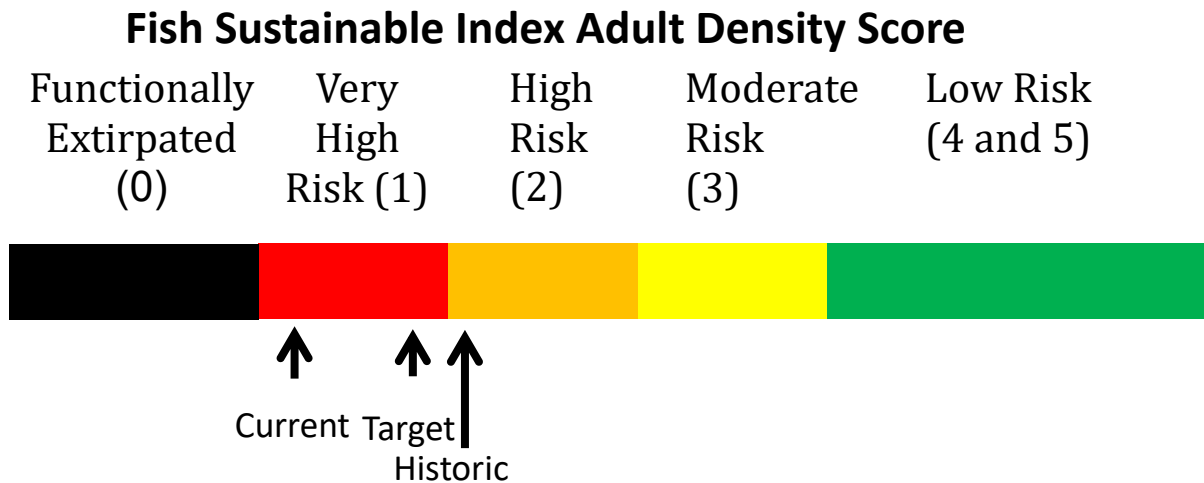
Northern Pike – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainable Index Adult Density Score

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



Walleye – Adult Abundance



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 Walleye, 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 **Passive Sustainable Harvest**. The corresponding FSI score for the current mature density of northern pike was assessed as **low Risk** to sustainability. The northern pike population is currently meeting the status and criteria for the objective of a passive sustainable harvest fishery. The required management action to maintain this outcome is a regulation of **1 fish over 70cm** total length. 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 Paul 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**.

Walleye – The recreational fishery management objective for walleye is **Preservation**. The corresponding FSI score for the current mature density of walleye was assessed at **very high risk** to sustainability. The walleye population is currently **meeting** the status and criteria for the objective of population preservation. The required management action is maintenance of a low density, naturally limited population using a **catch and release** regulation. **This is a change from the current regulation of 2 walleye over 43cm**.

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"> 3 > 63cm (2017-18) 1 > 70 cm (Implementation April 1st, 2018-19) |
| 2 | Yellow Perch* | Low | Maintenance – Passive Sustainable Harvest | 15 any size |
| 3 | Cisco/Lake Whitefish* | Low | Maintenance – Passive Sustainable Harvest | 10 any size |
| 4 | Walleye | Low | Preservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 > 43cm (2017-18) Catch and Release (Implementation April 1st, 2018-19) |

*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.