

Peerless Lake

Recreational Fisheries Management Objectives

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Waterbody ID: 5546	Surface Area: 8259 ha	Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8): Trout River	Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8): 18050202
Sport Fish Species: Lake Trout, Walleye, Northern Pike, Lake Whitefish, Yellow Perch, and Burbot			
Indigenous Fishery: NLT 140 mm, Closed: Apr 1 – May 31			
Environment and Parks Region: Peace Region		Fisheries Management Zone: Northern Boreal 3 (NB3)	Fisheries Management Office: Peace River

Background

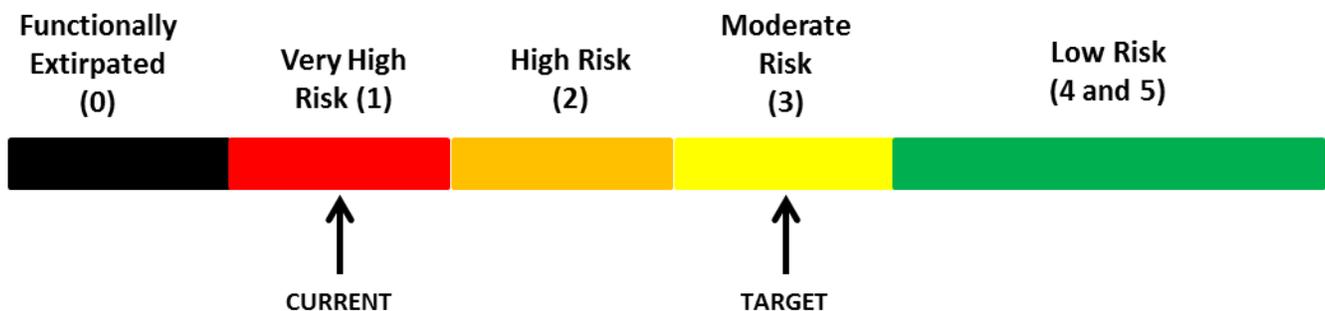
Peerless Lake is an 8259 ha lake located approximately 50 km east-northeast of Red Earth Creek, Alberta. Access to Peerless Lake is possible through one of three publically accessible boat launches at two public campgrounds. Peerless Lake provides domestic and recreational fishing opportunities at various times of the year. Historically, commercial fishing has taken place on Peerless Lake, but there has been no commercial fish catch since 1999. Peerless Lake supports one of few 'drive to' fisheries in Alberta where it is possible to harvest lake trout, making the lake a popular destination for anglers throughout the province.

The majority of use and harvest takes place during the open water months with Domestic gill net fisheries and recreational angling exerting harvest pressure on fish populations. Domestic pressure on Peerless Lake has not been quantified.

Section 1. Fish Population Status

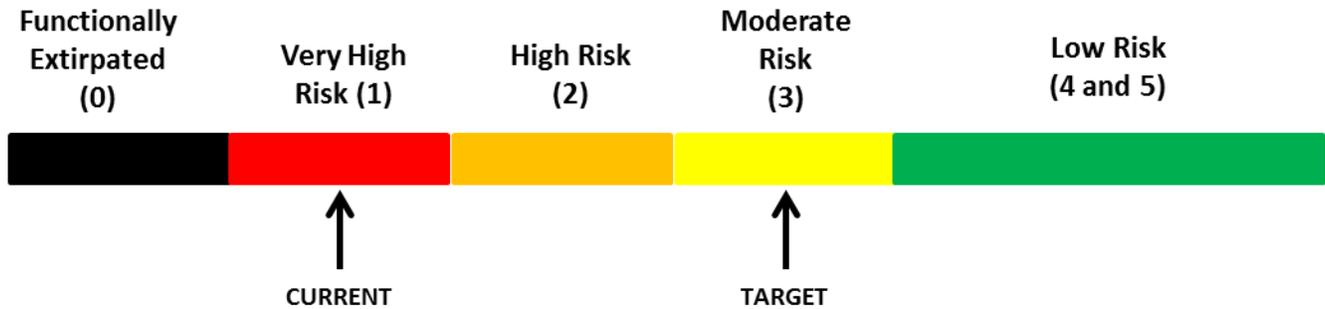
Walleye – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainability Index Adult Density Score



Northern Pike – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainability Index Adult Density Score



Lake Trout – Adult Abundance – Undetermined
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 **Lake Trout**. The secondary species managed for recreational objectives are Northern Pike and Walleye. The **Overharvest Protection Need** is assessed as **Moderate**.

Lake Trout – The recreational fishery management objective for lake trout is **Sustainable Harvest**. There is currently no species management framework for lake trout, so the current regulation of **1 fish any size** will continue to apply.

Walleye – The recreational management objective for walleye is a **Sustainable Harvest** fishery. The corresponding Fish Sustainability Index score for the current adult density of walleye was assessed at **Very High Risk** to sustainability. The walleye population is not currently meeting the status and criteria for the objective of sustainable harvest fishery. The required management action is **to promote recovery through the use of catch and release** until such time as the population increases into the moderate risk (yellow) category, at which time, harvest opportunities can be explored. This is a change from the current regulation of 1 walleye over 50cm.

Northern Pike – The recreational management objective for northern pike is a **Sustainable Harvest** fishery. The corresponding FSI score for the current adult density of northern pike was assessed at **High Risk** to sustainability. The northern pike population is currently not meeting the status and criteria for the objective of sustainable harvest fishery. The required management action is **to promote recovery through the use of catch and release** until such time the population increases into the moderate risk (yellow) category where alternative options can be explored (open harvest). 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 (**Sustainable Harvest**). The status of the yellow perch population has not been assessed. The current management action is a regulation of 15 yellow 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 a total of 10 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	Lake Trout*	Moderate	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	1 fish, any size
2	Walleye	Moderate	Recovery – Sustainable Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 > 50cm (2017-18) • Catch and Release (Implementation April 1st, 2018-19)
3	Northern Pike	Moderate	Recovery – Sustainable Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 > 63cm (2017-18) • Catch and Release (Implementation April 1st, 2018-19)
4	Lake Whitefish*	Moderate	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	10 any size
5	Yellow Perch*	Moderate	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	15 any size
6	Burbot*	Low	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	10 any size

*Recreational management objectives for lake trout, 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.