

Piche Lake

Fisheries Management Objectives

Version Date: October 2017	Prepared by: Alicia Pruden-Beniuk	Reviewed by: Rebecca Baldwin	Approved by: Kathy Hendren
Waterbody ID: 5570	Surface Area: 528 (Ha)	Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8): Piche River	Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8): 17050302
Sport Fish Species: Walleye, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Lake Whitefish, Burbot			
Indigenous Fishery: Yes			
Environment and Parks Region: Lower Athabasca Region (LAR)		Fisheries Management Zone: Northern Boreal 1 (NB1)	Fisheries Management Office: Lac La Biche

Background

Piche Lake is approximately 39 kilometers Northeast of the Hamlet of Lac La Biche, and is connected to Heart Lake by the Piche River. The lake is shallow, with a maximum depth of approximately 4 meters.

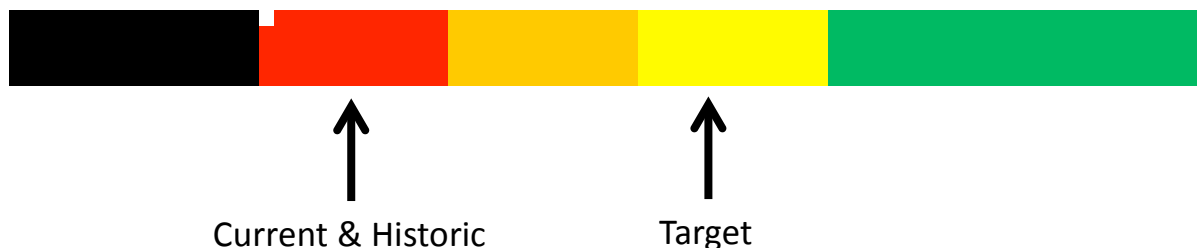
Access is either by boat from Heart Lake or by Off Highway Vehicles. Recreational fishing on this lake is predominately during winter months because of a lack of high grade road access. Piche Lake frequently winterkills due to its shallow depths. Yellow Perch, Northern Pike and Walleye are found in this lake, but their numbers likely fluctuate due to winterkills. Fish populations can be re-established because of connectivity to Heart Lake. While a commercial fishery existed on the lake from approximately 1948 to 2014, the lake was only actively fished from the late 1980's to 2003.

Section 1. Fish Population Status

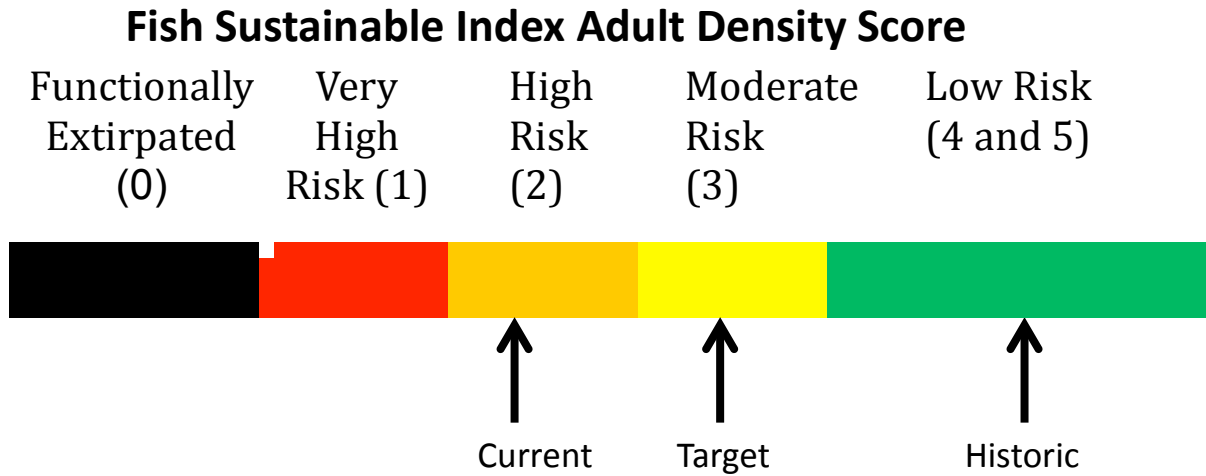
Walleye – Adult Abundance

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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Northern Pike – Adult Abundance



Yellow Perch – 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. These sport-fisheries are passively managed. The **Overharvest Protection Need** is assessed as **Low**.

Northern Pike – The recreational fishery management objective for Northern Pike is the provincial default (**Sustainable Harvest**). The corresponding Fish Sustainability Index score for the current mature density of Northern Pike was assessed as **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 **3 Northern Pike over 63 cm**. The required management action will be a **Zero Harvest** regulation.

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.

Walleye – The recreational fishery management objective for Walleye is the provincial default (**Sustainable Harvest**). The corresponding Fish Sustainability Index score for the current mature density of Walleye was assessed as **Very High Risk** to sustainability. The Walleye population is not currently meeting the status and criteria for the objective of a sustainable harvest fishery. The current management action is a **Zero-Harvest Regulation**. No changes are proposed for Walleye.

Management Summary

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

**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.*