

# Rattlesnake Reservoir

## Recreational Fisheries Management Objectives

<b>Version Date:</b> October 2017	<b>Prepared by:</b> Linda Winkel Fisheries Biologist	<b>Reviewed by:</b> Shane Petry Senior Fisheries Biologist	<b>Approved by:</b> (Resource Manager) Craig Johnson
<b>Waterbody ID:</b> 5646	<b>Surface Area:</b> 1027 (Ha)	<b>Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8):</b> Rattlesnake Reservoir	<b>Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8):</b> 08030203
<b>Sport Fish Species:</b> Walleye, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Lake Whitefish, Burbot			
<b>Indigenous Fishery:</b> Yes			
<b>Environment and Parks Region:</b> South Saskatchewan Region		<b>Fisheries Management Zone: Parkland Prairie 1 (PP1)</b>	<b>Fisheries Management Office:</b> Lethbridge

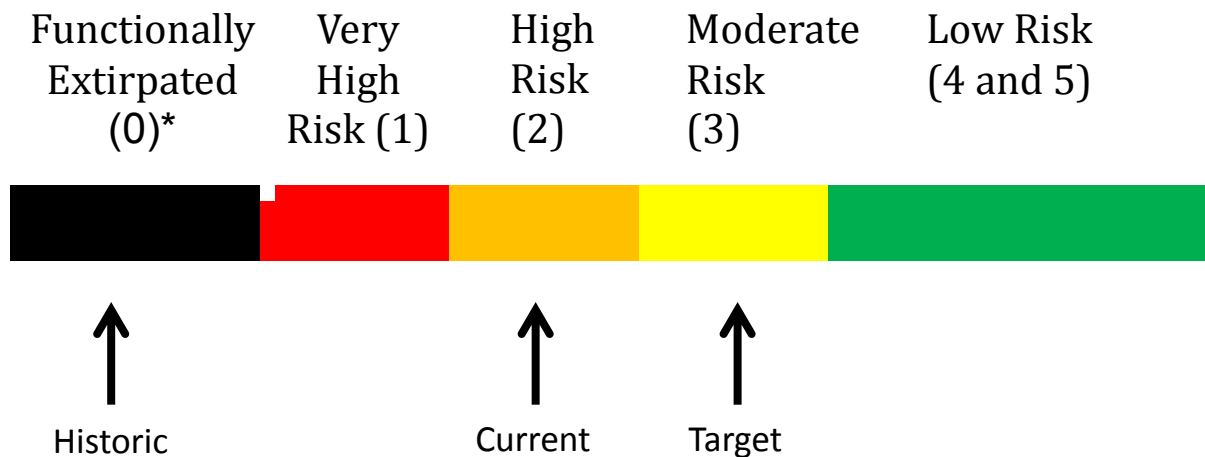
### Background

Rattlesnake Reservoir, also known as Sauder Reservoir, is located approximately 22km southwest of Medicine Hat. It supports a sport fishery for Walleye that likely receives moderate angling pressure due to the presence of multiple amenities including a boat launch, and campground facilities, as well as ease of access. Historically, Rattlesnake Reservoir was stocked with Rainbow Trout in 1954 and 1955. Walleye were stocked in 1974 and 1978 (total 275,000 fry; at a mean rate of 137,500 annually), and Yellow Perch were stocked from 1983-1985. The latter stockings resulted in the establishment of self-sustaining populations. Other species (Northern Pike, Lake Whitefish, and Burbot) also support a sport fishery at this location. In addition, Rattlesnake Reservoir historically sustained a winter commercial fishery for Lake Whitefish.

### Section 1. Fish Population Status

#### Northern Pike – Adult Abundance

### Fish Sustainable Index Adult Density Score



\*Northern Pike were not historically found at this location



**Lake Whitefish** – 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 **10 Lake Whitefish**, any size.

**Management Summary**

Management Priority	Species	Overharvest Protection Need	Management Action	Sport Fishing Harvest Regulation
1	Walleye	(2) High	Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 &gt; 50cm (2017-18)</li> <li>• <b>Catch and Release (Implementation April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018-19)</b></li> </ul>
2	Northern Pike	(2) High	Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 &gt; 63cm (2017-18)</li> <li>• <b>Catch and Release (Implementation April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018-19)</b></li> </ul>
3	Lake Whitefish	(2) High	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	10 any size
4	Yellow Perch*	(2) High	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	15 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.