

Stafford Reservoir

Recreational Fisheries Management Objectives

Version Date: October 2017	Prepared by: Linda Winkel Fisheries Biologist	Reviewed by: Shane Petry Senior Fisheries Biologist	Approved by: (Resource Manager) Craig Johnson
Waterbody ID: 3536	Surface Area: 387 (Ha)	Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8): Stafford Reservoir	Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8): 04010602
Sport Fish Species: Walleye, Northern Pike, Lake Whitefish, Burbot			
Indigenous Fishery: Yes			
Environment and Parks Region: South Saskatchewan Region	Fisheries Management Zone: Parkland Prairie 1 (PP1)	Fisheries Management Office: Lethbridge	

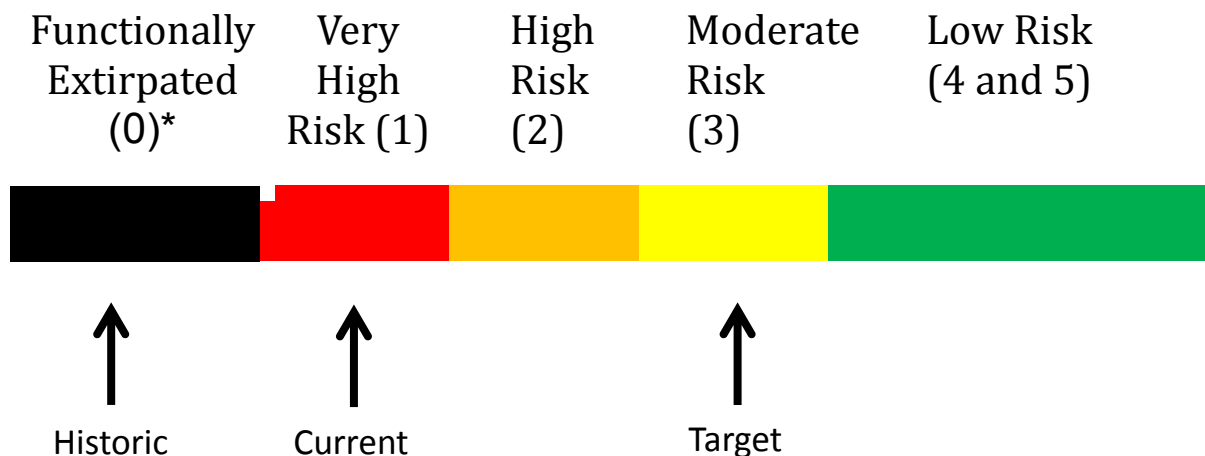
Background

Stafford Reservoir is located in approximately 35 km east of Lethbridge, immediately north of Chin Reservoir. It supports a sport fishery for Northern Pike that likely receives moderate to high angling pressure due to ease of access, proximity to major population centers, and the presence of multiple amenities including a boat launch, campground facilities, and a cottage development with docks. Other species (Walleye, Lake Whitefish, and Burbot) also support a sport fishery at this location. In addition, Stafford Reservoir historically sustained a commercial fishery for Lake Whitefish.

Section 1. Fish Population Status

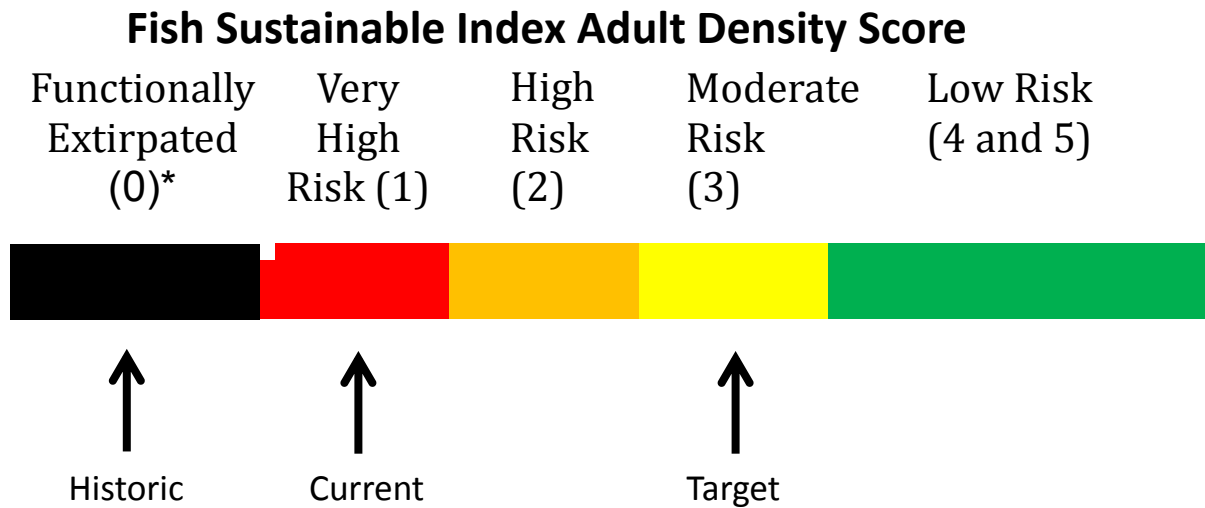
Northern Pike – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainable Index Adult Density Score



*Northern Pike were not historically found at this location

Walleye – Adult Abundance



* Walleye were not historically found at this location

Lake Whitefish – Adult Abundance – Undetermined (current sampling methodology does not address this species)

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, Lake Whitefish, and Burbot. These sport fisheries are not assessed at intervals, and therefore are passively managed. The **Overharvest Protection Need** is assessed as **(2) High**.

Northern Pike – The recreational fishery management objective for Northern Pike is **Sustainable Harvest**. The corresponding FSI score for the current mature density of Northern Pike was assessed as **(2) High** to sustainability. The Northern Pike population is not currently meeting the status and criteria for the objective of a sustainable harvest fishery. The required management action to maintain this outcome is a **Catch and Release** regulation.

Walleye – The recreational fishery management objective for walleye is **Sustainable Harvest**. The corresponding FSI score for the current mature density of walleye was assessed at **(2) High** to sustainability. The Walleye population is currently not meeting the status and criteria for the objective of a sustainable harvest fishery. The required management action is **Catch and Release**.

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"> • 3 > 50cm (2017-18) • Catch and Release (Implementation April 1st, 2018-19)
2	Northern Pike	(2) High	Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 > 50cm (2017-18) • Catch and Release (Implementation April 1st, 2018-19)
3	Lake Whitefish	(2) High	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	10 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.*