

Steele Lake

Recreational Fisheries Management Objectives

Version Date: October 2017	Prepared by: Denyse Gullion Marcel Macullo	Reviewed by: Marcel Macullo	Approved by: Curtis Brock
Waterbody ID: 5899	Surface Area: 721 (Ha)	Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8): French Creek	Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8): 17030304
Sport Fish Species: Northern Pike, Yellow Perch			
Indigenous Fishery: No			
Environment and Parks Region: Upper Athabasca Region (UAR)	Fisheries Management Zone: Northern Boreal (NB2)	Fisheries Management Office: Athabasca	

Background

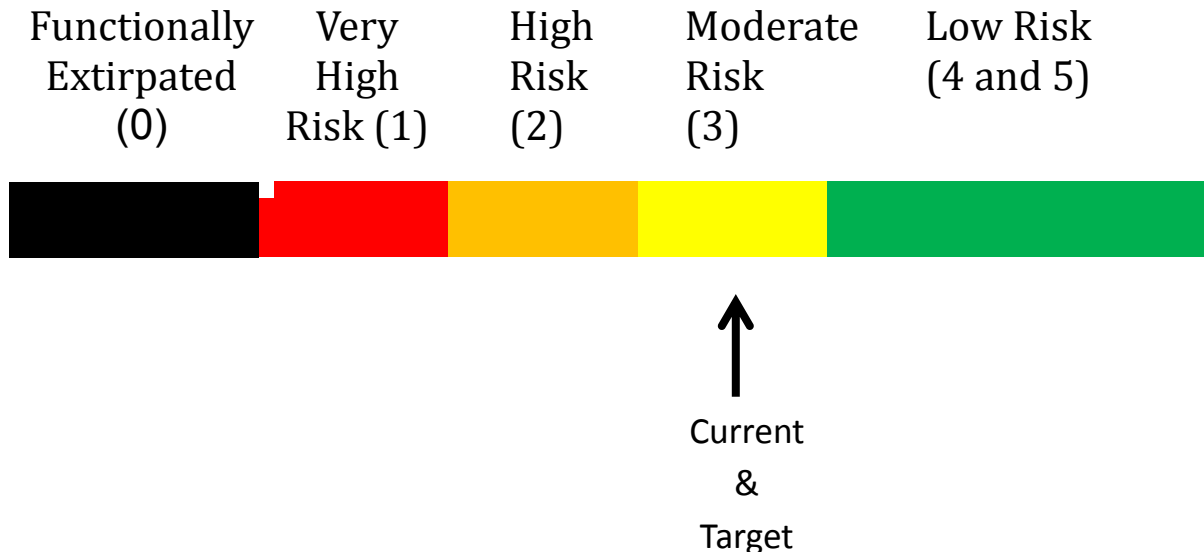
Steele Lake, locally known as Cross Lake, is located approximately 62km southwest of Athabasca. It supports a sport fishery for northern pike and yellow perch that receives high angling pressure due to the campground facilities, ability to easily launch a small boat and close proximity to both Athabasca and Edmonton.

Steele Lake is a very nutrient rich (hypereutrophic) lake and as a result is prone to low oxygen levels and fish kills. In the summer of 2016 a large algal bloom occurred and the die off of algae resulted in a substantial fish kill. Since that point catch and release regulations were implemented to restore pike and perch populations.

Section 1. Fish Population Status

Northern Pike – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainable Index Adult Density Score



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 is Yellow Perch. These sport-fisheries are directly assessed at intervals, and therefore are actively managed. The **Overharvest Protection Need** is assessed as **Very High**.

Northern Pike – The recreational fishery management objective for northern pike is **Liberal Harvest**. The corresponding FSI score for the current mature density of northern pike was assessed in 2016 pre summer fish kill as **Low Risk** to sustainability. The northern pike population is currently meeting the status and criteria for the objective of a liberal harvest fishery. The current management action is a regulation of **3 pike any size**.

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 perch, any size.

Management Summary

Management Priority	Species	Overharvest Protection Need	Management Action	Sport Fishing Harvest Regulation
1	Northern Pike	Very High	Liberal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catch and Release (2017-18) 3 any size (Implementation April 1st, 2018-19)
2	Yellow Perch*	Very High	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catch and Release (2017-18) 15 any size (Implementation April 1st, 2018-19)

*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.