

Touchwood Lake

Fisheries Management Objectives

Version Date: October 2017	Prepared by: Alicia Pruden-Beniuk	Reviewed by: Rebecca Baldwin and Dwayne Latty	Approved by: Kathy Hendren
Waterbody ID: 6008	Surface Area: 2,891 (Ha)	Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8): Sand River	Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8): 12010201
Sport Fish Species: Northern Pike, Walleye, 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

Touchwood Lake is located approximately 40km northeast of the Hamlet of Lac La Biche within the Lakeland Provincial Recreation Area. Touchwood Lake has a maximum depth of 40 meters and a mean depth of 14.7 meters, and is divided into a north and south basin. The Touchwood Lake campground is located on the north end of the lake and contains 87 campsites and the only boat launch.

Lake Trout were once present in Touchwood Lake, however they had disappeared by the late 1930s or early 1940s likely through over-harvest. Some attempts were made to re-stock Lake Trout 1967, 1968, 1986, and 1987. The last reported Lake Trout were caught by commercial fishers in 1992.

Between 1988 and 1997, seven creel surveys were conducted to assess the recreational fishery on Touchwood Lake. Angling effort on Touchwood Lake was estimated to be 2.9 hours per hectare in 1991 and 8.4 hours per hectare in 1997. In 1990 a protected slot sportfishing regulation (42 to 53 centimeters total length) was introduced in an attempt to increase the sizes and catch rates of Walleye. By 1997 the protected slot limit regulation resulted in few old, large Walleye surviving, and very few young fish being produced. The protected slot limit was changed to catch and release in 1998, which is the current management regulation for Walleye.

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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↑
Current

↑
Target

↑
Historic

Northern Pike – 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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↑
Current

↑
Target

↑
Historic

Yellow Perch – Adult Abundance – Undetermined

Section 2. Recreational Fishery Management Objectives and Management Summary

The **focal species** for recreational management is **Walleye**. The secondary species managed for recreational objectives are Northern pike and Yellow Perch. These sport-fisheries are directly assessed at intervals, and therefore are actively managed. The **Overharvest Protection Need** is assessed as **Moderate**.

Walleye – The recreational fishery management objective for Walleye is **Sustainable Harvest**. The corresponding Fish Sustainability Index (FSI) score for the current mature density of Walleye was assessed as **High Risk** to sustainability. The Walleye population is currently not meeting the status and criteria for the objective of a sustainable harvest fishery. The current management action for **Walleye** is recovery using a **Zero Harvest** regulation.

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 at **High Risk** to sustainability. The Northern Pike population is currently not meeting the status and criteria for the objective of a sustainable harvest fishery. The current management action is a harvest regulation of 1 Northern Pike over 63 cm. The required recovery management action will be a **Zero Harvest** regulation for **Northern Pike**.

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.

Management Summary

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