

Summary Information

Version Date: September 2018	Prepared by: Myles Brown	Reviewed by: Kristy Wakeling	Approved by: Norbert Raffael
Waterbody ID: 18002	Surface Area: 271 ha	Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8):	Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8): 18050102
Sport Fish Species: Walleye, Northern Pike, Lake Whitefish, Cisco, Yellow Perch			
Indigenous Fishery: Yes, NLT 140 mm			
Environment and Parks Region: Lower Peace Region (LPR)		Fisheries Management Zone: Northern Boreal 3 (NB3)	Fisheries Management Office: Slave Lake

Background

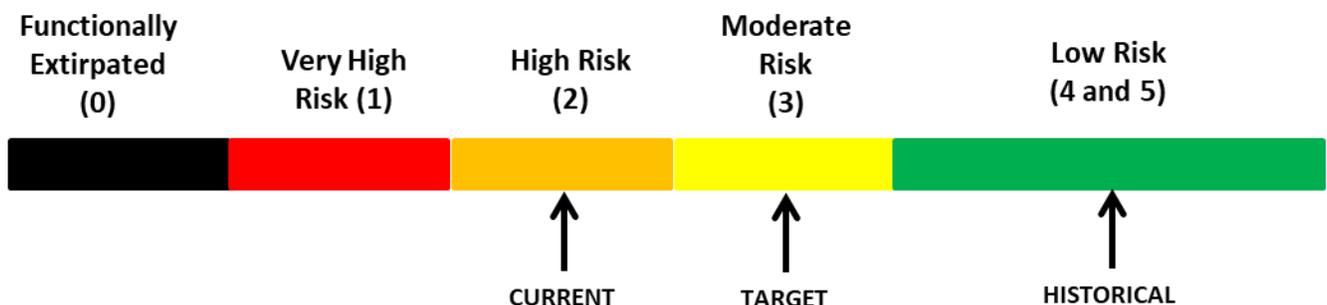
Little Sandy Lake is an actively managed lake located approximately 44 km southeast of Wabasca-Desmarais and 134 km north of Athabasca, Alberta. Little Sandy Lake contained entirely within the Wabasca Indian Reserve 166. The lake is accessible by pavement road. The lake is comprised of a single, shallow basin with a surface area of 271 ha, an average depth of 3 m and a maximum depth of 9 m.

Little Sandy Lake supports Indigenous and recreational fisheries targeting northern pike, walleye, and yellow perch. Historically, the sport fish populations (northern pike and walleye) in Sandy Lake were assessed as being moderate risk to sustainability but experienced declines and collapses followed by periods of recovery. The open water fishery is estimated to be low effort for recreational and moderate effort for indigenous use. In the winter months when there is an Indigenous netting presence, a low amount of recreational fishing effort. Little Sandy Lake has periods of open water and winter anoxia limiting the available fish habitat. Little Sandy Lake was last surveyed in 2018.

Fish Population Status

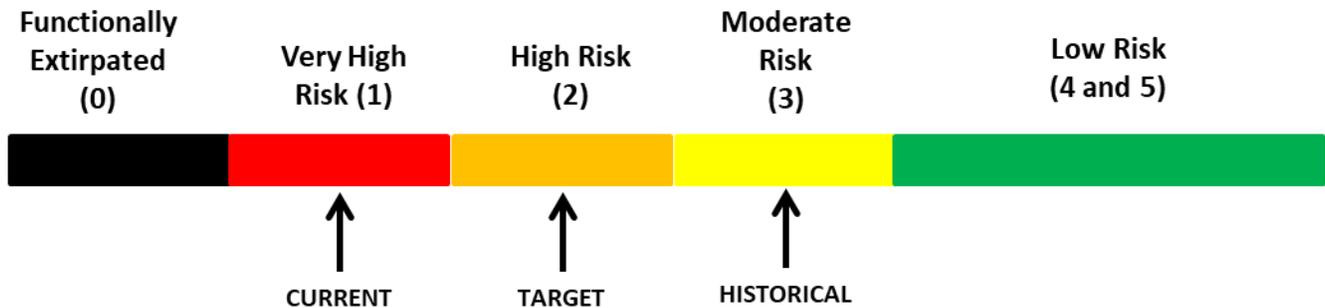
Northern Pike – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainability Index Adult Density Score



Walleye – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainability Index Adult Density Score



Yellow Perch- FSI Adult Abundance - Undetermined
Lake Whitefish - FSI Adult Abundance - Undetermined

Recreational Fishery Management Objectives

The **focal species** for recreational management is **Northern Pike**. The secondary species managed for recreational objectives are walleye, yellow perch and lake whitefish/cisco. These sport-fisheries are directly assessed at intervals, and therefore are actively managed. The **Overharvest Protection Need** is assessed as **Moderate**.

Northern Pike - The current 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 **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 regulation is 3 fish over 63 cm. The recommended RFMO is sustainable harvest. To align with the Northern Pike Recreational Management framework, the proposed management action is **recovery** to achieve the desired RFMO using **catch and release**.

Walleye - The current recreational fishery management objective for walleye is **Sustainable Harvest**. The corresponding FSI score for the current mature density of walleye was assessed at **very high risk (1)** to sustainability. The walleye population is currently **not meeting** the status and criteria for the objective of a sustainable harvest fishery. The current regulation is 3 fish over 50 cm. Little Sandy Lake is naturally limited by small size and summer anoxia in water over 6m. The recommended RFMO is **Preservation**. To align with the Walleye Recreational Management Framework, the proposed management action is maintenance of a low density, naturally limited population using a **catch and release** 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 using FSI. The current management action is a maintenance regulation of **15 perch, any size**.

Lake Whitefish/Cisco – The current recreational fishery management objective for lake whitefish/ cisco is **Sustainable Harvest**. Cisco in Sandy Lake can grow relatively large in size, and may be easily confused for lake whitefish. The corresponding FSI score for the current mature density of lake whitefish has not been formally assessed but would be equivalent to a **very high risk** to sustainability. The current regulation is 10 fish, no size. 2017 survey data indicates the lake whitefish/cisco population is likely **not meeting** the status for the objective of a sustainable harvest fishery. The required management action is a recovery regulation of **Catch and Release** to support recovery of the population; to be implemented in 2019-2020.

Management Summary

Management Priority	Species	Overharvest Protection Need	Management Action	Sport Fishing Harvest Regulation
1	Walleye	Moderate	Maintenance – Preservation	Catch and Release
2	Northern Pike	Moderate	Recovery – Sustainable Harvest	Catch and Release
3	Yellow Perch*	Moderate	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	15 any size
4	Lake Whitefish/Cisco*	Moderate	Recovery – Sustainable Harvest	Catch and Release

*Recreational management objectives for lake whitefish and yellow perch 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.