

## Summary Information

<b>Version Date:</b> September 2018	<b>Prepared by:</b> Myles Brown	<b>Reviewed by:</b> Kristy Wakeling	<b>Approved by:</b> Norbert Raffael
<b>Waterbody ID:</b> 6072	<b>Surface Area:</b> 1223 ha	<b>Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8):</b>	<b>Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8):</b> 18050104
<b>Sport Fish Species: Walleye, Northern Pike, Lake Whitefish, Yellow Perch</b>			
<b>Indigenous Fishery: Yes, NLT 140 mm, No lake closures</b>			
<b>Environment and Parks Region:</b> Upper Athabasca Region (UAR)		<b>Fisheries Management Zone: Northern Boreal 3 (NB3)</b>	<b>Fisheries Management Office:</b> Slave Lake

## Background

Utikumasis Lake is an actively managed lake located approximately 140 km Northwest of Slave Lake, Alberta. The lake resides entirely within the Gift Lake Metis settlement and is accessible via paved and high grade gravel road. There is a single maintained campground facility with an unimproved gravel boat launch capable of launching small and medium sized boats. The lake is comprised of a single, deep basin with a maximum depth of 10 m, and has an average depth of 4.8 m. Utikumasis Lake supports indigenous and recreational fisheries for Walleye, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch and Lake Whitefish. Historically, the sport fish populations (walleye, northern pike) in Utikumasis Lake were assessed as being low risk to sustainability but experienced declines and collapses followed by periods of partial recovery. Utikumasis Lake has sustained periodic winter fish kills resulting from low dissolved oxygen levels and contributing to periods of low fish abundance. Indigenous fishing effort is estimated to be moderate given the location of the lake within the Gift Lake Metis settlement and bordered by the Utikoomak Lake Reservations 155 and 155A. The open water fishery is estimated to be moderate effort with the majority of use and harvest takes place in the spring and summer months when there is a strong Indigenous netting presence and recreational fishing as well. The winter fishery is estimated to have less use than the summer period. Previously the lake supported commercial fisheries but they were closed in 1968 to support Indigenous fisheries allocation. Survey data in 2009 showed the walleye were at low abundances with an adult catch rate of 7.5 walleye /net-night corresponding to a high risk to sustainability (FSI 2). The management action for walleye was recovery and the sportfishing regulation was changed to align with the regulations for Lesser Slave Lake in 2013. The northern pike population in 2009 was also high risk to sustainability (FSI 2) with a low abundance with an adult catch rate of 6 pike/net-night but still possessing a broad size and age structure. Utikumasis Lake was last surveyed in 2018.



**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 **Moderate 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**. The required management action is **recovery** to achieve the desired RFMO. To align with the Northern Pike Recreational Management framework, the proposed management action is a recovery regulation of **catch and release**.

**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** - The current recreational fishery management objective for lake whitefish is **Sustainable Harvest**. 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 catch and release. 2018 survey data indicates the lake whitefish population is likely **not meeting** the status for the objective of a sustainable harvest fishery. The required management action is a continued recovery regulation of **Catch and Release** to support recovery of the population.

## Management Summary

Management Priority	Species	Overharvest Protection Need	Management Action	Sport Fishing Harvest Regulation
1	Walleye	Moderate	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	1>50cm
2	Northern Pike	Moderate	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	Catch and Release
3	Yellow Perch*	Moderate	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	15 any size
4	Lake Whitefish*	Moderate	Maintenance – 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.