

Weaver Lake

Recreational Fisheries Management Objectives

Version Date: October 2017	Prepared by: Myles Brown	Reviewed by: Myles Brown	Approved by: Norbert Raffael
Waterbody ID: 6126	Surface Area: 601	Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8): Upper Wabasca River	Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8): 18050102
Sport Fish Species: Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Lake Whitefish/Cisco			
Indigenous Fishery: No prior licenses			
Environment and Parks Region: Upper Athabasca Region (UAR)		Fisheries Management Zone: Northern Boreal 3 (NB3)	Fisheries Management Office: Slave Lake

Background

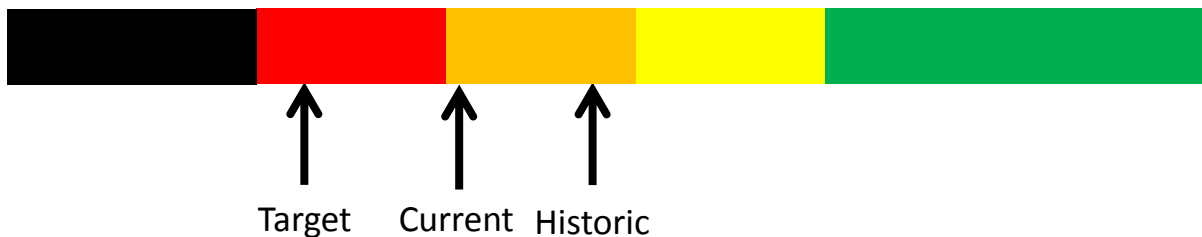
Weaver Lake is a passively managed lake located approximately 90km northeast of Slave Lake. The lake is comprised of two small basins with a small island in the south basin and is connected to North Wabasca Lake via an unnamed tributary. The max depth is reported at 1.8m with an average depth of 1m. Historical surveys indicate that due to the shallow depth of the lake, there are low winter dissolved oxygen levels that are likely naturally limiting for overwintering fish populations. This results in periods of low sportfish abundance prior to natural recovery through recruitment and immigration from surrounding river systems. As a result the fish populations in Weaver Lake are naturally limited from achieving sustainable fish populations. Weaver Lake currently supports recreational fishing pressure. The recreational fishery is focused on northern pike and periodically yellow perch. In the open water season the lake is accessible by ATV or OHV from a high grade all weather gravel road to the east of the lake. In the winter it can be accessed with OHV and snowmobiles. There are no designated camping facilities around the lake.

Section 1. Fish Population Status

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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Yellow Perch – FSI Adult Abundance – Undetermined
Lake Whitefish/Cisco – FSI 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 are Yellow Perch and Lake Whitefish. These sport-fisheries are directly assessed at intervals, and therefore are actively managed. The **Overharvest Protection Need** is assessed as **Low**.

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 as **High 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 to maintain this outcome is a regulation of **3 pike any size**. This is a change from the current regulation of 3 pike over 63cm.

Yellow Perch – The recreational fishery management objective being applied is the provincial default (**Passive 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 recreational fishery management objective being applied is the provincial default (**Passive Sustainable Harvest**). Cisco in Weaver Lake can grow relatively large in size, and may be easily confused for Lake Whitefish. The status of the Lake Whitefish/Cisco population has not been assessed. The current management action is a maintenance regulation of a total of **10 Lake Whitefish or Cisco, combined, of any size**.

Management Summary

Management Priority	Species	Overharvest Protection Need	Management Action	Sport Fishing Harvest Regulation
1	Northern Pike	Low	Maintenance – Liberal Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 > 63cm (2017-18) 3 any size (Implementation April 1st, 2018-19)
2	Yellow Perch*	Low	Maintenance – Passive Sustainable Harvest	15 any size
3	Cisco/Lake Whitefish*	Low	Maintenance – Passive Sustainable Harvest	10 any size

**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.*