

# Wiau Lake

## Fisheries Management Objectives

<b>Version Date:</b> October 2017	<b>Prepared by:</b> Alicia Pruden-Beniuk	<b>Reviewed by:</b> Rebecca Baldwin	<b>Approved by:</b> Kathy Hendren
<b>Waterbody ID:</b> 6157	<b>Surface Area:</b> 2646 (Ha)	<b>Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8):</b> La Biche River	<b>Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8):</b> 17050301
<b>Sport Fish Species:</b> Northern Pike, Yellow Perch			
<b>Indigenous Fishery:</b> No			
<b>Environment and Parks Region:</b> Lower Athabasca Region (LAR)		<b>Fisheries Management Zone:</b> Northern Boreal 4 (NB4)	<b>Fisheries Management Office:</b> Lac La Biche

## Background

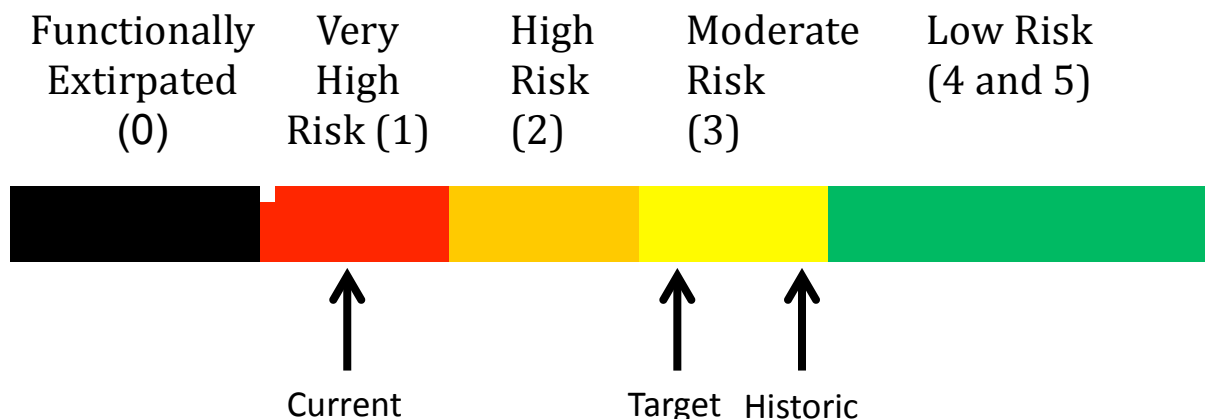
Wiau Lake is approximately 80 kilometers northeast of the Hamlet of Lac La Biche. The lake has a maximum depth of 2.2 meters.

Wiau Lake has one major inflow and one major outflow. The outflow, the Wiau River, connects Wiau Lake to Clyde Lake, which also enable fish to reach the Owl River by the Clyde River. Wiau Lake frequently winterkills due to its shallow depths. Yellow Perch and Northern Pike are found in this lake, but their numbers fluctuate due to frequent winterkills. Limited food sources also reduce Northern Pike from reaching large sizes. Recreational fishing on this lake is predominately during winter months because of a lack of high grade road access. This lake was never commercially fished.

## 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 **Yellow Perch**. The secondary species managed for recreational objectives are Northern Pike. These sport-fisheries are passively managed. The **Overharvest Protection Need** is assessed as **Low**.

**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.

**Northern Pike** – The recreational fishery management objective for Northern Pike is the provincial default (**Sustainable Harvest**). The corresponding Fish Sustainability Index (FSI) score for the current mature density of Northern Pike was assessed as **Very 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 **3 Northern Pike over 63 cm**. The required management action will be a **Zero Harvest** regulation.

### Management Summary

Management Priority	Species	Overharvest Protection Need	Management Action	Sport Fishing Harvest Regulation
1	Yellow Perch	Low	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	15 any size
2	Northern Pike	Low	Recovery – Sustainable Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 &gt; 63 cm (2017-18)</li> <li>• <b>Catch and Release (Implementation April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018)</b></li> </ul>

*\*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.*