

Winefred Lake

Fisheries Management Objectives

Version Date: October 2017	Prepared by: Alicia Pruden-Beniuk	Reviewed by: Rebecca Baldwin	Approved by: Kathy Hendren
Waterbody ID: 6178	Surface Area: 12,619 (Ha)	Hydrologic Unit Code Name (HUC_8): Winefred River	Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC_8): 17060105
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 Zone (NB4)	Fisheries Management Office: Lac La Biche

Background

Winefred Lake is located approximately 120 kilometers Northeast of Lac La Biche. It is a large lake at over 12,600 hectares, with a mean depth of 8.2 meters and a maximum depth of 13.4 meters.

Winefred Lake has three major tributaries and one large outflow. The Winefred River flows out of Winefred Lake and connects to the Christina River. There is a lodge on the south side of the lake, but no managed campsites. The only maintained boat launch is located at the Winefred Lake Lodge. There is another unmaintained launch east of the lodge just off the Grist Lake road. Historically Winefred was fly-in or winter access only. Highway 881 was built in the late 1990's, and paved in the early 2000's to accommodate the increase of oil and gas development in the area. The Winefred Lake road past the Kirby Lake Aerodrome generally requires four-wheel drive vehicles as it is a rudimentary access road that is not maintained. There is significant oilsands development West of Winefred Lake consisting of multiple Steam Assisted Gravity Drainage (SAGD) plants, work camps, pipelines and other associated infrastructure.

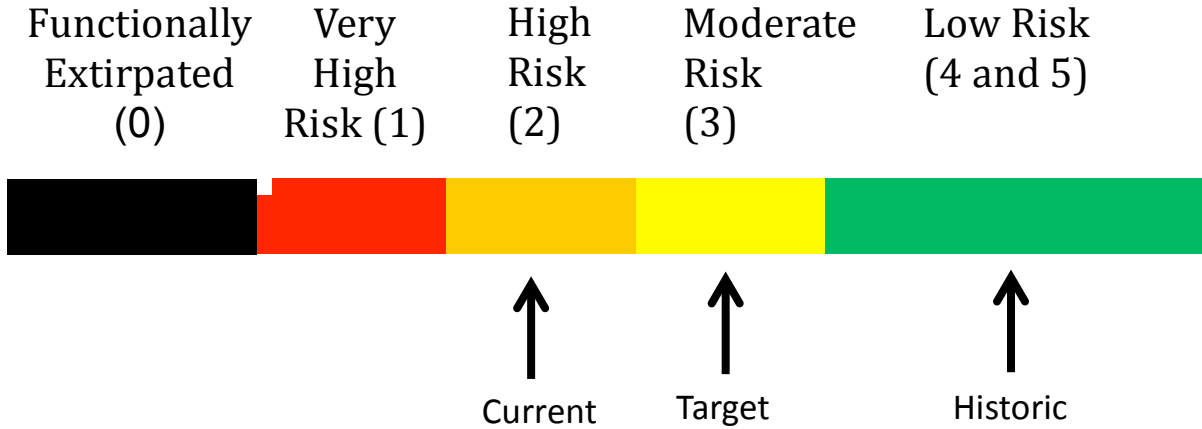
Winefred supports a sport fishery, and an indigenous fishery. This lake is actively managed and has been regularly surveyed using the Fall Walleye Index Netting (FWIN) method since 2004. Two angler surveys have also been conducted on Winefred Lake, once in 1983, and another in 1994. Winefred historically supported a commercial fishery from the 1940s until it was closed in the 1970 to reduce impact on pike and walleye populations.

Alberta Health Services (AHS) has issued a consumption advisory for walleye and northern pike due to elevated mercury levels (see <http://mywildalberta.com/fishing/safety-procedures/documents/FishConsumptionLimitsAlberta-Feb24-2016.pdf>).

Section 1. Fish Population Status

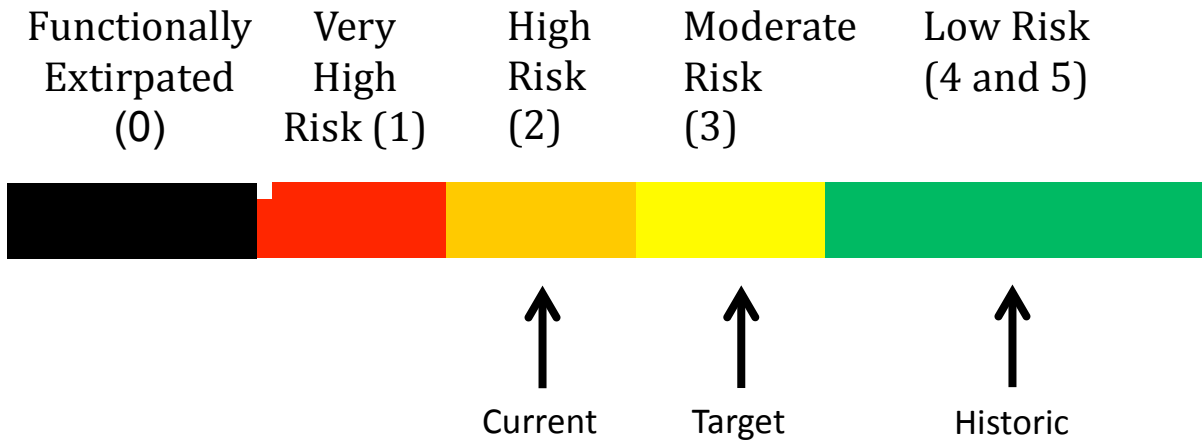
Walleye – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainable Index Adult Density Score



Northern Pike – Adult Abundance

Fish Sustainable Index Adult Density Score



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

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 at **High Risk** to sustainability. The Walleye population is not currently meeting the status and criteria for the objective of a sustainable harvest fishery. The current recovery management action for **Walleye** is 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 as **High Risk** to sustainability. The Northern Pike population is not currently 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 under 70 cm, and 1 Northern Pike over 100 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.

Lake Whitefish – The recreational fishery management objective being applied is the provincial default (**Sustainable Harvest**). The status of the Lake Whitefish population has not been assessed. The current management action is a regulation of 10 Lake Whitefish, any size.

Burbot – The recreational fishery management objective being applied is the provincial default (**Sustainable Harvest**). The status of the Burbot population has not been assessed. The current management action is a regulation of 10 Burbot, any size.

Management Summary

Management Priority	Species	Overharvest Protection Need	Management Action	Sport Fishing Harvest Regulation
1	Walleye	Moderate	Recovery – Sustainable Harvest	C&R
2	Northern Pike	Moderate	Recovery - Sustainable Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit of 2, of which only 1 under 70 cm, and only 1 over 100 cm (2017-18) Catch and Release (Implementation April 1st, 2018)
3	Yellow Perch*	Moderate	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	15 any size
4	Lake Whitefish*	Moderate	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	10 any size
5	Burbot*	Moderate	Maintenance – Sustainable Harvest	10 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.*