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Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District

Gibson Lake

Location	
Official Name:.....Gibson Lake	Local Names:.....
County/District:.....Muskoka	Geographic Twp:..... Gibson, Baxter
Municipality:.....Township of Georgian Bay	MNR Admin. Area:..... Parry Sound
Lat./Long:.....44.963 N 79.752 W	UTM (NAD83):..... 17 598452 4979621
Topographic Map (1:50,000):..... 31D/13	Drainage Basin:..... Gibson River

Physical Features		
Surface Area (ha):.....263	Maximum Depth (m):..... 14	Mean Depth (m):..... 7.6
Elevation (m asl):.....200	Perimeter (km):..... 23.3	Island Shoreline (km):..... 1.8
Volume (10 ⁴ m ³):.....2003	Watershed (km ²):..... 176 (excludes area of lake)	Water Clarity (m):..... 2.8

Land Use and Development	
Crown Land (%):.....30	Provincial Parks:..... None
Shoreline Development:.....	High; Shoreline Residential, Commercial, Recreation Camp
Access:.....	Public; South Gibson Lake Road
Water Level Management:.....	Not regulated

Fish Species
Major Fish Species:..... Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, Northern Pike, Black Crappie (I 2001)
Other Fish Species:..... Bowfin, Brown Bullhead, Rock Bass, White Sucker, Yellow Perch, Logperch, BurbotChannel Catfish, Johnny Darter, Cisco, Pumpkinseed, Redhorse sucker (species not verified)
Other Species:.....

Notes: E: extirpated, I: introduced – intentional or accidental, O: occasional, R: remnant, S: currently stocked, ?: status uncertain, 2009: year of first record or introduction if known, blank: presumed native

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Fisheries Management

<i>Fisheries Management Zone:</i>	15
<i>Designation for Lake Trout Management:</i>	Not designated
<i>Fishing Regulation Exceptions</i>	No lake-specific exceptions
<i>Current Stocking:</i>	None
<i>Historic Stocking (last year stocked):</i>	Walleye (1944/1956), Smallmouth Bass (1950-1968)
<i>Contaminants (species tested):</i>	Northern Pike, Walleye, Brown Bullhead, Pumpkinseed, Cisco, Rock Bass

Summary of Fisheries Studies / Reports:

McIntyre, E. 2001 Synoptic Trapnet Survey Report, Summer, 2001

- 8 foot trapnets were utilized.
- Walleye, northern pike and largemouth bass abundance is “average” relative to similar survey conducted on other Parry Sound Area lakes.
- Smallmouth bass abundance is “above average” and black crappie is highly abundant in the lake, seemingly to the detriment of walleye.
- Walleye abundance and productivity have diminished considerably from that observed in 1968, but that of smallmouth bass has increased dramatically.
- Gibson Lake is a very productive lake, an ‘above average’ proportion of fish productivity is directed towards coarse fish species.
- A grand total of 494,526 kilograms of fish, comprising 11 different species was caught in 15 over-night trapnet sets.
- The *Catch-Per-Unit-Effort by weight (CPUE-wt)* was 32.968 kilograms / net set.
- Relative to 16 synoptic trapnet surveys recently conducted (since 1994) in the Parry Sound Area, this index of productivity ranks 2nd and well above the average of 17.741 kg/net set.
- Although this is a very positive index of fish productivity, more than 1/3rd of this productivity is attributable to the redhorse sucker population in the lake.
- Game fish (walleye, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, northern pike and black crappie) comprised 43.1% of the total biomass of fish captured.
- Coarse fish (common white sucker, redhorse sucker, brown bullhead and bowfin) comprised 56.6% and pan fish (rock bass and pumpkinseed) comprised less than 1%.
- Coarse fish are very abundant in Gibson Lake. The average percent of coarse fish caught in the above mentioned 16 synoptic trapnet surveys is 34.5%. Again, this high representation of coarse fish on Gibson Lake is largely attributable to the redhorse sucker population.
- Walleye comprised 12.9% of the total catch weight, well below the average of 24.8% for the above mentioned surveys.
- Introduction of crappie and scarcity of yellow perch may be impacting walleye abundance.

McIntyre, E. 2001 2001 Fall Walleye Index Netting Interim Report

- Gibson Lake C.U.E. was well below the Regional average for Walleye, Northern Pike and Smallmouth Bass
- Gibson Lake C.U.E was well below the District average for walleye and smallmouth bass but average for northern pike

Hogg, D. 1968. Gibson Lake Trapnet Survey – May 1968.

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- A total of 38 trapnet nights of fishing effort using 6 and 8' trapnets.
- Catch: 373 walleye, 100 northern pike, 54 largemouth bass, 6 smallmouth bass, 238 white sucker, 830 brown bullhead, 179 northern redhorse sucker, 89 pumpkinseed, 178 rock bass, 8 channel catfish and 3 burbot.

Updated: 2016

Refer to Lake Fact Background Information document for explanation of content.

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