

Natural. Valued. Protected.

Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District Spider Lake

Location	
Official Name:..... Spider Lake	Local Names: Cowper Lake
County/District: District of Parry Sound	Geographic Twp:..... Cowper
Municipality:..... Township of the Archipelago	MNR Admin. Area: Parry Sound
Lat./Long: 45.236 N -80.054 W	UTM (NAD83): 17 574240 5009625
Topographic Map (1:50,000):041H01	Drainage Basin:..... Spider Lake

Physical Features		
Surface Area (ha): 480	Maximum Depth (m): 34	Mean Depth (m):..... 8
Elevation (m asl):..... 180	Perimeter (km):..... 51	Island Shoreline (km):..... 0.0
Volume (10 ⁴ m ³):..... 3,895	Watershed (km ²):..... 30.3 (excludes area of lake)	Water Clarity (m): 5.5

Land Use and Development	
Crown Land (%):.....90	Provincial Parks:..... The Massasauga Provincial Park
Shoreline Development:	very low; provincial park campsites
Access:.....	public; by portage from Three-legged Lake or Georgian Bay
Water Level Management:	not regulated

Fish Species	
Major Fish Species:.....	lake trout, northern pike, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass
Other Fish Species:.....	rock bass, yellow perch, cisco,
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>	designated; managed as a naturally reproducing population; at development capacity
<i>Fishing Regulation Exceptions</i>	lake trout; none between 40-55 cm (15.7-21.7 in.)
<i>Current Stocking:</i>	none
<i>Historic Stocking (last year stocked):</i>	lake trout (1949-1988), walleye, (1950-1953), smallmouth bass (1950-1969)
<i>Contaminants (species tested):</i>	no testing done

Summary of Fisheries Studies / Reports:

McIntyre, E. 2001 “**Spot Check**” Creel Report – Winter 1999

- Although we only sampled 8 days, it would appear that fishing pressure on Spider Lake is light to moderate in the wintertime. Considering that most of this lake provides shallow water habitat that is not conducive to lake trout, the lake trout population has very limited capacity to withstand much fishing pressure. It is possible that a considerable amount of fishing effort may be occurring during the weekend days, which we did not sample. The native lake trout population appears to be providing a viable winter fishery on this lake
- Acknowledging that our observed effort consisted of a mere 34 angler hours, fishing quality for lake trout was exceptionally good with an effort-per-unit-catch (E.U.C.) of 5.7 angler hrs and an effort-per-unit-harvest (E.U.H.) of 6.8 angler hours.
- The observed lake trout catch was comprised primarily of small fish, possibly suggesting good reproduction and recruitment. The sample size was too small to have much confidence in this conclusion.

MNR, 1992. Voluntary **creel data** - March 1992.

- Reported effort: 94 angler hours
- Released 21 lake trout - 6 - 12” (too small to keep)
- Kept 8 lake trout
- Reported 50/50 split natural vs. planted

Visentin, L. 1990. **Assessment** of Spider (Cowper) Lake, Cowper Twp. for **lake trout spawning habitat**.

- Short duration, fine mesh gill nets set at potential lake trout spawning sites; mid-October, 1990
- Also under-water lights used for spawning shoal observations
- 6 sites gill netted - no lake trout caught
- No lake trout observed with underwater lights
- Lake trout spawning locations remain unknown; potential sites reported to be ‘moderately silted’

Deary Env. Consultants, 1990 Summary report for **lake trout** (*Salvelinus namaycush*) **assessment** of thirteen lakes in the Parry Sound District.

- 15 overnight gill net sets (summer)
- Standard lake survey gill net used (50’ panels of 1½, 2, 2½, 3, 3½, 4 and 4½ “ mesh, nylon nets)
- Catch: 10 lake trout (9 naturals; 1 AD clip), 1 rainbow trout (origin unknown), 174 cisco
- Wide size range and presence of 5 lake trout under 40 cm. total length (one was 10.5 cm) indicate recently successful, natural reproduction to some degree on this lake
- Fork length - 43.1 ± 18.2 cm. ($P > 0.05$) (Range: 10.5 - 94.6 cm)

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- Round weight - 2.67 kg. (Range: 0.17 - 15.0 kg)

MNR, 1978. Summary of 1978 **winter creel census** on lake trout lakes by Ministry of Natural Resources Personnel.

- 11 sampling occasions and 113.75 angler hrs of effort surveyed
- 7 lake trout “caught”; 5 lake trout observed - 4 natural; 1 AD clip

Thurston, L. 1976 **Assessment of lake trout plantings** Parry Sound District.

- 15 overnight gill net sets (summer)
- Standard lake survey gill nets used (as above)
- Catch: 10 lake trout (+ 1 escapee) all natural; 226 cisco; 2 smallmouth bass; 1 walleye
- Lake trout mean size: (N=9)
- Mean total length: 36.8 ± 6.8 cm. (P > 0.05) Range: 19.2 - 48.9 cm
- Mean round weight: 0.48 kg. ; Range: 0.05 - 1.0
- Relatively uniform small size

Thurston, L.D.W. 1975 Summer and winter **creel census** on selected lake trout lakes in the Parry Sound District, 1974 - 75.

- Winter, 1975 - checked 2 days
- 20 angler hours of effort surveyed - 3 lake trout caught, all natural

Updated: 2018

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

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