

Natural. Valued. Protected.

Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District Sucker Lake

Location	
<i>Official Name:</i> Sucker Lake	<i>Local Names:</i>
<i>County/District:</i> Parry Sound	<i>Geographic Twp:</i>Humphrey
<i>Municipality:</i> Township of Seguin	<i>MNR Admin. Area:</i>Bracebridge
<i>Lat./Long:</i>45.251 N -79.681 W	<i>UTM (NAD83):</i> 17 603494 5011661
<i>Topographic Map (1:50,000):</i>31E05	<i>Drainage Basin:</i> Lake Rosseau

Physical Features		
<i>Surface Area (ha):</i>109	<i>Maximum Depth (m):</i> 17	<i>Mean Depth (m):</i> 11
<i>Elevation (m asl):</i>224	<i>Perimeter (km):</i>7.0	<i>Island Shoreline (km):</i> 1.6
<i>Volume (10⁴ m³):</i>1220	<i>Watershed (km²):</i> 11.8 (excludes area of lake)	<i>Water Clarity:</i>5.3

Land Use and Development	
<i>Crown Land (%):</i> 5	<i>Provincial Parks:</i>none
<i>Shoreline Development:</i> moderate; shoreline residential	
<i>Access:</i>public; boat launch on Rosseauview Road, steep approach, roadside parking	
<i>Water Level Management:</i>not regulated	

Fish Species
<i>Major Fish Species:</i> lake trout (S), smallmouth bass (I 1939), burbot, cisco, rainbow smelt (I 1962)
<i>Other Fish Species:</i> white sucker, brown bullhead, rock bass (I 1988), pumpkinseed, yellow perch
<i>Other Species:</i> spiny water flea (I 2005)

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

Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District

Sucker Lake

Fisheries Management

Fisheries Management Zone:..... 15

Designation for Lake Trout Management:..... designated; put-grow-take; at development capacity

Fishing Regulation Exceptions lake trout open all year

Current Stocking:.....lake trout – put-grow-take, no natural reproduction expected;
..... stocked every two years with yearlings

Historic Stocking (last year stocked):.....walleye (1946), smallmouth bass (1956), splake (1984)

Contaminants (species tested):..... lake trout (2013)

Assessment:

Completed Projects:

- 1968 lake survey
- 1976-77 Lake trout assessment
- 1988 Splake stocking assessment
- 1990 Lake trout spawning assessment
- 1993 Lake trout spawning observations
- 1995 Spring Littoral Index Netting (SLIN)
- 2013 Summer Profundal Index Netting (SPIN)

Dissolved oxygen profiles are collected on a regular basis

Synopsis

The native fish community of the lake appears to have been dominated by lake trout and cisco. Interviews conducted with long time users of the lake led to the conclusion that lake trout were native. Smallmouth bass were first stocked in 1939 and stocking occurred regularly until 1956; although it is not certain, it is likely that the early plantings were introductory in nature. Walleye were also stocked several times in the 1940's but these plantings did not result in the establishment of a self-sustaining population as the lake does not provide suitable habitat for this species. Lake trout stocking began in 1949 and has occurred regularly until the present. Exotic rainbow smelt were first caught in a test net set in or prior to 1962. The first formal lake survey in 1968 documented all the species discussed above as well as pumpkinseed sunfish. A follow up survey in 1973 added white sucker, brown bullhead, burbot and yellow perch to the list of inhabiting species; all are probably native.

The first targetted assessment of the lake trout population occurred in 1977. A total of seven lake trout were caught in 12 net sets. None were fin clipped; however the first year that fin clipping was recorded to occur was 1976, so it is not possible to determine how many of the lake trout were stocked and how many were naturally produced. However, the catch was dominated by large fish ranging from 3 to 5 kg in weight which is consistent with the next most recent stocking event occurring 10 years earlier (i.e no small fish that may have been naturally produced were caught). The lake manager at the time classified the lake as Category 2; meaning the catch was moderate and it was not conclusive whether lake should continue to be managed for lake trout.

A decade later, in 1988, a netting assessment was done following a stocking of splake that occurred in 1984. A total of two splake and eight lake trout were caught (plus catches of non-target species). Seven of the eight lake trout were fin clipped indicating they were stocked. The eighth fish was not clipped but was large enough that it may have been stocked prior to 1976, when fin clipping did not occur. Rock bass were

Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District

Sucker Lake

documented for the first time in this survey. Lake trout abundance was rated as being low.

A spawning assessment in 1990 yielded only one lake trout which was fin clipped; although the amount of netting effort was low. It was suggested that the amount and quality of spawning habitat was a limiting factor in lake trout reproduction.

A Spring Littoral Index Netting (SLIN) survey was completed in 1995. The results of this survey were not formally reported. Thirty-two standard SLIN sets caught 27 lake trout, all but one of which were fin clipped and all but one of the clipped fish were three year old fish originating from the 1993 planting.

The 2013 SPIN survey caught 13 lake trout of which 11 were stocked. The estimated catch rate of lake trout greater than 300 mm fork length was 0.83/net. Using the conversion equation developed for the SPIN protocol the estimated density of lake trout was 3.1 fish/ha (2.8 kg/ha) of lake trout habitat or a population of 269 fish (111-431, 68% prediction interval). This abundance is moderately low and is probably limited by the natural habitat limitations of the lake. The abundance of catchable-sized fish appears to be better than it was in 1995 when the stocking rate was higher. The lake has very limited capacity to support a self-sustaining population due to habitat limitations and the introduction of smallmouth bass and smelt. Given the long history of stocking continued management for a put-grow-take fishery is recommended.

Updated: 2014

Refer to Lake Fact Sheet Interpretation document for explanation of content.

This information is supplied without expressed or implied warranty of any kind, including warranty of fitness for a particular purpose. In no event will the Ministry of Natural Resources be liable for any damages, whether incidental, consequential or direct in conjunction with, or arising from the furnishing or use of this information.