

Management Summary-West Bearskin Lake

- Management Plan last revised in 2009, next revision scheduled for 2020.
- Lake Trout and Smallmouth Bass are the primary management species for the lake.
- Additional species present include Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Green Sunfish, Bluegill, and Rainbow Smelt.
- Current management goals: Maintain a minimum lake trout catch of 1.5 fish/gill net set (deep and shallow combined), with a minimum average weight of 1.5 lb/fish. Maintain a Smallmouth Bass population providing some fish over 16 inches.
- Lake Trout stocking discontinued in 2009 due to high proportion of naturally produced fish in 2002 and 2008 surveys.
- Current Evaluations: Determine whether a resumption of Lake Trout stocking, or more restrictive regulations, are needed to meet Lake Trout management goals. Determine if special regulations are needed to improve the size structure of the Smallmouth Bass population.
- 2016 Lake Survey Results
 - Lake Trout gill net catch slightly below goal; sample dominated by mature fish possibly suggesting low reproduction or recruitment in recent years. Size goal met in 2016.
 - All Lake Trout sampled were naturally produced fish
 - Smallmouth Bass appeared fairly abundant, and of quality sizes.
 - Northern Pike appear to be increasing in abundance.
 - A single, large Walleye was sampled in 2016, the first since 1969. The fish likely migrated from Hungry Jack Lake.
 - A modest Bluegill fishery appears to have developed.
 - Rainbow Smelt remained abundant. The species can provide high-quality forage for Lake Trout, but has also been implicated in Lake Trout and Walleye recruitment failures in some Minnesota waterbodies.
- Next lake survey will be completed in late-August 2019.