

## **Management Summary-Caribou Lake**

- Management Plan revised in 2019
- Walleye and Northern Pike remain primary management species
- Management goals for Walleye adjusted to reflect current population status: Maintain a self-sustained Walleye population with a minimum gill net catch of 5.25 fish/net (Lake Class median).
- Northern Pike goal unchanged: Maintain a minimum Northern Pike gill net catch of 1.2 fish/net, with some fish over 25 inches present
- Future evaluations: Determine whether a resumption of stocking is needed to meet the walleye long-range catch goal. Determine whether a walleye population meeting the new long-range goal provides satisfactory walleye fishing. Monitor further changes in fish community.
- Lake surveys planned for 2022 and 2027. Creel surveys to be proposed in survey years.
- Stocking may be considered if Walleye net catches drop below first quartile for the lake class (2.96 fish/net).
- 2017 survey summary
  - Walleye catch below goal prior population goals (5.67 fish/net), but within normal range for lake class
  - Strong 2013 and 2015 Walleye year classes, comprised 60% of the total catch
  - Reproduction remains consistent, no missing year classes through age-8
  - Northern Pike catch below goal, but size goal met
  - Smallmouth Bass less abundant than past, but in normal range for lake class
  - Bluegill and Black Crappie remain present in low numbers, compared to other regions
- Adult Walleye Population Estimates (DNR, 1854 TA, FDL data combined)
  - 2005: 4,248 Walleye  $\geq$  10 inches
  - 2008: 4,048 Walleye  $\geq$  10 inches
  - 2014: 2,013 Walleye  $\geq$  11 inches
  - 2017: 2,150 Walleye  $\geq$  11 inches