

Upcoming Events

June 4, 2022 – Annual General Meeting

July 16, 2022 – Annual Regatta

TBD – Concert in the Park

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Rod Kause

Vice President
Bernie Krec

2nd Vice President
Patty Wierenga

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Shelly Fizer

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Jim McLeod
James Kryskow
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Brian Mitchell
Jade Kause
Leon Marciak
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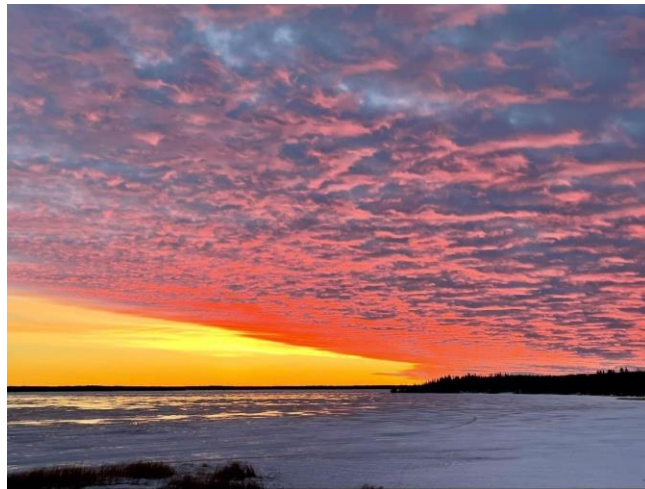
Councilor LSA
George Vaughan

Councilor BHD
Doug Drozd

Spring Newsletter

Lac La Nonne Enhancement and Protection Association

Welcome to our 2022 spring newsletter!



Picture taken by Cathy Hudson

Presidential Message

I think it's safe to say that we are all ready for another summer out at the lake! LEPA has been busy once again with our family activities and our lake enhancement efforts. In 2021, we divided our board of directors into 4 initiative groups that LEPA will be focusing on in the next few years. These include water quality, our streams, the fishery and lake level.

Within this newsletter we have a few updates on some of these initiatives and stories on our events. Check out our upcoming events at the top of this page and keep an eye out on our website for updates! We look forward to seeing you at our Annual General Meeting on June 4th.

Stay safe and have a great summer!

Rod Kause, President

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Streams Committee Update

Our mandate is to discover areas of potential contamination from run off or in flow into Lac La Nonne. This includes the outflow from the two surrounding lakes, Lake Majeau and Nakanum. Other areas of concern may be the streams making their way towards Lac La Nonne and farmlands with agriculture contaminates (examples fertilizer and livestock waste). Other concerns may be beaver dams effecting the in and out flows of the lake.

Our goal is to identify these potential risks to the health of the lake and work on solutions.

LEPA's Mission – The mission of the Lac La Nonne Enhancement and Protection Association (LEPA) is to preserve and enhance Lac La Nonne and it's surrounding habitat from environmental impacts for current and future generations.



Annual Boat Regatta



What's Under the Water at Lac La Nonne?

LEPA in conjunction with a team of scuba divers from the Alberta Underwater Council is carrying out a pilot project to dive selected areas of our lake.

We are developing a plan to remove debris in selected locations in the lake. The exact locations have not been determined but will most likely be around areas where the warning Buoys have been placed.

The plan will incorporate diver safety and hazards. We will ensure only qualified and experienced divers participate. Also, volunteers will provide boats for assisting divers in removing the debris.

So, watch for the Red Flags with the Diagonal White Stripe on the Lake, this is the traditional "diver below" signal.

Please let us know if anyone is interested in helping or is an experienced scuba diver.

For further information contact Leon Marciak, at leon.marciak@shaw.ca or leave a message on the LEPA Website

LEPA's Vision – LEPA is an active, visible, respected example of success whereby everyone is striving to care for the lake and its surrounding area.





3rd Annual Fishing Derby

We wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who participated in our 3rd Annual Fishing Derby! With all the support we were able to raise \$3,674 which will be put towards multiple initiatives around the lake!

LEPA would also like to thank all the volunteers who kept the event going even in the chilly weather.

Lastly, we would like to send another huge thank you to all the gracious donors. We had amazing prizes and raffle items this year and would not have been possible without you all!

What a great fishing derby!

LEPA's Objectives – To protect the physical and biotic integrity and to prevent environmental damage to the area of land commonly known as “Lac La Nonne” in the Countries of Barrhead and Lac Ste. Anne and S.V. of Birch Cove in the Province of Alberta,

To ensure the preservation of the character and biological diversity of “Lac La Nonne” for educational and recreational purposes,

To encourage and promote nature-oriented and recreational activities,

Generally, to encourage, foster and develop among its members and the public, recognition of the importance of environmental conservation and responsible management of natural areas with the least possible disruption when used by man.

Event Updates

LEPA had an eventful year despite the pandemic. In February we hosted our 2nd annual fishing derby with a huge turnout of almost 200 participants!!

June was quiet with COVID restrictions, and our AGM was held via zoom, which seemed to work well.

In July we had two events-our annual boat regatta and the 2nd boat rally. We were able to gather for hot dogs and a ribbon cutting ceremony with the county of Barrhead for the new dock.

We are looking forward to another eventful summer at Lac La Nonne with upcoming events that are posted on our website.

Thanks to all of our volunteers and participants for a successful 2021!!

Jill Brown, Director

2021 Dock Installation

June 4, 2021, LEPA along with multiple volunteers and the County of Barrhead built and installed the new public dock out at Klondike Park. This is a public dock for all to use! LEPA would like to extend a very special thank you to our gracious donors and all the hard-working volunteers.

Our donors who provided the means for our new dock include Alberta Conservation Association (ACA), Pembina Co-op Home Building Store, Heather Ladan, Tom and Terry Mumby, and Ron Pacholok. Pictures of the new dock can be found in our gallery page.



Avian Flu and What You Can Do!

A strain of Avian Flu is currently circulating in both wild and domestic flocks of birds across North America. A news article from Global News states that “Alberta is the hardest hit province, with 900,000 birds dead and 23 farms affected.” Currently the Avian Influenza Risk Level in Alberta is in the red zone, meaning extremely high risk of transmission through the avian population.

The Government of Alberta has stated “There is an extremely low risk to human health and no risk to food safety. While some strains have the potential to infect humans, previous cases of avian influence in people have involved close contact with infected birds or heavily contaminated environments.” Farmers are being told to protect their flocks by keeping them inside, restricting visitors and increasing biosecurity measures.

For our bird population around the lake, it is recommended to not feed birds by hand and to keep bird feeders clean. Bird feeders should be cleaned every two weeks involving scrubbing and soaking in 10% chlorine bleach solution (use one part bleach to nine parts water). Rinse and allow feeders to dry completely before filling with bird seed. If you cannot take the appropriate measures in keeping the feeders clean, it is recommended to stop feeding birds until the Avian Flu risk is out of the red zone.

If you spot a sick or dead bird, do not touch! Report all sick or dead birds to Alberta Environment and Parks Office at 310-0000.



Fisheries Update

The fisheries committee is looking at the status of our fish population. The next page is a copy of the Lac La Nonne FIN Summary that was completed in 2018 by the Government of Alberta. It summarizes the fish population, looking specifically at Walleye and Northern Pike.

For more information, please visit www.aep.alberta.ca

Water Quality Committee Update

The water quality committee met in early 2022 and came up with 6 key focus areas that we will be working on to improve the lake quality of Lac La Nonne.

- Lake Height – working with Barrhead County and Alberta Environment and Parks to establish an appropriate lake level and build a new weir.
- Sewer/Wastewater – educating lake residents on proper sewer and wastewater management. Working with the counties on proper enforcement of poor systems.
- Water Sampling – LEPA will continue to complete water sampling with Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS).
- Responsible Development – LEPA will continue to review development permits that are submitted to the counties.
- Lake Clean Up – look at what is under the water using our diving program and organizing a Lac La Nonne Community shoreline clean up during summer months.
- Water Management – the committee is reaching out to consultants to update Lac La Nonne’s State of the Watershed report and completing more detailed water sampling.



Lac La Nonne FIN Summary

2018

Background

“How are the fish in my lake doing?” We need this answer to set appropriate fishing regulations, to understand and correct any problems with fish habitat, and to guard against invasive species. A healthy fish population and fish community means we can all enjoy the benefits of sustainable fisheries and healthy ecosystems. A standard method of assessing the status of fish populations is necessary to allow comparisons of fish sustainability across the years at a lake, and to compare to other lakes. In Alberta, we use an accepted standard of index netting for lake fisheries assessment. This method provides the necessary data on fish abundance, biological data (such as age and sex), and species diversity to assess sustainability.

Fall Index Netting (FIN)

Alberta Environment and Parks monitor Walleye and Northern Pike populations using standardized index netting (Morgan, 2002). Fall index netting occurs during late summer and fall when water temperatures are 10-15 °C. Standardized multi-mesh gill nets are set at random locations between 2 and 15 metres deep, set for 21-27 hours (i.e., a net-night), and then reset in new random locations. Information from Yellow Perch, Lake Whitefish, Burbot, minnow, and sucker species are also collected. The information collected from each fish includes length, weight, age, gender, and maturity. After sampling, if fish are appropriate for human consumption, Alberta biologists provide the fish to local Indigenous peoples or to persons on approved subsistence lists. Typically, a tiny proportion of the lake’s fish population (usually less than 1 or 2%) are killed in this sampling.

How is this information used?

Catch rates (i.e., number of fish captured per net-night) of Walleye and Northern Pike are an index of the populations’ abundance, with higher catch rates meaning there are more fish in the lake. The abundance of adult fish is compared to the standardized thresholds for 5 broad categories of risk to the long-term sustainability of the fish population, with higher densities of fish having lower risk (Table 1). The sizes and age of fish also tell us if problems with overharvest (e.g. too few fish living to old age) or habitat (e.g., poor spawning success) are a concern. Biologists use this information, as well as a variety of data on water quality, access, development, and habitat threats as part of Alberta’s Fish Sustainability Index (FSI).

The management goal for most Alberta fisheries is long-term sustainability, shown by the red lines on the graphs below. Achieving this goal uses the netting data and the FSI to determine the most appropriate sport fishing regulations for a lake. This landscape-level assessment allows for consistent, broad temporal comparisons of fish sustainability and status.

For more information, please see Alberta’s FIN and FSI websites,

- <https://www.alberta.ca/fall-index-netting.aspx>
- <https://www.alberta.ca/fish-sustainability-index.aspx>

Table 1 – Alberta’s Fish Sustainability Index risk thresholds for Walleye and Northern Pike using the standardized Fall Index Net (FIN) method. Note: Thresholds align with species management frameworks.

Mature Walleyes/net	Mature Pike/net	Risk to Sustainability
>29.0	>21.8	Very Low
20.3-29.0	15.3-21.8	Low
14.5-20.2	10.9-15.2	Moderate
5.8-14.4	4.4-10.8	High
<5.8	<4.4	Very High

Results of the 2018 FIN at Lac La Nonne

Lac La Nonne (1292 ha) is located 70 km northwest from the city of Edmonton. From September 24 to 26, 2018, 12 nets captured 9 Lake Whitefish, 151 Northern Pike, 93 Walleyes and 151 Yellow Perch.

Walleye

The mean catch rate of Walleyes was 7.8/ net-night. The catch rates of mature (Figure 1) and immature Walleyes were 3.1/ net-night and 4.7/ net-night, respectively. The corresponding FSI score for the current mature density of Walleyes was assessed at **very high risk**.

The length distribution indicates unstable yet abundant recruitment, abundant 300 to 390 mm Walleye but very few fish larger than 390 mm (Figure 2).

The 2018 FIN sample represented approximately 1.7% of the estimated mature Walleye population size.

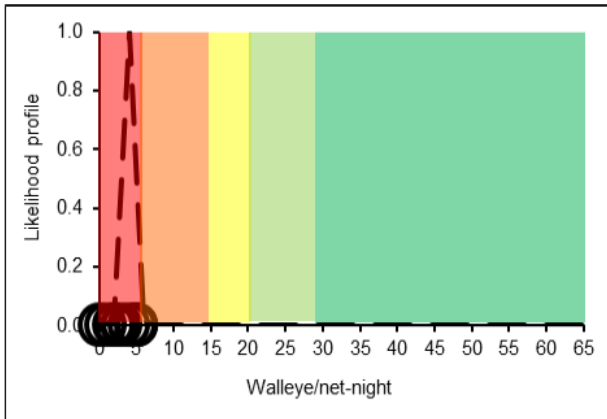


Figure 1 - The FIN catch rate of mature Walleyes from Lac La Nonne, 2018. Dashed line is the mean catch rate (3.1 fish/ net-night), with individual net data as hollow circles (n=12 nets).

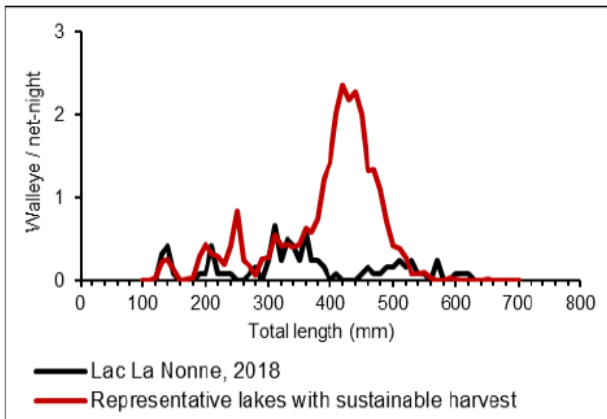


Figure 2 - FIN sample showing size of Walleyes from Lac La Nonne, 2018. The red line indicates the average length distribution of Walleye from 5 Alberta lakes supporting long-term sustainable harvests of Walleye.

Northern Pike

The mean catch rate of mature Northern Pike was 12.6/ net-night (Figure 3). The corresponding FSI score for the current mature density of Northern Pike was assessed at **moderate risk**.

The length distribution indicates weak recruitment, very abundant Northern Pike from 490 to 680 mm and very few fish larger than 680 mm (Figure 4).

The 2018 FIN sample represented approximately 0.4% of the estimated mature Northern Pike population size.

Summary

In several FIN assessments before 2016 indicated the status of Walleye in Lac La Nonne varied between **moderate to low risk**. A severe winterkill in 2015 resulted in a 2016 status of **very high risk**, which continues today. Strict conservation-based management actions are necessary to achieve recovery.

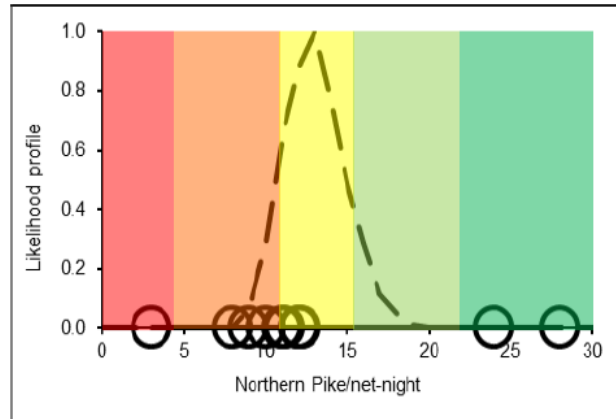


Figure 3 - The FIN catch rate of mature Northern Pike from Lac La Nonne, 2018. Dashed line is the mean catch rate (12.6 fish/ net-night), with individual net data as hollow circles (n=12 nets).

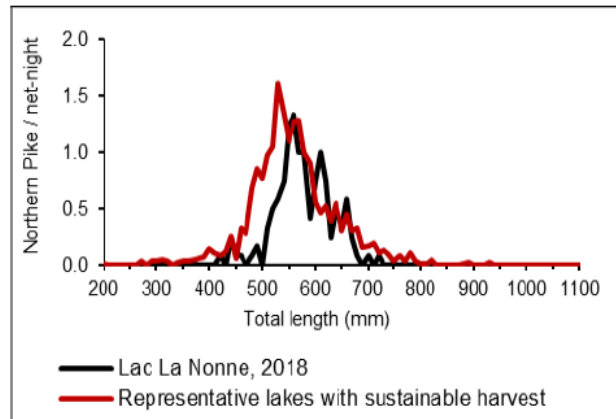


Figure 4 - FIN sample showing size of Northern Pike from Lac La Nonne, 2018. The red line indicates the average length distribution of pike from 6 Alberta lakes supporting long-term sustainable harvests of pike.

In the 2008 to 2016 assessments, the corresponding FSI status of Northern Pike remained at **high risk**. The 2015 winter kill reduced the abundance of pike slightly. Given the current status of **moderate risk**, and with careful management, the long-term goal of sustainable harvest can be met achieved.

Literature

Morgan, G.E. 2002. Manual of Instructions-Fall Walleye Index Netting. Percid Community Synthesis, Diagnostics and Sampling Standards Working Group. Laurentian University, Sudbury Ontario.