Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District

Bala Reach

Location

Official Name: ..... Moon River	*Local Names:* ..... Bala Reach
County/District: ..... Muskoka	*Geographic Twp:* ..... Medora, Wood
Municipality: ..... Township of Muskoka Lakes	*MNR Admin. Area:* ..... Bracebridge
Lat./Long: ..... 45.025 N 79.642 W	*UTM (NAD83):* 17 607002 4986580
Topographic Map (1:50,000): 31E04	*Drainage Basin:* ..... Moon River, Musquash River

Physical Features

Surface Area (ha): 307	*Maximum Depth (m):*	*Mean Depth (m):* .....
Elevation (m asl): 225	*Perimeter (km):*	*Island Shoreline (km):* .....
Volume (10^4 $m^{3:}$):	*Watershed (km^2):* ..... 4700 (excludes area of lake)	*Water Clarity (m):* .....

Land Use and Development

Crown Land (%): ..... 10 *Provincial Parks:* ..... None

Shoreline Development: ..... High

Access: ..... Public; boat launch and public docks in Bala

Water Level Management: . Regulated; Ontario Power Generation owned and operated dams at Swift Rapids Generating ..... Station and Moon River control dam ..... Water level is managed in accordance with the Muskoka River Water Management Plan

Fish Species

Major Fish Species: ..... Northern Pike, Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Black Crappie (I 2004)), Walleye

Other Fish Species: ..... Brown Bullhead, Emerald Shiner, Hornyhead Chub (I), Logperch, Longnose Dace ..... Pumpkinseed, Rock Bass, White Sucker, Yellow Perch, Rainbow Smelt (I 1980)

Other Species: ..... Spiny Water Flea

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

Fisheries Management Zone: 15

Designation for Lake Trout Management: ..... not designated

Fishing Regulation Exceptions ..... no lake-specific exceptions

Current Stocking: ..... none

Historic Stocking (last year stocked): ..... Walleye (1943-1954, 1997-2000)

Contaminants (species tested): ..... Walleye, Smallmouth Bass, White Sucker

Assessment: Completed Projects:

1980	Fish Community Survey (trap net and gill net)
2004	ESTN Trap Net Survey
2017	MOE Contaminant Sampling

Synopsis

Bala Reach is a lake-like section of the Moon River located between Bala and Swift Rapids. It has not had a complete inventory conducted but several fish community surveys have been done.

In the early 2000s, efforts were made by the local community, supported by MNRF, to rehabilitate the Walleye population. Like Lake Muskoka, upstream, the Walleye population had collapsed decades previously, probably due to a combination of water level fluctuations, introduced Rainbow Smelt and pesticide use. Habitat enhancement, stocking and possibly downstream movement of fish from the previously rehabilitated Lake Muskoka population resulted in successful re-establishment of a population and fishery.

Updated: 2018

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

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