Winter Creel Survey of Small Lake Trout Lakes in the Huntsville Area 2013

File Report

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Lakes which are actively managed for lake trout are designated on a formal list (OMNR 2006). Designation can be for self-sustaining 'natural' or stocked 'put-grow-take' (PGT) populations. A review of the current state of knowledge of lake trout lakes in Parry Sound District identified several candidates for potential change to their designation, including Bay Lake, Dotty Lake and Long (Cardwell) Lake. However, an important information gap was the characteristics of the fisheries (fishing effort and harvest and demographics of the users). A creel survey was conducted in the winter of 2013 to collect information on the fishery of these lakes and, for efficiency and context, other lake trout lakes in the immediate area.

Study Lakes

Eleven lakes were included in the survey; 10 designated lake trout lakes and one lake stocked with splake. Six lakes of relatively similar size are located in close proximity to each other on the Limberlost Road corridor north east of the Town of Huntsville (Figure 1). Bella, Tasso and Camp Lake are natural lake trout lakes. Bella and Camp Lake have a slot size regulation to protect them from over-harvest (Table 1). Tasso Lake does not have a special regulation because the lake trout population is marginal and fishing effort and harvest is believed to be very low. Bella Lake has fair winter access via informal road-side access points with some available parking. Tasso Lake has a public access point with ploughed parking at the south end. Camp Lake has a formal public access point but snow ploughing currently only occurs to the Tasso Lake access point, approximately 800 m from the lake.

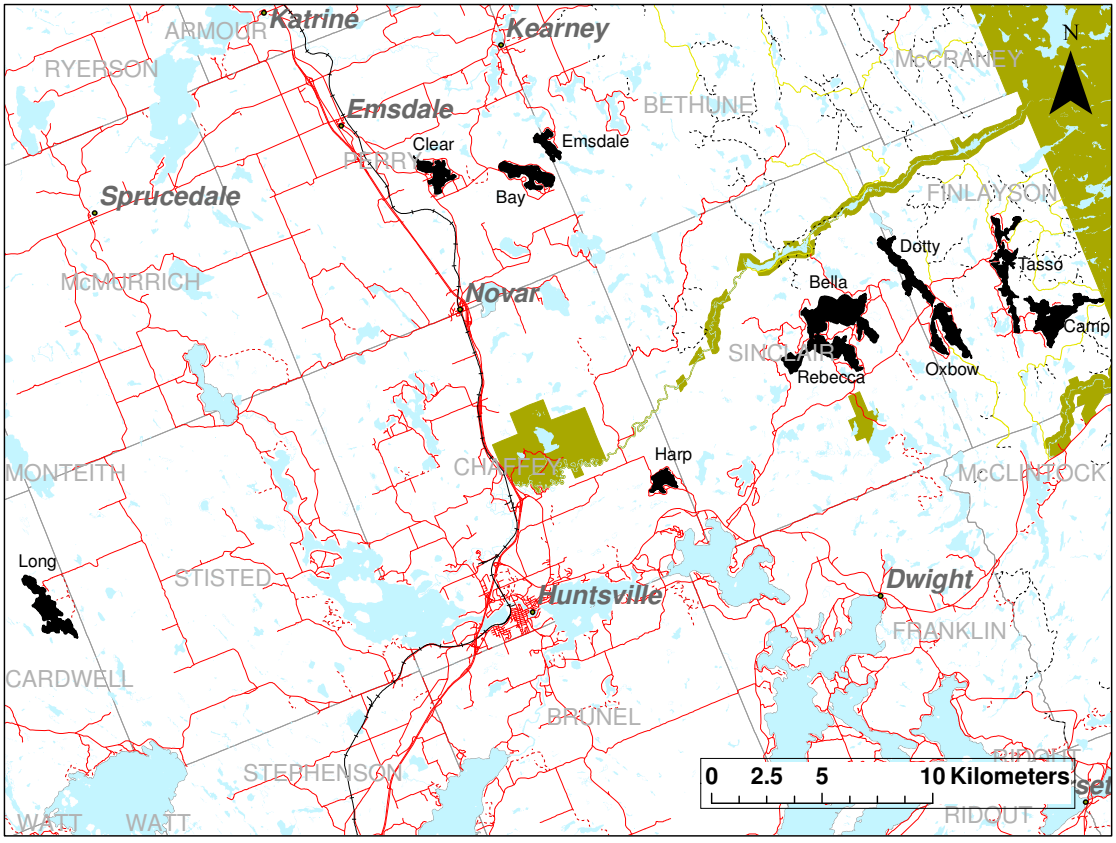


Figure 1 Map of location of study lakes, winter creel survey, 2013.

Rebecca, Dotty and Oxbow Lake are PGT lakes that are stocked with lake trout and are open to lake trout fishing year round. Rebecca is accessed informally directly across Fieldale Road from the Bella Lake access. Dotty and Oxbow are across Limberlost Road from each other. A small ploughed parking area is located on the Dotty Lake side of the road with direct access onto the lake. Permitted access to Oxbow Lake is available by crossing the Camp Olympia property, though a formal public access point is located on the west arm of the lake (not ploughed in winter).

Table 1 Surface area, lake trout management designation, fishing regulation exceptions, occurrence of stocking and access description, by lake, winter creel survey, 2013.

Lake	Area (ha)	Lake Trout Designation	Lake Trout Regulation Exception	Stocking	Winter Access
Bay	136	PGT	Open all year	lake trout	public access point - ploughed
Bella	358	Natural	None between 40-55 cm; only one line may be used when angling through the ice	none	roadside access with roadside parking at two locations
Camp	202	Natural	None between 40-55 cm; only one line may be used when angling through the ice	none	public access point; 800 m unploughed road from ploughed parking area
Clear	110	No		splake	public access point - ploughed
Dotty	159	PGT	Open all year	lake trout	public access point – ploughed
Emsdale	66	Natural	No exception	lake trout (pre 2000)	informal trail from Bay Lake; unopened ROW from municipal road (ploughed)
Harp	70	PGT	Open all year	lake trout	public access point - not ploughed, limited roadside parking
Long	204	PGT	Open all year	lake trout	No-winter-maintenance municipal road (4 km; may be privately ploughed) and 300 m trail from roadside parking
Oxbow	170	PGT	Open all year	lake trout	public access point - not ploughed with roadside parking: permitted private access from ploughed parking area
Rebecca	213	PGT	Open all year	lake trout	roadside access with roadside parking at one location
Tasso	175	Natural	No exception	none	public access point with ploughed parking area

Three lakes are located in close proximity to each other in Perry Township close to the communities of Emsdale and Novar. Bay Lake is a PGT lake trout lake with a ploughed public access. Emsdale Lake is a smaller natural lake trout lake that has been stocked regularly in the past. Public access is via an unopened right-of-way at the south end of Peace Valley Drive or locally maintained trails, partly on private land, at the north end and from Bay Lake. Clear Lake is stocked with splake and has a public access point that is ploughed.

Harp Lake, is located close to Huntsville and has a public access point but it was not ploughed in 2013 and little room was available for road-side parking.

Long, or Cardwell, Lake is a PGT lake trout lake. It is about a 20 minute drive west of Huntsville. The last 4 km of the public road to the lake is not ploughed by the municipality but may be by private individuals. A short public trail leads from the road to the Lake.

Four other designated lake trout lakes in the general area of the surveyed lakes were not included in this study. Solitaire and South Tasso Lake are closed to winter fishing for lake trout. Buck and Jerry Lake have private access only (and fishing effort is believed to be low).

Methods

The survey was designed with a low level of sampling intensity based on the expected low level of fishing effort and the limitation of staffing. The planned level of sampling effort was one day per week per lake (one weekend day and one week day every two weeks). Similarly, the sampling period was limited to the mid-day period (10:00-14:30) when effort is typically the highest (Table 2).

Table 2 Survey design details, winter creel survey, 2013.

Design Feature	Description
Contact Method	Roving; same day interviews
Season	winter; Jan. 7, 2013 - Mar. 31
Day Type	01: week day
	02: week end day
Period	10:00-14:30
Space	01: Bay
	02: Bella
	03: Camp
	04: Clear
	05: Dotty
	06: Emsdale
	07: Harp
	08: Long
	09: Oxbow
	10: Rebecca
	11: Tasso
Fishing Mode	03: Ice Hut
	04: Open Ice

Logistically, the lakes were divided into two groups, with one group being surveyed each survey day. Within each day, the lakes were visited in a pre-determined order. The order varied but was not completely random due to the constraints of the geographic location and the travel times between lakes. Approximately 45 minutes was allocated to travel to and survey each lake within the day period of 10:00-14:30. At each lake one progressive activity count was done, concurrently with interviews.

Standard Creel Interview Forms were used, with modification to the Angler Origin code and definition of three Option Codes (Table 3).

Estimates of targeted lake trout effort were extrapolated from the 4.5 hour survey period to a 9 hour day length then adjusted for lower instantaneous effort early and late in the day by dividing by a factor of 1.3. This adjustment is based on the method described in Lester et al. (1991) for converting midday activity counts into estimates of total lake trout fishing effort. I used a shorter day length (9 instead of 10 hours) and higher adjustment factor (1.3 instead of 1.2) as used by Scholten (2003), based on observations of angler habits during the course of the survey.

Three option code questions were defined. Anglers were asked why they chose to fish on the lake that they did, in relation to the other surveyed lakes. They were also asked their preference for a general regulation type on natural trout lakes; a size limit, a reduced catch limit or a reduced winter season length. These questions were only asked of a party the first time it was interviewed. Finally open ice parties were recorded as to whether they were using a portable shelter.

Project data are archived using FISHNET2 as project SC13_WIN.

Table 3 Survey-specific Creel Interview Form codes, winter creel survey, 2013.

Code	Description
Angler Origin	1: municipality in which lake is located 4: Municipalities of Huntsville, Lake of Bays, Kearney, Muskoka Lakes, Perry, Armour/Burks Falls or Monteith/McMurrich 5: remainder of Parry Sound/Muskoka
Option Code 1	0: no portable shelter 1: portable shelter
Option Code 2	Preferred natural lake trout regulation: 1: size limit 2: reduced catch limit 3: reduced winter season
Option Code 3	Reason for choosing lake this trip: 1: resident/cottager of lake 2: access: proximity to home 3: fishing quality 4: lake is stocked 5: fishing for species other than lake trout 6: regulation 7: access: knows a property owner 8: fished previously with success 9: low in contaminants

Results

Field work was conducted from Jan 7 to March 25, 2013. The Limberlost Road lakes were visited twelve times, six week days and six weekend days (Table 4). The other lakes were visited 11 times; six week days and five week end days, except for Emsdale Lake which was visited on only five week days and five week end days. A total of 57 interviews were completed, ranging from none on Long Lake to 15 on Clear Lake. Huts were observed on seven of the lakes, with a maximum of nine being deployed on Clear Lake.

Activity counts were distributed fairly evenly through the survey day period, with the exception of Long Lake, where counts only occurred at the beginning and end of the period due to its' location away from the other lakes (Table 5).

Table 4 Sampling summary, winter creel survey, 2013.

Lake	Effort Counts		Interviews	Observed Effort	Maximum Hut Count
	week day	weekend day		(ang-hr)	
Bay	6	5	6	11.0	1
Bella	6	6	8	44.3	3
Camp	6	6	1	5.0	0
Clear	6	5	15	48.9	9
Dotty	6	6	12	55.9	3
Emsdale	5	5	4	5.0	1
Harp	6	5	1	8.0	1
Long	6	5	0	0.0	0
Oxbow	6	6	6	25.6	0
Rebecca	6	6	3	16.3	1
Tasso	6	6	1	10.5	0
			57	230.5	19

Table 5 Frequency distribution of the mid-point of activity counts, by lake, winter creel survey, 2013.

Activity Count Mid Point (hr)	Bay	Bella	Camp	Dotty	Harp	Long	Oxbow	Rebecca	Tasso	Clear	Emsdale
10-11	2	4	7	6	6	10	2	6	4	2	2
11-12	10	6	3	6	4	0	10	6	8	10	6
12-13	4	6	6	4	6	0	4	4	4	4	6
13-14	6	2	8	4	2	0	4	6	4	4	4
14-15	0	6	0	4	4	12	4	2	4	2	0
15-16											2
Total	22	24	24	24	22	22	24	24	24	22	20

Bay Lake had an average activity of 0.77 anglers for an estimated total effort during the survey period of 291ang-hrs (Table 6). Four of the six observed trips were by the occupants of the single hut on the lake who primarily targeted lake trout, but sometimes walleye and whitefish as well (Table 7). The adjusted full day lake trout targeted effort was estimated to be 237 ang-hr or 1.7 ang-hr/ha. No fish were observed to be caught but the hut users did report catching lake trout on non-survey days.

Bella Lake had an average activity of 1.48 anglers for an estimated total effort during the survey period of 558 ang-hrs. All effort was targeted at lake trout, for an adjusted effort of 861 ang-hr or 2.4 ang-hr/ha. Three lake trout were observed to be caught giving an estimated catch of 38 and harvest of 13. Two of the three lake trout were released due to being in the restricted slot size. Three huts were present on the lake for most of the winter.

Camp Lake had only one party of five anglers observed who reported catching one slot-sized lake trout which was released. Evidence of several other open ice parties was observed. The adjusted lake trout effort was estimated at 152 ang-hr or 0.8 ang-hr/ha.

Clear Lake had an average of 1.92 anglers present, resulting in an estimated effort of 726 ang-hr during the survey period. All effort was directed at stocked splake. One was observed to be caught, yielding an estimated catch and harvest of 12 fish. Nine huts were present for most of the winter and numerous old holes from non-survey days were observed.

Table 6 Estimates of total fishing effort and lake trout targeted effort, catch, harvest and catch-per-unit-effort (CUE), winter creel survey, 2013. Estimated catch and harvest are based on the estimated effort for survey period (10:00-14:30), not the adjusted effort (see text for details).

	Total				Lake Trout								
Lake	Mean Activity		Est. Effort		Est. Effort				Est. Catch		Est. Harvest		Est. CUE
	parties	anglers	ang-hr	S.E.	ang-hr	% S.E.	ang-hr (adjusted)	ang-hr/ha	#	% S.E.	#	% S.E.	(targetted)
Bay	0.53	0.77	291	107	154	60	237	1.7	0	0	0		0.00
Bella	0.60	1.48	558	212	558	38	861	2.4	38	71	13	100	0.07
Camp	0.05	0.26	98	98	98	100	152	0.8	20	100	0		0.20
Dotty	0.70	1.66	628	217	485	34	746	4.7	46	77	28	67	0.10
Emsdale	0.32	0.59	221	124	221	56	342	5.2	0		0		0.00
Harp	0.06	0.19	70	70	70	100	110	1.6	26	100	26	100	0.38
Long	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0		
Oxbow	0.31	0.57	215	106	215	50	332	2.0	55	64	0		0.26
Rebecca	0.22	0.49	185	108	185	58	286	1.3	23	100	23	100	0.12
Tasso	0.05	0.10	39	39	39	100	58	0.3	4	100	4	100	0.10

Table 7 Estimates of effort, catch, harvest and CUE for species other than lake trout, winter creel survey, 2013.

		Effort		Catch		Harvest		CUE
Lake	Species	ang-hr	% S.E.	#	% S.E.	#	% S.E.	(targetted)
Bay	lake whitefish	244	42	0		0		0.00
	walleye	291	37	0		0		0.00
Bella	burbot	39	100	0		0		0.00
Clear	splake	726	37	12	100	12	100	0.02
Dotty	brook trout	143	72	0		0		0.00
	burbot	39	100	18	100	18	100	0.00

Dotty Lake had an average of 1.66 anglers for an estimated total effort during the survey period of 628 ang-hr. The targeted lake trout effort was 485 ang-hr, adjusted to 746 ang-hr or 4.7 ang-hr/ha. Four lake trout were observed, resulting in an estimated catch of 46 and harvest of 28 lake trout. All observed lake trout were stocked fish.

Several parties on Dotty Lake specifically targeted brook trout in near shore and creek mouth areas. None were observed to be caught but individuals did report that they were caught on other dates this winter. Burbot were also targeted by some lake trout anglers. One party reported catching several in mid-February around the time when burbot spawn. Three huts were on the lake for most of the winter; two apparently belonging to the same individual.

Emsdale Lake was fished regularly by a party based in a single hut and by several open ice parties (interviewed and evidence of activity on non-survey days). All effort was directed at lake trout. The adjusted total effort was estimated at 342 ang-hr or 5.2 ang-hr/ha. No lake trout were observed during survey days but catches on non-survey days were reported.

Harp Lake had one open ice party of three anglers observed who had caught three lake trout, two yellow perch and a smallmouth bass. One hut was present on the lake as well. All three lake trout were fin clipped, indicating they were stocked fish.

Long Lake had no fishing activity observed on survey days. Evidence of one party having fished on a non-survey day was noted.

Oxbow Lake had no huts but six open ice parties were interviewed; all were targeting lake trout. The adjusted full day effort was estimated at 332 ang-hr or 2.0 ang-hr/ha. Seven lake trout were observed but none were harvested due to being small. The estimated catch was 55 fish. All observed lake trout were fin clipped.

Rebecca Lake hosted an average of 0.49 anglers, resulting in an estimated 185 ang-hr during the survey period. All effort was directed at lake trout, yielding an adjusted full day effort of 286 ang-hr or 1.3 ang-hr/ha. One hut was present for most of the winter. One lake trout was observed caught and harvested resulting in an estimated total catch during the survey period of 23 fish. The lake trout was fin clipped. Evidence of a number of fishing parties from non-survey days was observed.

Tasso Lake was only fished on two occasions, by the same party, once on a survey and once on a non-survey day. On the survey day the party had caught one lake trout and they reported that one had been caught on the non-survey day as well.

Most anglers on all lakes originated from the municipality in which the lake was located or immediate surrounding municipalities and made a day trip from home or were permanent residents of the lake (Table 8 and 9). Most of the remainder came from areas of Ontario other than Parry Sound and Muskoka, most being non-permanent residents (cottage owners) or their guests (other non-paid).

Table 8 Angler origin, winter creel survey, 2013 (number of parties).

Lake	Local	Ontario	Surrounding Municipalities	Parry Sound/ Muskoka
Bay	5	1		
Bella	1	3	4	
Camp			1	
Dotty	4	2	6	
Harp	1			
Oxbow	4	1	1	
Rebecca	1		2	
Tasso		1		
Clear	11		3	1
Emsdale	3		1	

Anglers gave a variety of reasons for their choice of lake (Table 10). Factors related to access (residence, convenience and knowing property owners) were important on most lakes. Fishing quality and past success was also important. The absence of special fishing regulations was important for those lakes which didn't have such restrictions.

Anglers were roughly split evenly between a preference for a size limit or a reduced catch limit as a regulation on natural lake trout lakes (Table 11). Only one party indicated it would prefer a reduced season length. Individual angler preferences may have been masked by recording answers on a party basis.

Table 9 Angler visit type, winter creel survey, 2013 (number of parties).

Lake	Permanent Resident	Non-permanent Resident	Day Tripper	Other Non-paid
Bay	4	1	1	
Bella			5	3
Camp		1		
Dotty		1	10	1
Harp			1	
Oxbow	3	1	2	
Rebecca	1		2	
Tasso			1	
Clear	2		12	1
Emsdale			4	

Table 10 Angler reasons for choosing which lake to fish (number of parties), winter creel survey, 2013.

Lake	Perm. or Non-perm. Resident	Ease of Access/ Proximity	Fishing Quality	Lake is Stocked	Fishing for Species Other than Lake Trout	No Special Regulation	Convenience/ Know Property Owner	Past Success	Low in Contam-inants
Bay	2								
Bella			3				2	1	
Camp	1								
Dotty	1	3	2	2	1	2	2	3	
Harp			1						
Oxbow	2	2	1			1			
Rebecca						2			
Tasso							1	1	
Clear	1	2							1
Emsdale							1		

Table 11 Angler preference for different regulation types on natural lake trout lakes, winter creel survey, 2013 (number of parties).

Lake	Size Limit	Reduced Catch Limit	Reduced Season
Bay	1	1	
Bella	5	1	
Camp		1	
Dotty	2	5	
Harp		1	
Oxbow	1		
Rebecca		2	
Tasso			
Clear	1	2	1
Emsdale			
Total	10	13	1

Discussion

The number of activity counts done on each lake of this survey was low. Also, due to the small size of the lakes and moderate low fishing intensity, the number of interviews conducted was low. As a result most estimates of fishing effort, catch and harvest have high variability associated with them. Further, on some lakes there may have been an avidity bias, due to multiple interviews of the same party (fishing on different days). Finally the adjustment of the 4.5 hour sample period to full day estimates used factors that were not validated on these lakes. Therefore, the numerical estimates presented should be used only with caution. Rather the results should be used and compared in a generalized and relative fashion, which was the intent of the survey design.

Collectively, winter lake trout fishing effort was moderately low. The 1753 ha of lake surface area received about 1-2 hr/ha of effort. Lakes that are stocked (including Emsdale for the purpose of this report) had somewhat higher relative effort (~ 2 hr/ha) than natural lakes (~1.5 hr/hr) that either had special regulations or marginal populations, though the difference was probably not significant. Within the stocked lakes, effort appeared to vary from lake to lake primarily due to accessibility and fishing quality, with individual lakes ranging from virtually no effort to fairly high values of 4-5 hr/ha. The overall level of effort is largely a function of the overall demand for and the availability of fishing opportunities in the general area (including other lakes), lake location and accessibility, fishing quality and regulations.

Within a defined geographic area there is a finite pool of potential local day trip anglers. In this survey local anglers were derived largely from the Huntsville and Emsdale area. Within a day trip distance from these communities there are other fishing opportunities that were not included in this survey, including some large lakes such as Peninsula Lake, Lake of Bays and Skeleton Lake. We don't have comprehensive information on fishing effort in the area that would help put some context around the observed results as compared to other local fisheries but creel surveys have been done on some of the larger lakes. Peninsula Lake which is stocked (MacLean and Scholten 2008) and Lake of Bays (natural lake trout no slot size regulation) (file data 2004) each receive about 2.5 hr/ha of effort directed at lake trout in the winter. Skeleton Lake, which has a slot size regulation for natural lake trout, receives only about 1 ang-hr/ha (Scholten 2011). Therefore, it appears that the surveyed lakes receive similar amount of relative effort as other lakes in the area and that the stocked lakes are being utilized at a reasonable level compared to other fisheries. That is, they are not being particularly shunned but not attracting a disproportionate amount of effort either.

Small lakes of the nature included in this survey are not typically used extensively by destination anglers from outside of the local area.

Previous winter creel surveys were conducted on Bella Lake (1991) and Camp Lake (1990). Some anecdotal historical information was available for Harp Lake and more recently mid-winter hut counts were available for most lakes from 2009 to 2011. Effort, catch and harvest on Bella and Camp Lake was much higher in 1990-91 than observed in this survey (Table 12) (the designed day length for the Bella Lake survey appears to have been 12 hours (raw data not available) which is unusually long for a winter survey. Use of a shorter day length would reduce estimates by about one third, but estimates would still be much higher than observed in 2013). Harp Lake appears to have been fished more heavily in the past as well, based on staff recollection of several huts being present in the 1990's.

Table 12 Summary of creel survey results from Bella Lake, 1991, and Camp Lake, 1990.

Lake	Year	Season Length (Days)	Day Length (hours)	Mean Activity (anglers)	Est. Effort ang-hrs	S.E.	Est. Catch #	S.E.	Est. Harvest #	S.E.	CUE
Bella	1991	89	12	8.2	8,636	1,216	671	241	636	236	0.08
Camp	1990	89	8	3.7	2,413	590	405	112	347	93	0.16

From 2009 to 2011 hut numbers were similar to those observed in this survey with the exception of Bella and Rebecca Lakes which had somewhat higher numbers from 2009 to 2011 and Clear Lake which had a large increase of huts in 2013 (Table 13). Considerable year to year variation in hut numbers, and fishing effort, can be expected on small lakes such as these depending on factors such as the vagaries of angler choice and weather.

Table 13 Mid-winter ice hut numbers, by lake and year.

Lake	1990	1991	2005	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Bay Lake				3	1	1	1	1
Bella Lake		9	3	6	8	6	2	3
Camp Lake	5			0	0	0		0
Clear Lake				1	0	1		9
Dotty Lake				0	2	0		3
Emsdale Lake				0	0	1		1
Harp Lake				1	1	1		1
Long Lake								0
Oxbow Lake				0	1	0		0
Rebecca Lake				2	2	5		1
Tasso Lake				0	0	0		0

Subsequent to the 1990-91 surveys, supplemental stocking of Bella and Camp Lake was discontinued and special regulations were applied, factors which probably explain a large part of the observed decline in effort. However, Harp Lake, which also appears to have experienced a decline in effort, is still being stocked and has no size limit, suggesting that a more broad-based decline in effort may have occurred on all the surveyed lakes as well.

The slot size regulation on Camp Lake is particularly restrictive because of the small-bodied nature of the population. Consideration could be given to a different regulation that would not discourage angling effort as much but still protect the population from excessive harvest. The slot size limit is reasonably suited to the large-bodied Bella Lake population.

Bay Lake received moderately low effort, of which a significant portion was exerted by the party that used the single hut on the lake. Bay Lake has a diverse fish community for a small lake including walleye and lake whitefish which are both available to winter anglers. The continued stocking of lake trout appears to have limited benefits.

Dotty and Oxbow Lake are receiving reasonable amounts of fishing effort to justify continued PGT stocking. Oxbow lake appears to have some potential for supporting a self-sustaining population, at least more so than Dotty, based on volume of useable habitat and water clarity. Stocking of a suitable genetic strain for a number of years should be done to explore the possibility. The Killala lake strain that has been stocked for many years has recently been shown to not reproduce successfully in lakes in this region.

The long term reproductive status of lake trout in Emsdale Lake is somewhat uncertain. Netting assessments have captured some unmarked fish but juvenile habitat is limited (unreported data). Further monitoring is required before making a final decision on continued stocking. If conversion to a put-grow-take stocked fishery is decided on, access improvement should be considered as a prerequisite.

The Harp Lake access point was not ploughed and had very limited parking available during this survey. The municipality could be encouraged to provide more winter parking to encourage better use of this fishery.

Long Lake received very little effort, is not convenient to access, the quality of the habitat and fishery is limited by low water clarity and an alternative winter species (lake whitefish) is present. Like Bay Lake, stocking is not achieving its objectives on this lake.

Rebecca Lake's location directly adjacent to Bella Lake makes it a convenient option for anglers who may otherwise choose Bella Lake but want to avoid the restrictive size limit. It should continue to be stocked to provide that opportunity. Assessments have identified that a significant number of stocked lake trout from Rebecca Lake move into Bella Lake; the stocking rate should be reviewed to ensure that reasonable numbers of fish are being stocked, in order to prevent impacts to the Bella Lake population.

In 2011, Clear Lake was stocked with splake in the fall, instead of the spring. The stocking of fish of a larger size and at the time of year when bass are becoming inactive was hoped to improve the survival of small splake (Powell 2010, Scholten 2013). The relatively high estimated effort and number of huts present is a response to quickly spreading knowledge of improved catches. Even though only one splake was observed during the survey, many parties reported catches by them or other people they knew, on non-survey days. The fall stocking appears to have been successful and should be continued.

The observation of a lake trout harvested on Tasso Lake and report of other lake trout catches support the continued management of Tasso Lake as a natural lake trout lake.

In summary, overall winter lake trout fishing effort on the lakes surveyed was moderate, but ranged from virtually none on lakes with poor access and poor fishing success or lakes with special regulations to fairly high on some stocked lakes with good access. Alternative regulations could be considered for Camp Lake that would not discourage effort but still protect the populations Termination of stocking is suggested for Bay and Long Lake which have poor access (Long Lake), limited habitat and other species available. Improvement of access and access maintenance on Harp, Emsdale and Rebecca Lake may improve use. Clear Lake should continue to be stocked with fall yearling splake if possible. The recent switch in hatchery stock to Lake Manitou strain of lake trout should be monitored to determine if natural reproduction can be re-established in the lakes with better habitat, especially Oxbow.

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