Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District

Bear Lake

Location

Official Name: ..... Bear Lake	*Local Names:* .....
County/District: ..... Haliburton	*Geographic Twp:* ..... Livingstone
Municipality: .. Township of Algonquin Highlands	*MNR Admin. Area:* ..... Bracebridge
Lat./Long: ..... 45.3406 N 78.7081 W	*UTM (NAD83):* 17 679566 5023339
Topographic Map (1:50,000): 31E07	*Drainage Basin:* ..... Hollow River

Physical Features

Surface Area (ha): 91	*Maximum Depth (m):* 36	*Mean Depth (m):* 10
Elevation (m asl): 355	*Perimeter (km):* 9.1	*Island Shoreline (km):* 0
Volume (10^4 m^3): 960	*Watershed (km^2):* ..... 156 (excludes area of lake)	*Water Clarity (m):* 5.9

Land Use and Development

Crown Land (%): ..... 35 *Provincial Parks:* ..... none

Shoreline Development: ..... moderate; shoreline residential, recreation camp

Access: ..... public; boat launch just past bridge across narrows between Bear and Kawagama Lake

Water Level Management:

Regulated; water level is controlled by MNR-owned and operated dam at outlet of Kawagama Lake. Flows and levels are governed by the Muskoka River Water Management Plan.

Fish Species

Major Fish Species: ..... lake trout, brook trout (R), round whitefish, yellow perch, smallmouth bass (I), burbot

Other Fish Species: ..... blacknose shiner, white sucker, brown bullhead, golden shiner, creek chub, bluntnose minnow

Other Species: ..... spiny water flea (2006)

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: ..... designated; natural reproduction; at development capacity

Fishing Regulation Exceptions: ..... only one line may be used when angling through the ice
..... lake trout- none between 40-55 cm (15.7-21.7 in)

Current Stocking: ..... none

Historic Stocking (last year stocked): ..... brook trout (1962), rainbow trout (1997)

Contaminants (species tested): ..... smallmouth bass, lake trout

Assessment: Completed Projects:

1968	lake survey
1982	contaminant sampling
1982	lake trout assessment
1988	fish community study
1993	voluntary creel survey
1997	Spring Littoral Index Netting (lake trout)
1999	lake trout spawning observations

Dissolved oxygen profiles are collected on a regular basis.

Synopsis

Bear Lake has a fairly good temperature-oxygen profile and provides suitable habitat to support a small reproducing lake trout population.

Movement of lake trout between Bear Lake and Kawagama Lake is thought to be occurring based on the presence of 3 clipped lake trout in the 146 fish sampled on Kawagama Lake during the 1989 winter creels. Observations indicate a limited amount of spawning occurs in Bear Lake, suggesting that the population is supported, or at least supplemented by immigration from Kawagama Lake. As the two are connected by a navigable channel, they should probably be managed as a single lake, at least, from a regulatory perspective. The discreteness of the population should be investigated as there are potential implications for its capacity designation, if it is managed as part of Kawagama Lake.

Results from 1997 SLIN estimated 61% of the lake trout population is native. Based on these considerations, supplemental stocking was discontinued after 1997 and special fishing regulations were imposed commencing with the start of the 1996 fishing season.

Updated: 2019

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

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