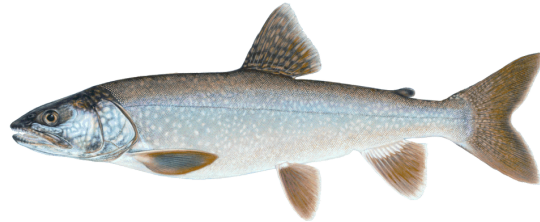


Fisheries Management Zone 10

Lake Trout



In Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ) 10, lake trout are the most targeted sport fish among recreational anglers in the winter and the fourth most targeted species in the summer. FMZ 10 has the highest abundance of lake trout lakes of all FMZs in the province. The management of the lake trout resource is a high priority.

No changes are proposed for lake trout regulations in FMZ 10.

The ministry is proposing to retain the current FMZ 10 lake trout regulations which came into effect in 2010. The current zone-wide regulations for lake trout are:

- Season: January 1 to Labour Day
- Limits: Sport -2; not more than 1 greater than 40 cm, and Conservation -1

Reason for maintaining regulations for lake trout

In 2010 the ministry, in partnership with the FMZ 10 Advisory Council, developed objectives and strategies to improve lake trout populations. These objectives were to increase the health of lake trout populations across the zone, with particular focus on the abundance of mature (>400mm) lake trout. During 2018-2020, the ministry and advisory council reviewed the objectives, management issues, and most recent monitoring data. Since the 2010 regulation change, there has been positive change observed in several indicators of population health. However, these populations have not yet recovered to the desired levels of abundance or age structure.

Background

In 2000, the Northeast Lake Trout Project was launched to evaluate the health of northeast region lake trout populations. Extensive monitoring of lake trout across FMZ 10 revealed that populations were unsustainable with 68% of lakes being below desired abundance levels, and 42% of lakes having high fishing mortality. Factors leading to the stressed lake trout populations included increased road access, high fishing pressure, and impacts from introduced species. Modelling indicated that the current regulation would provide the protection of mature lake trout and allow populations to increase while still providing angling opportunities. Since the change in 2010, the ministry has continued monitoring lake trout populations in FMZ 10.

FMZ 10 Fisheries Management Plan

The ministry has developed a fisheries management plan for FMZ 10. The primary objective described for lake trout is to:

- increase abundance and improve age structure of lake trout with an emphasis on mature lake trout.

The recommendation to maintain current regulations was supported with input of the FMZ 10 Advisory Council and is meant to continue making progress towards achieving the stated objective. Lake trout are slow growing and mature later in life. These slow growth characteristics limit how quickly a population can recover. The ministry will continue to monitor the status of lake trout in FMZ 10 and reassess the success of the regulation.

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