



## PARRY SOUND AREA LAKE SUMMARIES



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### Gibson Lake

*Created: Oct. 03*

*Revised:*

#### **Location:**

MNR District:..... Parry Sound  
 Geographic Township: ..... Gibson & Baxter  
 Municipal Township: ..... Georgian Bay  
 Watershed: ..... Gibson River  
 Angling Division: ..... 15

#### **Basin and Terrain Characteristics:**

Lake Survey Year: ..... 1975  
 Surface Area:..... 263.6 hectares  
 Maximum Depth: ..... 14.3 meters  
 Mean Depth: ..... 7.6 meters  
 Perimeter: ..... 23.3 km  
 Island shoreline: ..... 1.8 km  
 Littoral Zone: ..... 47%  
 Thermal Regime: .....  
 Shoreline Development: ..... 166 cottages  
 Access Points: ..... Road (Public)  
 Water Level: ..... Not Regulated  
 Crown Land: ..... 60% shoreline

#### **Water Quality:**

(Parameters pertain to fisheries habitat only. For information on potability of water or contaminants, contact Min. of Health and Min. of Environment.)

Secchi reading: 2.0 meters (2001)  
 Colour: Yellow/Brown

**Dissolved Oxygen:****Alkalinity:** 13.7 mg/l**pH:** 6.8 (2001)**Total Phosphorus:****M.E.I.:**

**“Guide to eating fish”:** Restrictions for Northern Pike, Walleye, Rock Bass, Pumpkinseed, Cisco and Brown Bullhead. Refer to the current “Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish”.

**Fisheries:**

**Game Fish Species:** Walleye, Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Black Crappie (2001)

**Other species present:** White Sucker, Brown Bullhead, Pumpkinseed, Yellow Perch, Johnny Darter, Logperch, Redhorse Sucker (1968), Burbot (1968), Channel Catfish (1968), Bowfin (2001)

**Exotic Species:**

**Stocking Record:** 1968 Smallmouth Bass 5,000 fingerling  
1964 Smallmouth Bass 2,000 fingerling  
1958 Smallmouth Bass 500 fingerling  
1956 Smallmouth Bass 200 fingerling  
1956 Walleye 300,000 eggs  
1950 Smallmouth Bass 400 fingerling  
1950 Walleye 225,000 eggs  
1944 Walleye 225,000 eggs

**Stress Type:**

**Use Type:** Recreation, Recreational Fishing

**Summary of Fisheries Studies / Reports:**

McIntyre, E. 2001 **Synoptic Trapnet Survey Report, Summer, 2001**

- 8 foot trapnets were utilized
- Walleye, northern pike and largemouth bass abundance is “average” relative to similar surveys conducted on other Parry Sound Area lakes.
- Smallmouth bass abundance is “above average” and black crappie is highly abundant in the lake, seemingly to the detriment of walleye.
- Walleye abundance and productivity have diminished considerably from that observed in 1968, but that of smallmouth bass has increased dramatically.
- Gibson Lake is a very productive lake, an ‘above average’ proportion of fish productivity is directed towards coarse fish species.
- A grand total of 494.526 kilograms of fish, comprising 11 different species was caught in 15 over-night trapnet sets.
- The *Catch-Per-Unit-Effort by weight (CPUE-wt)* was 32.968 kilograms / net set.
- Relative to 16 synoptic trapnet surveys recently conducted (since 1994) in the Parry Sound Area, this index of productivity ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> and well above the average of 17.741 kg/net set.

- Although this is a very positive index of fish productivity, more than 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of this productivity is attributable to the redhorse sucker population in the lake.
- Game fish (walleye, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, northern pike and black crappie) comprised 43.1% of the total biomass of fish captured.
- Coarse fish (common white sucker, redhorse sucker, brown bullhead and bowfin) comprised 56.6% and pan fish (rock bass and pumpkinseed) comprised less than 1%.
- Coarse fish are very abundant in Gibson Lake. The average percent of coarse fish caught in the above mentioned 16 synoptic trapnet surveys is 34.5%. Again, this high representation of coarse fish on Gibson Lake is largely attributable to the redhorse sucker population.
- Walleye comprised 12.9% of the total catch weight, well below the average of 24.8% for the above mentioned surveys.
- Introduction of crappie and scarcity of yellow perch may be impacting walleye abundance.

McIntyre, E. 2001 **2001 Fall Walleye Index Netting Interim Report**

- Gibson Lake C.U.E. was well below the Regional average for Walleye, Northern Pike and Smallmouth Bass
- Gibson Lake C.U.E was well below the District average for walleye and smallmouth bass but average for northern pike

**Management Prescription:**