



PARRY SOUND AREA LAKE SUMMARIES



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Gord Pollock, Broker

Century 21 Granite Properties Ltd Brokerage
33 James Street, Parry Sound, Ontario P2A 1T6

Business: 705-746-2158 , Fax: 705-746-4746

Residence: 705-746-4816 , Cell: 705-774-0955

Website: www.gordpollock.com Email: gord@gordpollock.com

Go Home Lake

Created: Oct. 03

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Location:

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

Basin and Terrain Characteristics:

Lake Survey Year: 1974
Surface Area:..... 666.5 hectares
Maximum Depth: 32.6 meters
Mean Depth: 8.6 meters
Perimeter: 104.7 km
Island shoreline: 8.9 km
Littoral Zone: 47%
Thermal Regime: Warm
Shoreline Development: 425 Cottages, 3 resorts
Access Points: Road (Public)
Water Level: Regulated by MNR – Go Home Lake Dam
Crown Land: 42%

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: 4.5 meters (OMNR, 1998), 5.3 meters (OMNR, 1974)
Colour: Yellow/Brown

Dissolved Oxygen: good; low amounts below 28 meters (OMNR, 1998)
Alkalinity: 13.7 mg/l
pH: 7.0
M.E.I.: 3.4

“Guide to eating fish”: Restrictions for Northern Pike, Walleye and Cisco. Refer to the current “Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish”

Fisheries:

Game Fish Species: Northern Pike, Walleye, Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, , Lake Whitefish, Yellow Perch, Muskellunge (2002), Lake Trout (Failed Introduction)

Other species present: White Sucker, Golden Shiner, Emerald Shiner, Spottail Shiner, Mimic Shiner, Bluntnose Minnow, Brown Bullhead, Rock Bass, Pumpkinseed, Iowa Darter, Johnny Darter, Logperch, Cisco, Burbot, Smelt (1977), Channel Catfish

Exotic Species: Zebra Mussel - viligers (reported by OFAH monitoring study in 1998), Spiny Water Flea (reported by OFAH monitoring study in 1991)

Stocking Record: 1976 Lake Trout 8,133 16 month RP clip
1974 Lake Trout 5,000 yearling
1968 Lake Trout 5,000 yearling
1966 Smallmouth Bass 5,000 fingerling
1966 Lake Trout 5,000 yearling
1965 Smallmouth Bass 2,000 fingerling
1948 Smallmouth Bass 500 fingerling

Stress Type: Invasive Species, Exploitation

Use Type: Cottage development, Recreational Fishing

Summary of Fisheries Studies / Reports:

McIntyre, E. 2004. **Go Home Lake – Fall 2003 Synoptic Trap-net Survey Report.** 28 p.

Executive Summary:

A *Synoptic Trap-net Survey* (STNS) was conducted on Go Home Lake (Geographic Township of Gibson) in the fall of 2003. The primary purpose of the survey was to assess the status of the near-shore fish community and in particular that of walleye, smallmouth bass and northern pike. This survey also duplicates the objectives of a *Fall Walleye Index Netting* (FWIN) survey conducted in 2001, which was part of an initiative to monitor the status of walleye populations throughout the Ministry’s Southcentral Region. Our study affords the opportunity of comparing the two survey techniques. Many of the key results between these two surveys were inconsistent and conflicting. Discrepancies are discussed in the report.

We also compared our results with 23 other STNS surveys recently (since 1994) conducted in the Parry Sound Area. Over-all fish productivity as measured by *Catch-Per-Unit-Effort-by-weight*

(CPUE-wt) for all species combined was average. The percentage of game fish in the total catch weight was well below average of our 23-survey STNS dataset. Our catch (by weight) was dominated by common white sucker and channel catfish.

Relative abundance indices for walleye were well below average. There was however, positive evidence of successful reproduction and recruitment to the adult walleye population. Indices of abundance for large and smallmouth bass were approximately average. There was also good evidence of successful reproduction and recruitment to the smallmouth population. Indices of northern pike were below average. Size-structure of the pike catch suggests recent reproduction and recruitment may be weak. Relative to our STNS database, we rated the abundance of walleye, smallmouth bass and pike as “low”, “intermediate” and “low”, respectively.

We present a theoretical report card whereby we accord Go Home Lake an overall rating of C-. None of the indicators for population health were impressive in this survey.

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

- Walleye “Catch Per Unit Effort” indicated high abundance for Walleye and Smallmouth Bass
- Intermediate abundance was indicated for Northern Pike.

Thurston, L.D.W. 1979. **Background data on the fishery and other water related recreational activities on Go Home Lake, Township of Georgian Bay.**

1. Creel Survey conducted from May 13th to September 17, 1978.
 - Estimate of 3,116 angler hours of fishing effort
 - 576 sampled hours of angling resulted in the catch of: 38 smallmouth bass, 26 walleye, 4 northern pike, 1 channel catfish
 - Harvest Estimate: 195 smallmouth bass, 135 walleye, 22 northern pike, 22 channel catfish (Note: harvest estimate for walleye does not include after-dark angling)
 - Walleye Effort-Per-Unit-Catch (EPUC) was 9.61 angler hours
 - Walleye Effort-Per-Unit-Harvest (EPUH) was 9.99 angler hours
 - Smallmouth bass EPUC: 4.63 angler hrs.; EPUH: 5.67 angler hours
 - Northern pike EPUC & EPUH: 11.43 angler hours

 - Mean age of walleye: 3.2 years; N=94. (Must have included samples from creel and netting survey combined.)
2. Estimates of recreational activities related to: rowing, sailing, canoeing, pleasure boating, water-skiing and tenting were provided.
3. Summary of catch data from walleye assessment study (listed below) is presented
4. Summary of catch data from 1977 lake trout assessment study (listed below) is presented

MNR 1978 **Walleye Assessment** (Note: Data collected in this survey is reported in the above report – Thurston, 1979.)

- Raw data from gill netting conducted July 9th to 13th 1978.
- 15-overnight gill-net sets caught: 75 walleye, 48 cisco, 40 rock bass, 37 smallmouth bass, 20 common white sucker, 9 smelt, 4 pumpkinseed, 3 burbot, 2 yellow perch 2 northern pike and 1 lake trout (planted).

MNR 1977 **Lake Trout Assessment** (Note: Data collected in this survey is reported in the above report – Thurston, 1979.)

- Raw data from gill netting conducted May30th to June 2nd 1977.
- No Lake Trout were caught
- 15-overnight gill-net sets caught: 53 cisco, 34 walleye, 23 common white sucker, 16 smallmouth bass, 14 brown bullhead, 12 rock bass, 6 burbot, 3 lake whitefish, 2 northern pike and 2 smelt.
- It appears that walleye and smallmouth bass captured in this survey were also used for contaminant analysis.

Management Prescription:

Manage as a natural, self-sustaining walleye, small and largemouth bass and northern pike fishery.