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Spider Lake

Created: November 03
Revised:

Location:

MNR District:…….. Parry Sound
Geographic Township: …… Cowper & Conger
Municipal Township: …… Archipelago – Massassauga Provincial Park
Watershed: …….. Georgian Bay
Angling Division: …… 15

Basin and Terrain Characteristics:

Lake Survey Year: ……. 1968
Surface Area:…….……. 480.9 hectares
Maximum Depth: ……. 34.5 meters
Mean Depth: ……. 8.1 meters
Perimeter: ……. 52.5 km
Island shoreline: …… 0.0 km
Littoral Zone: …… 51%
Thermal Regime: ……... Cold
Shoreline Development: ..…… 3 Cottages, 1 Resort
Access Points: …… No road
Water Level: …….. Not Regulated
Crown Land: ……. 90% shoreline

Water Quality:

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

Secchi reading: 5.5 meters
Colour: Yellow/Brown

Dissolved Oxygen:
Alkalinity: 1.45 (1980) – Level 3 Moderately Sensitive (MoE, 1989)
pH: 6.4 (1989)
Total Phosphorus:
M.E.I.: 2.5 (1985)

"Guide to eating fish": No Information

Fisheries:

Game Fish Species: Lake Trout (1992), Walleye (1976), Smallmouth Bass (1976), Largemouth Bass (Anecdotal), Yellow Perch (1998, Anecdotal), Northern Pike

Other species present: Cisco (1989)

Exotic Species:

Stocking Record: 1988 Lake Trout 2,000 AD clip
1985 Lake Trout 1,000 LP clip
1978 Lake Trout 3,600 AD clip
1976 Lake Trout 7,000 no clip
1974 Lake Trout 5,000 LV clip
1972 Lake Trout 7,600 yearling
1971 Lake Trout 9,000 yearling
1969 Smallmouth Bass 5,000 fingerling
1969 Lake Trout 4,500 yearling
1966 Lake Trout 3,000 yearling
1964 Lake Trout 1,000 yearling
1962 Lake Trout 1,000 yearling
1961 Smallmouth Bass 1,000 fingerling
1960 Lake Trout 1,000 11 month
1958 Lake Trout 1,000 yearling
1956 Lake Trout 2,000fingerling
1954 Lake Trout 2,000 yearling
1953 Lake Trout 2,000 fingerling
1953 Smallmouth Bass 500 fingerling
1953 Walleye 200,000 eggs
1952 Walleye 100,000 eggs
1951 Lake Trout 2,000 fingerling
1951 Walleye 400,000 eggs
1950 Smallmouth Bass 400 fingerling
1950 Walleye 100,000 eggs
1949 Lake Trout 1,000 fingerling

Stress Type:

Use Type: Remote Tourism, Snowmobile Trail, Recreation, Recreational Fishing, Canoe Route

Summary of Fisheries Studies / Reports:

McIntyre, E. 2001 **"Spot Check" Creel** Report – Winter 1999

- Although we only sampled 8 days, it would appear that fishing pressure on Spider Lake is light to moderate in the wintertime. Considering that most of this lake provides shallow water habitat that is not conducive to lake trout, the lake trout population has very limited capacity to withstand much fishing pressure. It is possible that a considerable amount of fishing effort may be occurring during the weekend days, which we did not sample. The native lake trout population appears to be providing a viable winter fishery on this lake
- Acknowledging that our observed effort consisted of a mere 34 angler hours, fishing quality for lake trout was exceptionally good with an effort-per-unit-catch (E.U.C.) of 5.7 angler hrs and an effort-per-unit-harvest (E.U.H.) of 6.8 angler hours.
- The observed lake trout catch was comprised primarily of small fish, possibly suggesting good reproduction and recruitment. The sample size was too small to have much confidence in this conclusion.

MNR, 1992. Voluntary **creel data** - March 1992.

- Reported effort: 94 angler hours
- Released 21 lake trout - 6 - 12" (too small to keep)
- Kept 8 lake trout
- reported 50/50 split natural vs. planted

Visentin, L. 1990. **Assessment** of Spider (Cowper) Lake, Cowper Twp. for **lake trout spawning habitat.**

- Short duration, fine mesh gill nets set at potential lake trout spawning sites; mid-October, 1990
- also under-water lights used for spawning shoal observations
- 6 sites gill netted - no lake trout caught
- no lake trout observed with underwater lights
- lake trout spawning locations remain unknown; potential sites reported to be 'moderately silted'

Deary Env. Consultants, 1990 Summary report for **lake trout** (Salvelinus namaycush) **assessment** of thirteen lakes in the Parry Sound District.

- 15 overnight gill net sets (summer)
- standard lake survey gill net used (50' panels of 1½, 2, 2½ , 3, 3½, 4 and 4½ " mesh, nylon nets)
- catch: 10 lake trout (9 naturals; 1 AD clip), 1 rainbow trout (origin unknown), 174 cisco
- wide size range and presence of 5 lake trout under 40 cm. total length (one was 10.5 cm) indicate recently successful, natural reproduction to some degree on this lake

- fork length - 43.1 ± 18.2 cm. (P > 0.05) (Range: 10.5 - 94.6 cm)
- round weight - 2.67 kg. (Range: 0.17 - 15.0 kg)

MNR, 1978. Summary of 1978 **winter creel census** on lake trout lakes by Ministry of Natural Resources Personnel.

- 11 sampling occasions
- 113.75 angler hrs of effort surveyed
- 7 lake trout "caught"; 5 lake trout observed - 4 natural; 1 AD clip

Thurston, L. 1976 **Assessment of lake trout plantings** Parry Sound District.

- 15 overnight gill net sets (summer)
- standard lake survey gill nets used (as above)
- catch: 10 lake trout (+ 1 escapee) all natural; 226 cisco; 2 smallmouth bass; 1 walleye
- lake trout mean size: (N=9)
- mean total length: 36.8 ± 6.8 cm. (P > 0.05) Range: 19.2 - 48.9 cm
- mean round weight: 0.48 kg. ; Range: 0.05 - 1.0
- relatively uniform small size

Thurston, L.D.W. 1975 Summer and winter **creel census** on selected lake trout lakes in the Parry Sound District, 1974 - 75.

- Winter, 1975 - checked 2 days
- 20 angler hours of effort surveyed - 3 lake trout caught, all natural

Management Prescription:

Lake trout must be less than 40 cm (15.7 in.) or greater than 55 cm (21.7 in.) in length.