



## PARRY SOUND AREA LAKE SUMMARIES



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### Otter Lake (Foley)

*Created: October 03*

*Revised:*

#### **Location:**

MNR District:..... Parry Sound  
Geographic Township: ..... Foley  
Municipal Township: ..... Seguin  
Watershed: ..... Boyne River  
Angling Division: ..... 15

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

Lake Survey Year: ..... 1971  
Surface Area:..... 506.8 hectares  
Maximum Depth: ..... 44.8 meters  
Mean Depth: ..... 10.8 meters  
Perimeter: ..... 38.0 km  
Island shoreline: ..... 6.6 km  
Littoral Zone: ..... 43%  
Thermal Regime: ..... Cold  
Shoreline Development: ..... 311 Cottages, 3 resorts & 25 Residences (1992)  
Access Points: ..... Road (Public)  
Water Level: ..... Not Regulated  
Crown Land: ..... 5% 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: 5.9 meters; 6.5 meter (1998)  
Colour: Colourless

**Dissolved Oxygen:****Alkalinity:** 5.0 – Level 3 Moderately Sensitive (MoE, 1989)**pH:** 6.3 (1989)**Total Phosphorus:** 2.8 ug/l (1989); 7.0 ug/l (1998)**M.E.I.:** 1.9**“Guide to eating fish”:** No Information**Fisheries:****Game Fish Species:** Smallmouth Bass (1996), Lake Trout (1999), Rainbow Trout (2000), Walleye (1939), Northern Pike (1999), Yellow Perch (1999), Black Crappie (2000)**Other species present:** Rainbow Smelt (1999), Cisco (1999), White Sucker (1999), Pumpkinseed (1976), Rock Bass (1976)**Exotic Species:**

**Stocking Record:** 2001 Rainbow Trout 4,000 yearling  
2000 Rainbow Trout 4,500 2.5 – 6”  
1998 Lake Trout 3,000 15 months AD clip  
1994 Lake Trout 3,000 yearling LV clip  
1992 Lake Trout 3,000 yearling RV clip  
1990 Lake Trout 3,000 yearling LP clip  
1989 Rainbow Trout 2,000 yearling no clip (private planting)  
1988 Lake Trout 1,500 yearling AD clip  
1987 Lake Trout 3,200 yearling AD clip  
1986 Lake Trout 2,000 yearling RP clip  
1984 Lake Trout 3,000 yearling LP clip  
1982 Lake Trout 2,400 yearling RV clip  
1979 Lake Trout 2,400 yearling LV clip  
1977 Lake Trout 3,000 26 months AD & RP clip  
1975 Lake Trout 1,400 27 months LV clip  
1974 Lake Trout 900 year 2 AD clip  
1966 Lake Trout 3,000 yearling  
1964 Lake Trout 2,000 yearling LP clip  
1962 Lake Trout 1,000 yearling  
1960 Lake Trout 2,000 1.5 years  
1958 Lake Trout 2,000 11 months  
1956 Lake Trout 2,000 fingerling  
1950 Smallmouth Bass 400 fingerling  
1949 Lake Trout 3,000 fingerling  
1948 Smallmouth Bass 10,000 fry  
1947 Smallmouth bass 500 fingerling  
1946 Smallmouth Bass 500 fingerling  
1944 Smallmouth Bass 5,000 fry  
1942 Smallmouth Bass 5,000 fry  
1941 Smallmouth Bass 5,000 fry  
1939 Walleye 750,000 fry

**Stress Type:** Development

### **Summary of Fisheries Studies / Reports:**

McIntyre, E. 2002 **Fish Habitat Impact Evaluation** of Proposed Alternatives Related to Otter Lake **Dam Operations and Design**

- Report details proposed alternatives for future management of the Otter Lake Dam
- Alternatives 1 (Repair and Maintenance of Existing Structure) and 4 (“Do Nothing”) essentially represent the ‘status quo’. Neither alternative constitutes a beneficial or detrimental alteration to fish habitat with respect to how water levels have been managed in the recent past. We do make one recommendation for downstream base flows however.
- Alternatives 2a or 2b (Fixed Weir variations) represent a potential enhancement to northern pike, lake trout and cisco spawning success and productivity. It is doubtful these alternatives will have any impact on other fish species in the lake.
- Alternative 3 (Dam Removal) is a harmful alteration of fish habitat and is not considered a viable option from a fisheries perspective.

McIntyre, E. 2002. **Otter Lake lake trout spawning activity observations**, Fall 2002.

- Six lake trout spawning bed sites rehabilitated in 2001 were observed for spawning activity
- No lake trout were observed nor was there any evidence of spawning activity (no lake trout eggs observed; no ‘cleaning’ of spawning beds by swimming activity).

Buszynski, M. 2001. **Lake trout spawning bed creation** – Otter Lake – August, 2001. Annual

- CFIP report on lake trout spawning bed rehabilitation project.
- Six spawning sites rehabilitated through the deposition of 15 tons of granite cobble/rock.

MNR 2001 Note to File: **MVWHDO Calculations**

- Optimal Lake trout habitat as % of lake volume (temp < 10° C. & D.O. ≥ 6 ppm.):  
Basin 1: 55.0% (1996), 55.9% (1999), 50.7% (2000), 23.9% (2001)

McIntyre, E. 1999 Otter Lake **“Spot Check” Creel Report** – Winter 1999

- Surveyed on 9 days in Feb. and March of 1999
- Mean activity count 2.1 anglers; 57 angler hours surveyed
- Poor lake trout angling quality: EUC and EUH both 19.0 angler hours

MNR 1999    Raw Data: **Low intensity Winter Creel Survey, 1999.**

- Low fishing intensity: 1.7 anglers per activity count
- 57 angling hours of effort observed
- 3 lake trout caught and harvested (all planted); 1 northern pike caught and harvested

McIntyre, E. 1999. **Spring littoral index netting report** for Otter lake (Foley Geographic Twp.) 1999.

- Catch of 110 kg. comprised of northern pike (57%), cisco 24%, lake trout 17% and other species (smelt, crappie, perch, white sucker) less than 2%
- 10 lake trout caught; 9 planted, 1 natural
- lake trout probability off catch 27%
- lake trout CUE (no.)  $0.33 \pm 0.23$  ( $P < .05$ ) lake trout per net set
- lake trout CUE (wt.) 615 grams per net set
- above indices point to a low abundance of lake trout; negligible natural reproduction
- mean lake trout size: 1845 grams round wt., 53.5 cm total length, 49.1 cm fork length

McIntyre, E. 1997. Results of a **non-intensive, roving creel survey** conducted on Otter Lake (Foley Township) during the summer of 1996.

- Low fishing pressure: average 5 boats per count in morning strata; 4 in mid-day; 3.4 in afternoon
- 110 angling hrs sampled: 14 smallmouth bass caught / 1 harvested; 4 pike caught / 1 harvested; one largemouth caught and released; no lake trout caught.

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

- 11 over-night gill net sets (summer time)
- caught: 14 lake trout (all planted); 12 cisco; and 12 rainbow smelt
- based on fin clip, age of lake trout ranged from 2 to 11 years; mean 5.1 years.

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

- Otter lake - checked 7 times
- 19.75 man hours of fishing effort surveyed
- 5 RP lake trout caught, all less than 16"

Thurston, L. 1977. Summary of two years (1976 - 77) of **lake trout assessment work** Parry Sound District

- 15 over-night gill net sets (June 22 - 29)
- caught 15 lake trout: 12 natural, 3 planted

<p>Thurston, L. 1976. <b>Assessment of lake trout plantings</b> Parry Sound District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 over-night gill net sets (May 5 - 12)</li> <li>• caught 15 lake trout (11 planted &amp; 4 naturals); 66 cisco; 73 white suckers; 170 smelt; 23 yellow perch; 54 northern pike; 7 rock bass; 1 smallmouth bass</li> </ul>
<p>Thurston, L. 1975. <b>Summer and winter creel census</b> on selected lake trout lakes in the Parry Sound District 1974 - 75.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer creel: (June - August) 11 sampling occasions</li> <li>• angler hours surveyed</li> <li>• catch: 4 northern pike, 4 smallmouth bass, 2 largemouth bass, 0 lake trout</li> <li>• Winter creel (Jan - Mar) 5 sampling occasions</li> <li>• rod hours of effort surveyed</li> <li>• 1 natural lake trout caught</li> </ul>
<p>MOE 1975 The <b>Quality of Selected Waters</b> in The Township of Foley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality measurements for 1975</li> </ul>
<p>MNR 1961- 1983 Raw Data: <b>Creel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• not summarized</li> </ul>

### **Management Prescription:**

New lake trout regulations commenced in 2000:

- Open season: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. in May – Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> (i.e. winter closure to lake trout fishing)
- Protected slot size 40 – 55 cm. total length (lake trout in the slot are to be released)