

Vincent Lake Fish Information

Species Information

(adapted from “The Fishes of Alberta” and “Freshwater Fishes of Canada.”)

Northern Pike

- Spawn in early spring, often before the ice has completely left the lakes. Spawning usually occurs during the day typically in shallow marshes connected by creeks to lakes or flooded vegetation in shallow bays, occasionally in shallow pools in flooded stubble fields or in roadside ditches. The eggs are broadcast and stick to the vegetation. Young hatch out with a yolk sac in about 2 weeks and remain attached to vegetation for about the first week after hatching. Whether northern pike can occur in waters without vegetation or upright objects on which to attach their eggs is uncertain. The pike population in Vincent Lake is currently considered in a vulnerable state and harvest has been restricted to 3 pike over 63 cm.

Yellow Perch

- Spawn in April and May, usually at night or in the early morning. Eggs from an individual female are laid in a long ribbon-like gelatinous band that may be up to 2 meters in length. These “ribbons” are usually laid over and adhere to submerged vegetation. Eggs usually hatch in 8 to 10 days. The role of perch as a forage fish for larger game species (pike and walleye) is very important. Sampling data suggest that the Vincent Lake yellow perch, primarily due to over harvest is a population near collapse.

Walleye

- Spawning occurs in streams or on lakebed in April and May. Spawning most often occurs in the late evening and night. Walleye broadcast their eggs where they can adhere to crevices in gravel or vegetation. The eggs hatch out in approximately two weeks. Walleye are not native to Vincent Lake but were introduced as follows.

Walleye Stocking History (Fingerlings)

- 1967 = 1,200
 - 1990 = 35,410
 - 1991 = 51,200
 - 1992 = 30,700
- Total = 118,510

Stocked walleye populations in Alberta are considered to be collapsed until sufficient natural recruitment has been demonstrated and the population size and age-class distribution can support harvest.

Habitat

- Riparian vegetation like cattails and bulrush, along with littoral vegetation like pondweed, provide protection for newly hatch fish. This vegetation also provides protection for smaller fish from predation, protection and ambush cover for larger fish, and shade for all sizes of fish. Loss of this vegetation would seriously impact the health of fish populations in a waterbody.