








STATUS OF MAJOR FISH SPECIES IN GREAT SLAVE LAKE

Species	Population Status
<p>Lake Whitefish</p> 	<p>The lake whitefish population appears to be stable in the western basin of Great Slave Lake, where this species is commercially fished. Fishing at or below the current quota appears to be sustainable.</p>
<p>Lake Trout</p> 	<p>Lake trout accounted for 64% of the catch in 1945, when commercial fishing began, but accounted for only 4% of the catch in the western basin in 1985. Although populations in the west basin have declined dramatically, populations in the East Arm are doing well. However, increasing pressures from recreational fishing in the East Arm may be of concern.</p>
<p>Northern Pike</p> 	<p>Stocks appear to be stable in all areas of the lake, although this assessment is based on inadequate information.</p>
<p>Walleye</p> 	<p>Information about walleye populations is inadequate. While there is concern for Hay River and Little Buffalo River populations harvested for subsistence and sport, no current problems with fish stocks have been reported. The Mosquito Creek population was overexploited from 1973 to 1988, but closing that sport fishery has resulted in a stable population.</p>
<p>Inconnu</p> 	<p>Spawning stocks on the Taltson, Little Buffalo and Hay rivers were extirpated by the 1960's. The Buffalo River stocks were overfished in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Protection has helped but inconnu still needs protection and updated assessment. Stocks on the Slave River and in Great Slave Lake appear to be stable.</p>
<p>Burbot</p> 	<p>There are currently no concerns regarding the burbot stocks.</p>
<p>Sucker</p> 	<p>There are currently no concerns regarding the sucker stocks.</p>

Source: Mackenzie River Basin Board 2004.

Source: Figure 3.3-3 from NWT Environmental Audit Status of the Environment Report, 2005