



Lake Information

WATERSHED	LAKE CLASS
Yukon Headwaters	A
SURFACE AREA	ELEVATION
51 ha	820 m
MAXIMUM DEPTH	AVERAGE DEPTH
21 m	16.5 m
SURFACE TEMP	REGULATIONS
17.2°C	Special Management
SAMPLING DATES	NET SETS
July 5 – 7	32

Location

Caribou Lake is located approximately 50 km southeast of Whitehorse, east of Marsh Lake. This lake is found within the Traditional Territories of the Carcross/Tagish and Kwanlin Dün First Nations.

Access and Use

Access to Caribou Lake is by an unmaintained road from the Alaska Highway. There is no boat launch at the lake. There is one residence on the lake.

Caribou Lake 2012

Overall Status

Lake Trout

Caribou Lake was found to have a healthy population of small-bodied lake trout in 2012. This survey showed no statistical difference in population or density for lake trout, when compared to the 2011 survey. This result helped to validate the effectiveness of the SPIN method in estimating lake trout population size.

Lake Whitefish

There were no lake whitefish captured during this survey.

Recommendation

The recommendation from the 2012 survey is to continue using the SPIN methodology. Given our experimental results, in most instances, the number of nets should be increased to improve the precision of our population estimates.

Lake Trout

A total of 83 lake trout were captured during the 2012 survey.

Population Estimate and Density

The lake trout population in Caribou Lake was estimated at **2,851** (estimate range: 2,360 – 3,381). This equates to a density of 55.9 lake trout per hectare.

Length and Weight

They ranged in size from 260 mm to 490 mm in fork length. The sampled lake trout had an average length of 390 mm and an average weight of 630 g.

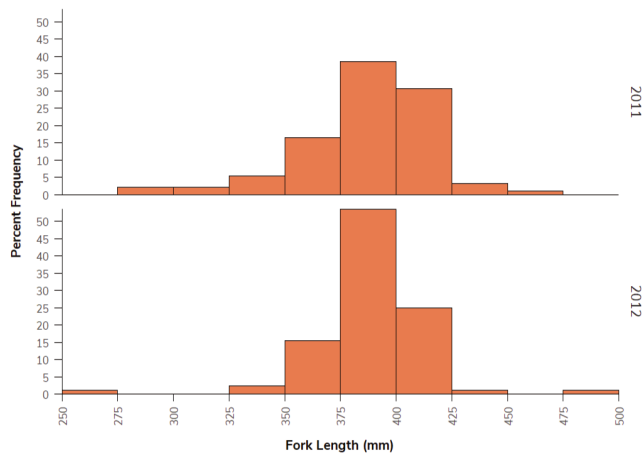


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of sampled lake trout in Caribou Lake (2012), n = 83.

Age and Growth

Age structures were obtained from 22 lake trout. Ages ranged from 7 to 24 years.

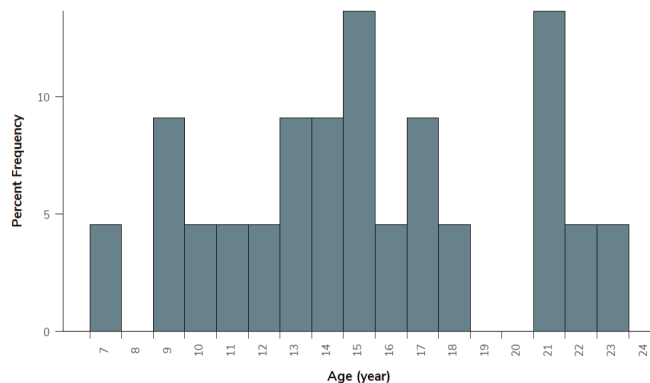


Figure 2. Age frequency distribution of age-analyzed lake trout in Caribou Lake (2012), n = 22.

Suggested citation:

Government of Yukon. 2024. Lake Trout and Lake Whitefish Monitoring Program: Caribou Lake 2012. Government of Yukon, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada.

Lake Whitefish

Overview

No lake whitefish were captured in Caribou Lake during the 2012 survey.

Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen

Temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles were taken in the north basin of Caribou Lake on June 25, 2012. This location was the deepest part of the lake. Temperatures and oxygen levels were within suitable levels for lake trout. We found a thermocline occurring between 3 m and 4 m with a sudden drop from 15°C to 12°C. Optimal dissolved oxygen levels were found to a depth of 15 m.

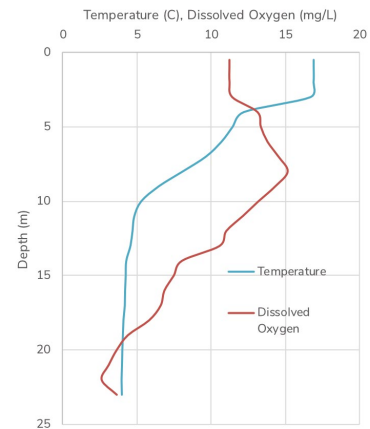


Figure 3. Temperature (C) and dissolved oxygen (mg/L) as measured in Caribou Lake, June 25, 2012.