



## Wildfire Season

On June 13, a lightning strike started a wildfire near the east end of Gunisao Lake. The fire was reported to Manitoba Conservation, and they began to monitor it. The Lodge is in a "white zone" of Manitoba, where fires are not acted upon unless they are a direct danger to a community. Due to very dry conditions and low humidity, the fire quickly grew from .1 hectares to over 5000 hectares in about a week. At its' peak, the fire would grow to over 35,500 hectares. (One hectare = approximately 2.47 acres).

On June 19, a small crew of Initial Attack firefighters arrived to camp and started setting up a sprinkler system to protect all structures and fuel tanks from blowing embers. More crews arrived and started cutting fire breaks and laying miles of hose/sprinkler line into the woods around camp. The fire continued to grow, and the entire camp along with many areas of the Lake were often smoked out. Embers blew in the wind and caught islands on fire, and the main fire continued to move along the south shore towards camp.

On Friday the 21st, the fire reached Walleye Hole. At that point we began to implement an evacuation plan for guests and staff. Remaining guests were safely evacuated by afternoon. At around 10:30 pm, the head of the fire jumped across Walleye Hole and headed northeast towards the Back Bay and the Lodge. By 6am Saturday morning, the fire had reached the Back Bay. We immediately implemented our staff evacuation plan, and most staff (along with supplies) headed out to safety on the Lake. A small crew stayed behind to assist and participate in firefighting efforts. A float plane was brought in to safely evacuate most staff members. With no guests and few staff in camp, we were able to comfortably house and feed what grew to over 20 firefighters.

Later Saturday morning, a helicopter began water bucketing operations, and 2 water bombers flew in to knock down some of the fire and redirect it away from camp. They bombed for about 2 hours straight, dropping thousands of gallons of water on the fire and

saving camp from the incoming danger. The air efforts, along with those of crews on the ground, were successful in protecting camp for the time being. Although the head of the fire was diverted, it was still an imminent threat to camp as it moved its' way around the south side of the runway, and headed north towards the Little Narrows.

The next few days the fire continued to spread, and helicopter bucketing and ground crew operations continued. A few guides who didn't evacuate drove firefighters from camp to hotspots and other areas day and night. Some of the remaining Gunisao Crew loaded hose, hand tools, and a portable pump on a few boats and put out hotspots in critical areas. The water bombers returned for another round of drops; knocking out and diverting some of the fire again.

With much progress made, we were able to fly staff members back to the Lodge on the evening of June 24. They quickly went to work on the huge task of cleaning up and putting camp back together. Fortunately we were able to resume trips and bring in new guests the morning of June 25.

On June 28, firefighters left camp. We continued to remain vigilant, watching hotspots and flareups around the Lake. The evening of July 13, the fire worked its' way back around to the west end of our runway. Staff acted quickly and started knocking down flames. Manitoba Conservation once again brought their water bombers in to protect camp. After a night of bombing, most of the imminent threat had finally passed. The fire continued to work its' way around to the west, then along the north shore of the Lake. By the time our season was over, it had burned around approximately 3/4 of the Lake.

We would like to thank the Manitoba Sustainable Development Wildfire Program, all the firefighters from across the Province, and our staff, for their tireless efforts to keep our guests, other staff, and us safe while protecting this place we all love so much.

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Dr. Jim and Dusty Budd  
Box 347  
Mason, Michigan 48854  
(517) 676-FISH (3474)  
[WALLEYEMANITOBA.com](http://WALLEYEMANITOBA.com)



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# Walleye Wall



## The 2019 Season Numbers Are In!!

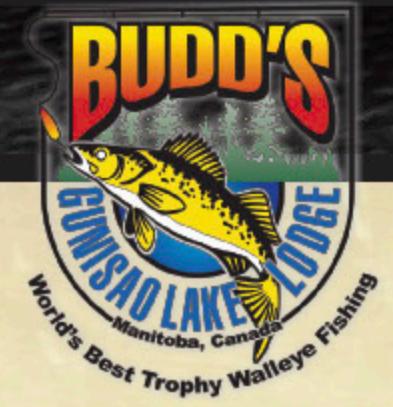
**897**  
MASTER ANGLERS  
CAUGHT BY **368**  
**BUDD'S MASTER ANGLERS!!**  
In 2019 Gunisao Lake Produced:  
**848** MASTER ANGLER WALLEYES  
-> 88 Were 30" or Larger!!  
**35** MASTER ANGLER NORTHERN PIKE



Ed Karper



Ian Reyes



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2020

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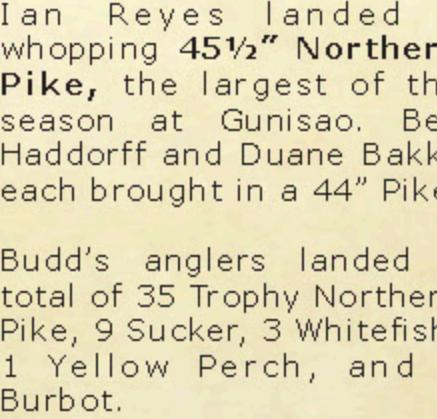
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Ben Haddorff



Ian Reyes landed a whopping 45 1/2" Northern Pike, the largest of the season at Gunisao. Ben Haddorff and Duane Blake each brought in a 44" Pike.

Budd's anglers landed a total of 35 Trophy Northern Pike, 9 Sucker, 3 Whitefish, 1 Yellow Perch, and 1 Burbot.

Thanks to all of our guests for another great season of Trophy Fishing, and congratulations to all of our Budd's Master Angler Club 2019 members!

If Trophy Walleye's your Game, then Budd's is the Name!  
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