

# READER'S GUIDE to USING this PUBLICATION

Your fishing map guide is a thorough, easy-to-use collection of accurate contour lake maps along with geographic and biologic statistical information to help you locate a lake and enjoy a successful day out on the water of one of Michigan's excellent fisheries.

The heart of this book is the **contour lake map**. Copyrighted maps are used with permission from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and are not intended for navigation. The lakes selected for this guide are confined to those that are accessible to the public.

Each map is accompanied by a **detailed write-up**. In each piece, you'll find fishing tips and hot spots specific to the body of water you're planning to fish.

Lake **stocking records** and **management comments** are provided courtesy of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and summarized to reflect management trends and objectives for each fishery represented. Please keep in mind that annual fish stocking aspirations are directly affected by state hatchery production levels and sometimes the numbers available for stocking fluctuate considerably.

Detailed **area road maps** (1:210,000 scale) and **lake access** information is provided to help you plan your route to the lake. If there is more than one access point on a body of water, the GPS coordinates refer to the primary access. To locate a lake on these road maps, simply use the alphabetical lake listing on the back cover. Turn to that page to find the area road map page and coordinates for the lake. As a cross-reference, the area road maps include numbers on or adjacent to featured lakes, which designate the pages of the lake maps and information. Streams and rivers are also referenced in these area road maps.

While every effort is made to create the most accurate maps possible, the process of merging existing DNR maps with the latest GPS information will cause some slight differences to occur. (Especially on larger, more complicated lakes.) Please use the GPS grids provided in this book only as a guideline.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Gill net:** This is the main piece of equipment used for sampling walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, cisco, whitefish, trout, and salmon. The standard gill net is 6 feet tall by 250 feet long, with 5 different mesh sizes. Gill nets are generally set in off shore areas in water deeper than 9 feet. Nets are fished for a period of 24 hours. Fish are captured by swimming into the net and becoming entangled. Fisheries workers record length and weight data from each fish, determine the sex, look for parasites or disease, and remove several of the fishes scales for determining the fishes age. Most of the fish taken in gill nets are

killed, but only a small portion of the lakes fish population is sampled during an individual survey event. The number of gill nets set during a survey is dependant on the lake acreage.

**Trap net:** This is the main piece of equipment used for sampling bluegill, crappie, and bullheads. The standard trap net is 4 feet tall by 6 feet wide with a 40 foot lead. Trap nets are generally set perpendicular to shore in water less than 8 feet in depth. Nets are fished for a period of 24 hours. Fish are captured by swimming into the lead and following it towards the trap. Most of the fish collected in trap nets are returned back to the water as soon as the necessary biological data is recorded. The number of trap net sets during a survey is dependant on the lake acreage.

**Electrofishing:** This is a specialized type of equipment that is most often used for sampling largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and young of the year walleye. A boat-mounted generator is used to induce electrical current into the water that stuns the fish, allowing fisheries workers to net the fish for placement in live wells. Most of the fish caught by electrofishing recover rapidly and are promptly returned to the water after the necessary biological data is recorded.

**CPUE:** An acronym representing "Catch Per Unit of Effort," a way of representing the density of a species population. Readings are in fish captured per hour or minute of surveying. The higher the CPUE value, the greater the number of fish present.

**PSD:** An acronym for "Proportional Stock Density," which is a way of representing the size structure of fish populations. It represents the percentage of "quality-size" fish within a given population. In arriving at this figure, one considers only fish of "stock" length (the size at which members of a given species reach sexual maturity) or greater. Young-of year fish are not included in the calculation. The higher the PSD number, the greater the percentage of "quality" fish within a particular population.

**RSD-12** (or -10 or -14, etc.): An acronym for "Relative Stock Density," which is yet another way of representing the size structure of fish populations. This corresponds to the percentage of fish at a given length or larger within a population. Hence, an RSD-14 reading of 25 for largemouth bass indicates that 25 percent of sexually mature bass are at least 14 inches in length. On another measurement scale, the RSD- values could be stated as "preferred," "memorable," or "trophy."

**YAR:** An acronym for "Young-(to)-Adult Ratio." This refers to the proportion of young-of-year fish in relation to adult or "quality-size" fish within a particular population. For balanced populations, the index should be about 1-to-10. In smaller waters, 1-to-3 is considered a reasonable ratio.

**Secchi Disk:** Used in measuring water clarity, it is a white-colored, plate-size device submerged on the end of a line until it reaches a point where it's no longer visible; the depth at which this occurs is measured and recorded. In this book, secchi disk readings are given in English measure. Of course, many factors influence water clarity, and secchi disk readings vary according to season, growth of vegetation, weather, location in a lake, even human activity. Hence the readings given are approximations for any lake—snapshots of the water clarity at a given time and in a given location.

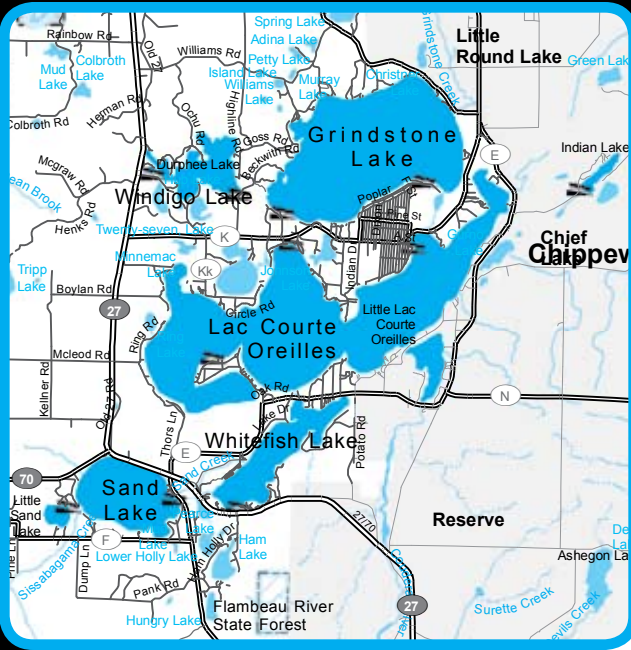
## LEGEND

	Boat Ramp		Marina		Marsh		Red & Green Channel Buoys
	Carry Down Access		Lily Pads		Emergent Vegetation		White Hazard Buoy
	Access by Navigable Chann		Submergent Vegetation		Manmade Canal		River Mile
	Portage Access		Emergent Vegetation		Marked Fishing Spots		Daymarker
	Access Information Marker		Stumps		Submerged Rail		Light & Daymarker
	Campground		Flooded Timber		Submerged Road		County Road
	Picnic Area		Rocks		Bridge		State Highway
	Fishing Dock (Pier)		Submerged Culvert		Submerged Riverbed		US Highway
	Shore Fishing		Submerged Ruins		GPS Grid		Interstate
	Fish Attractors						
	Boat tie-up						

# LAC COURTE OREILLES

Sawyer County

Sawyer County  
LAC COURTE OREILLES



Area map page / coordinates: 19/B-6, 20/A-1, 20/B-1

Accommodations: resorts, campground

Surface water area: 5,039 acres

Shorelength: 25.4 miles

Maximum depth: 90 feet

Mean depth: 33.7 feet

Secchi disk (water clarity): 13.5 feet

Water color: clear

Lake type: drainage

Littoral bottom types: 28% sand, 57% gravel, 11.5% muck, 3.5 % rubble

Basic management: N pike, muskie, SM bass, walleye, panfish

Accessibility: 1) Trailer Launch 45° 53' 07" N / 91° 28' 01" W

Accessibility: 2) Trailer Launch 45° 54' 47" N / 91° 26' 27" W

Accessibility: 3) Trailer Launch 45° 54' 46" N / 91° 23' 57" W

## FISHING INFORMATION

Lac Courte Oreilles, at more than 5,000 acres, is the biggest natural lake in Sawyer County and one of the 10 biggest in Wisconsin. As a bonus, boaters also have access to Little Lac Courte Oreilles on the southeast. At 240 acres, the smaller lake offers fewer fish, but it makes a good detour in the event of high winds – something to keep in mind. Besides being less formidable, Little LCO has something the big lake doesn't: plenty of northern pike.

Meanwhile, "Big LCO" is famous among anglers for producing some huge muskies, and the population has been bolstered with regular stockings of muskie fingerlings and fry for more than 10 years.

The lake also holds some good-size walleyes, crappies, and smallmouth bass. Like muskies, walleye are stocked regularly.

As with any big lake, it pays to know where to start. The folks at Hayward Bait and Tackle, 15737 Davis Ave., Hayward, WI 54834, (715) 634-2921, offered the following tips for first-time visitors. For spring muskies, anglers are advised to throw black bucktails throughout the shallows in any of the lake's bays. Later in the season, fish the deeper weedlines with crankbaits during the day. Try the weedbeds off Ashland Point (**Spot 1**) then, as well as in the mouth of Musky Bay (**Spot 2**).

If you prefer night fishing for muskies, target "the rock-pile" off Ashland Point (**Spot 3**), and cast 8-inch bucktails or large topwater baits.

The lake's walleyes are often longer than 20 inches and can top 10 pounds. Not surprisingly, Walleye Bar (**Spot 4**) is a good place to look for them. Most of the lake's bays, too, are good for walleyes.

The crappies — which can top 12 inches in many cases — can also be found in the bays early in the season. Later in the year, locate the many fish cribs installed along the shorelines and work around them. The cribs near Birch Point (**Spot 5**) on the northern shore are especially good for big crappies. Smallmouth hang around the fish cribs, too.

The smallies will respond to a leech beneath a slip-bobber during the day and to surface lures in the evening.

### FISH STOCKING DATA

year	species	age	# released
96	Muskellunge	Fingerling	1,500
96	Muskellunge	Fry	424,000
96	Walleye	Fry	2,600,000
97	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	750
97	Muskellunge	Fry	440,000
97	Walleye	Small Fingerling	100,000
97	Walleye	Fry	5,300,000
98	Muskellunge	Fry	200,000
98	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	1,500
98	Walleye	Fry	4,850,000
99	Muskellunge	Fry	75,000
99	Walleye	Small Fingerling	100,000
99	Walleye	Fry	2,900,000
00	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	1,500
00	Walleye	Fry	2,250,000
01	Muskellunge	Fry	60,000
01	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	2,519
01	Walleye	Small Fingerling	100,000
01	Walleye	Fry	3,800,000
02	Walleye	Fry	4,000,000
03	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	2,493
03	Walleye	Fry	4,900,000
03	Walleye	Small Fingerling	99,895
04	Walleye	Small Fingerling	100,187
05	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	1,882

### LENGTH OF SELECTED SPECIES SAMPLED FROM SURVEY

Number and size ranges of fish sampled (inches):

Species	No.	Length Range	Catch/Effort
Walleye	64	4.6 - 21.4	2.5 / mile
Northern Pike	1	20.0 - 20.4	-
Largemouth Bass	3	7.5 - 10.9	0.1 / mile
Smallmouth Bass	29	3.0 - 18.9	1.1 / mile
Yellow Perch	29	< 3.0 - 9.9	-
Black Crappie	14	5.0 - 11.9	-
Bluegill	5	5.0 - 7.4	-
Pumpkin. Sunfish	5	4.0 - 7.4	-
Rock Bass	17	4.5 - 8.4	-

