

# 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 Channel		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						

# LOWER EAU CLAIRE

Bayfield County

# MIDDLE EAU CLAIRE

Bayfield County

Area map page / coordinates: 15/B-6

Accommodations: resorts, campgrounds

Surface water area: 802 acres

Shorelength: 7.78 miles

Maximum depth: 41 feet

Mean depth: NA

Secchi disk (water clarity): 14 feet

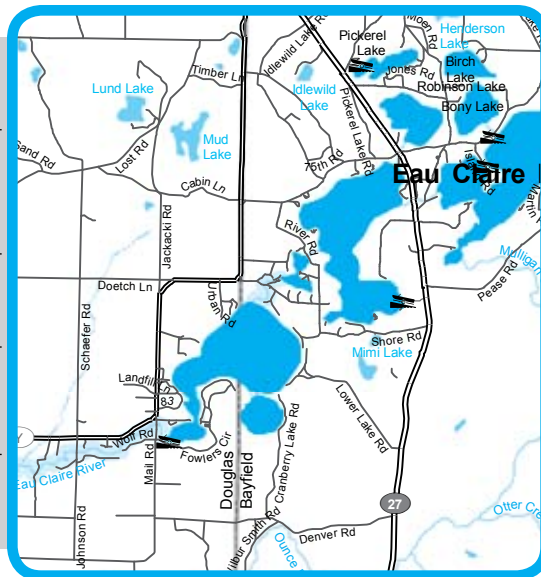
Water color: clear

Lake type: drainage

Littoral bottom types: mostly sand, some gravel/muck

Basic management: walleye, muskie, bass, panfish

Accessibility: Trailer Launch, DNR access at the Eau Claire River Outlet. 46° 15' 29" N / 91° 34' 7" W



Area map page / coordinates: 15/B-6

Accommodations: resorts

Surface water area: 902 acres

Shorelength: 11 miles

Maximum depth: 66 feet

Mean depth: NA

Secchi disk (water clarity): 22 feet

Water color: clear

Lake type: drainage

Littoral bottom types: mostly sand, some gravel/muck

Basic management: walleye, N pike, bass panfish

Accessibility: Trailer Launch, County access on SE shore 46° 17' 4" N / 91° 30' 30" W

Gamefish				Panfish				Rough Fish											
Muskie	N Pike	Walleye	LM Bass	SM Bass	Trout	Catfish	Sturgeon	B Crappie	W Crappie	Bluegill	Pumpkinseed	Y Perch	Bl Bullhead	Br Bullhead	Y Bullhead	Wh Sucker	Carp	Bowfin	
P	P	A	P	P				P		P	P	P							

A=Abundant C=Common P=Present

FISH STOCKING DATA			
year	species	age	# released
96	Muskellunge	Fingerling	1,600
97	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	400
98	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	700
00	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	800
02	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	401
04	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	401

LENGTH OF SELECTED SPECIES SAMPLED FROM SURVEY			
Number and size ranges of fish sampled (inches):			
Species	No.	Length Range	Catch/Effort
Walleye(Total)	490	<2.0 - 19.4	62.8 / mile
Walleye (Age 0)	351	< 2.0 - 6.2	45.0 / mile
Walleye (Age1)	49	7.3 - 10.0	6.3 / mile
Bluegill	2	5.5 - 6.9	-

FISH STOCKING DATA			
year	species	age	# released
96	Muskellunge	Fingerling	900
97	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	450
98	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	800
00	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	900
02	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	1,804
04	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	451
06	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	255

LENGTH OF SELECTED SPECIES SAMPLED FROM ALL GEAR									
Date: 9/30/04					Gear type: Boom Shocker, Fyke Net				
Number of fish caught for the following length categories (inches):									
species	0-5	6-8	9-11	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	>29	Total
Walleye	628	720	452	777	1316	85	4	-	3982
SM Bass	1	30	18	27	32	1	-	-	109
Northern Pike	-	4	8	6	22	46	6	3	95
Yellow Perch	85	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	102
LM Bass	2	4	3	4	39	3	-	-	55
Muskellunge	-	-	2	3	2	5	19	27	58
Rock Bass	55	323	103	-	-	-	-	-	481
Bluegill	217	552	27	-	-	-	-	-	796
Pumpkinseed	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Yellow Bullhead	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	7
Black Crappie	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6

## FISHING INFORMATION

Like other members of the Eau Claire Chain, these two lakes are known as muskie waters. Numbers of this predator aren't overly high, but there are trophy fish to be taken — as evidenced by an unofficial record 70-pound monster that was caught in Middle Eau Claire back in the 1950s. Gary Bergman, owner of Jim's Bait & Convenience Store, 2995 Lake Road, Barnes, WI 54873, (715) 795-3150, says a number of good-size muskies are taken from these two lakes every year. Also, Lower and Middle Eau Claire are good walleye producers and sport good bass and panfish fisheries, as well. Bergman notes that **Lower Eau Claire**, with a 41-foot max depth, is the shallowest of the Eau Claires, and it's also the weediest. Early in the year, the weedy southern bay is a good spot to try for muskies. You'll find stumps and snags there, in addition to lots of pads. Fish the area early with a #5 Mepps, and later in the season, switch to a black bucktail or topwater lures. In addition, work the deeper weedlines on either side of the channel to the main lake with crankbaits and large minnows. You might also want to try the area around the sunken island (**Spot 1**), just off

the channel to Cranberry Lake. You'll find walleyes, too, in the summer months, hanging around the point on the southeast shore (**Spot 2**), where they can be taken with crankbaits. For smallmouth and panfish, try the cribs on the northeast shore, off Lantern Wood resort (**Spot 3**). Largemouth bass will be found in the southwest bay during the summer. In **Middle Eau Claire**, you'll want to focus your early-season muskie efforts on the sand flats in the lake's main basin, or along the eastern side of the shallow south bay, by the boat landing. Local anglers say the two small humps there (**Spots 1**) offer good walleye fishing with live bait under slip bobbers, but jerkbaits work OK, too. You'll also find walleyes, as well as crappies, off the sandbar on the west shore (**Spot 2**) and in the sand off the nearby points. And bass will hang around the western shore of the southern bay (**Spot 3**), where you can fish them with plastic worms, plastic frogs, and weedless Silver Minnows. Fish these lakes in low-light conditions.

N  
NOT FOR NAVIGATION

