

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.

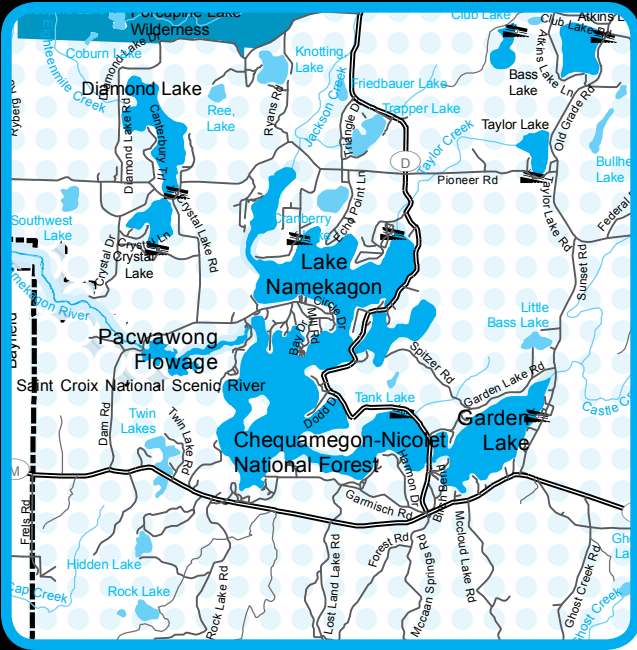
LEGEND

	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						

LAKE NAMEKAGON

Bayfield County

Bayfield County LAKE NAMEKAGON



Area map page / coordinates:	16/B-3, 16/C-3
Accommodations:	resorts, campgrounds, fishing pier
Surface water area:	3,227 acres
Shorelength:	43.62 miles
Maximum depth:	51 feet
Mean depth:	16 feet
Secchi disk (water clarity):	6 feet
Water color:	stained
Lake type:	drainage
Littoral bottom types:	NA
Basic management:	walleye, muskie, bass, northern pike, panfish
Accessibility: 1)	Trailer Launch 46° 14' 37" N / 91° 6' 28" W
Accessibility: 2)	Trailer Launch 46° 14' 41" N / 91° 5' 1" W
Accessibility: 3)	Trailer Launch 46° 12' 46" N / 91° 4' 50" W
Accessibility: 4)	Trailer Launch 46° 12' 45.62" N / 91° 2' 46.23" W

FISHING INFORMATION

Lake Namekagon is known as a “walleye factory” and is noted, too, for producing trophy muskies. Do you really need to know more? Actually you should. Though the 3,227-acre lake turns out eyes by the thousands each year, they tend to be on the small side of average, with a 2-pounder being considered a big one. To get that average size up, the state removed the minimum length limit, but imposed a bag limit of only one fish over 14 inches. Walleyes are not stocked here, so the population is wholly dependent upon natural reproduction. According to the DNR, “fall recruitment surveys show above average numbers of fingerling walleye in most years.”

In contrast, there is no size problem with the muskies on this big lake, but anyone who has made a career of fishing for these large predators knows they are usually hard to find and even harder to catch. To preserve the trophy quality of the muskie fishery on Namekagon, there’s a 50-inch minimum length limit in place. The DNR has also actively stocked 2,500 or more large fingerling muskies every odd-numbered year since at least 1997.

Meanwhile, if you are after walleyes, try using slip-bobbers and jigs with live bait. Be sure to fish around the lake’s many islands as well as the deep side of Bear Point along the western shore (**Spot 1**). Also visit both sides of Picnic Point (**Spot 2**) and the narrow channel between the Middle and Lower lakes (**Spot 3**). For muskies, try the rock bars scattered around the lake, plus the 8- to 10-foot depths along the weed lines. Bucktails and big crankbaits seem to work well for muskie anglers in these locations. The weedy bay on the east side of Upper Lake (**Spot 4**) has often produced muskies. Jerkbait work well here. Not even mentioned yet because of the many walleyes and

FISH STOCKING DATA				
year	species	age	# released	
97	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	2,500	
99	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	2,500	
01	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	3,227	
03	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	2,500	
05	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	2,500	

LENGTH OF SELECTED SPECIES SAMPLED FROM ALL GEAR									
species	Date: 9/25/02							Total	
	Gear type: Boom Shocker								
	Number of fish caught for the following length categories (inches):								
	0-5	6-8	9-11	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	>29	
Walleye	125	239	371	124	16	-	-	-	875

big muskies are Namekagon’s nice crappies. But they deserve mention because of their size – 10 to 15 inches in many cases. Look for them in spring at the back of the lake’s shallow bays and in summer off the rocky bars. Crappies also can often be found in the waters of Lower Lake in winter and summer.

Any lake that is divided into Upper, Middle and Lower Lakes and that has many points and islands with names is not only big, but it is likely to have more structure than is easy to keep track of. Namekagon has all that and more. That might make a day’s guide time a worthwhile investment for anyone fishing this lake for the first time.

Though the lake has lots of attractions and draws many anglers, there are also so many isolated places where anglers can fish any way they choose. However, “usually” does not apply to summer weekends. At such times, this is a good lake to avoid, because water skiers and personal watercraft users tend to dominate even the out-of-the-way places – those that are quiet the rest of the time.

The lake draws a fair amount of ice-fishing action, but even then, snowmobilers can make for a noisy experience, so anglers need to pick their times in winter, as well.

