

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.

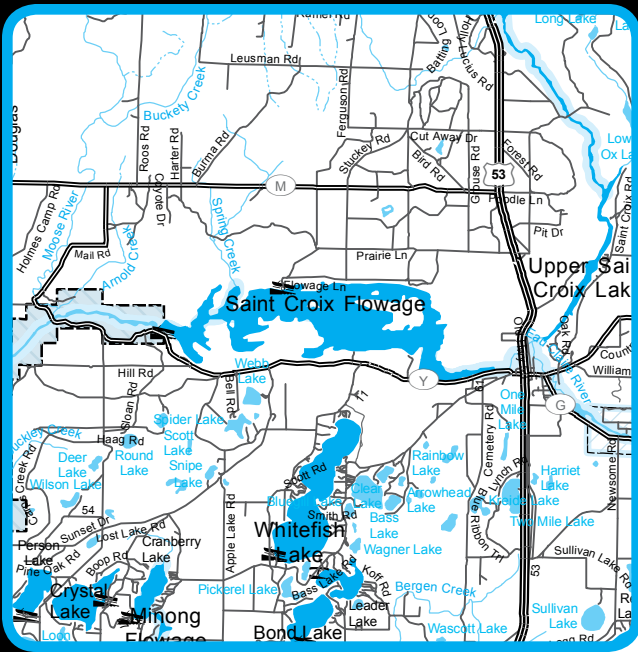
LEGEND

	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						

ST. CROIX FLOWAGE

Douglas County

Douglas County ST. CROIX FLOWAGE



- Area map page / coordinates:** 14/B-3, 15/B-4, 15/C-4
- Accommodations:** county park, campground
- Surface water area:** 1,913 acres
- Shorelength:** 29.1 miles
- Maximum depth:** 20 feet
- Mean depth:** 7 feet
- Secchi disk (water clarity):** 8 feet
- Water color:** clear
- Lake type:** drainage
- Littoral bottom types:** 48% sand, 30% rubble, 22% muck
- Basic management:** northern pike, largemouth bass, panfish
- Accessibility:** 1) Trailer Launch, 46° 15' 9" N / 91° 55' 31" W
- Accessibility:** 2) Trailer Launch, 46° 15' 50" N / 91° 53' 4" 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	C	C	C	P			P	C		A	C	C	C			P	P	P	

A=Abundant C=Common P=Present

FISHING INFORMATION

According to the folks at Sportsman's Headquarters, Highways 77 & 53 in Minong, (715) 466-2171, "The St. Croix Flowage is the single most popular body of water in two counties." This is even more true in the winter than in the summer. "Every other guy through the shop in the winter is going to the St. Croix. It's a very popular lake for crappies, sunnies, northern pike, and big largemouth bass." The DNR has also been stocking large fingerling muskies here to give the fishery a boost.

The Flowage has abundant aquatic vegetation, with pondweed, coontail, bulrushes, and wild rice being common. At times, aquatic plants can impede navigation. The water here is subject to drawdowns in fall and spring, but this has had no apparent effect on the fishery.

Summer bass fishing concentrates in the shallow eastern end of the reservoir, around the stump fields, near the river mouth (**Spot 1**). Throw "plastics," say the folks at Sportsman's Headquarters. "Plastic worms and frogs seem to get the best action." According to Chris Sand, DNR fisheries technician, the bass in the St. Croix Flowage are "huge," so prepare for a fight. The same stumpy area, meanwhile, can be worked with success for northern pike. Weedless spoons seem to be the best bet, since they're not likely to snag on the stumps. For crappies, fish the weed lines near the river channel on the western end (**Spot 2**). Small minnows or jig-and-minnow combos fished just off the weeds in the deeper water should get some good action. The crappies run 10 inches or larger, so be prepared for a treat. There are also some nice bluegills in the lake. Worm chunks and small jigs can bag anything up to a pound. True, the majority of the 'gills are of the "keeper" variety, but pounders are not all that uncommon. (Throw the big slabs back to preserve the fishery). Try off Tuveson's Resort on the north side during the summer. In winter, you'll want to fish live bait for the 'gills in Chicago Bay and out from the public landing (**Spot 3**) on the north side. The folks at Sportsman's Headquarters said small, tear-drop jigs tipped with

FISH STOCKING DATA			
year	species	length (inches)	# released
00	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	2,500
02	Lake Sturgeon	Large Fingerling	403
02	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	1,913
04	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	1,912
05	Lake Sturgeon	Large Fingerling	2,150
06	Lake Sturgeon	Large Fingerling	2,391

LENGTH OF SELECTED SPECIES SAMPLED FROM ALL GEAR									
species	Date: 10/7/03								Total
	Gear type: Boom Shocker, Mini Fyke Net								
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	
Bluegill	846	177	-	-	-	-	-	-	1023
Pumpkinseed	69	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	74
LM Bass	98	12	21	34	15	-	-	-	180
N Pike	4	-	3	8	13	24	5	1	58
Rock Bass	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Yellow Perch	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
B Crappie	7	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	12
Pumpkinseed	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Br Bullhead	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
SM Bass	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1

waxworms and small maggots, called "spikes," work well for panfish, while northerns will prefer sucker minnows. A word of warning: you'll want to avoid the east-end stump fields in the winter, because the river current keeps the ice thin. More than one angler has taken an unplanned bath while trying to fish the stump fields through the ice, the folks at Sportsman's Headquarters warned.

Recreational pressure is low on the St. Croix Flowage. This is a consequence of boggy soils, and also because of the heavy vegetation and numerous bottom obstructions. The lake can weed up pretty heavily, so expect to clean the lower unit of your outboard with some regularity. There is also a lot of wood in the flowage, so keep the speed down until you know for sure where you're going.

Public access to the St. Croix Flowage is quite good. There are nice, county-owned facilities on the north side, off North Flowage Drive, and at the dam, where there is also a county campground.

ST. CROIX FLOWAGE



NOT FOR NAVIGATION

