

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

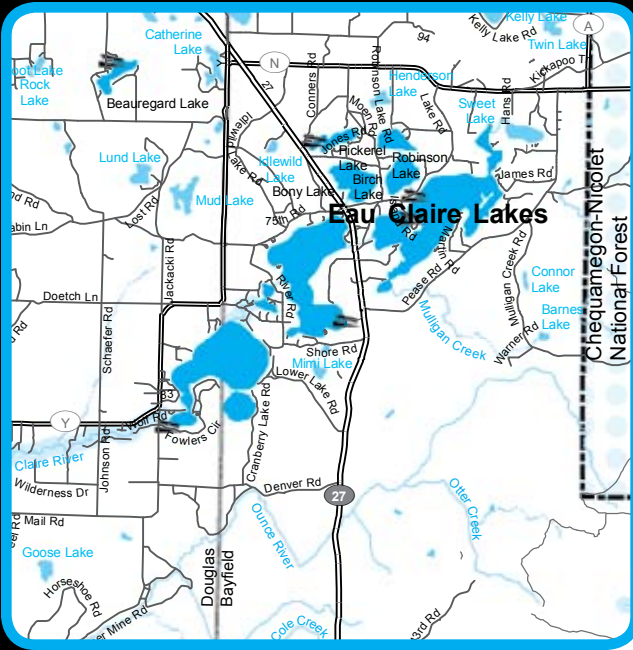
	Boat Ramp		Marina		Marsh		Red & Green Channel Buoys
	Carry Down Access		Lily Pads		Emergent Vegetation		White Hazard Buoy
	Access by Navigable Channel		Submergent Vegetation		Manmade Canal		River Mile
	Portage Access		Emergent Vegetation		Marked Fishing Spots		Daymarker
	Access Information Marker		Stumps		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						

UPPER EAU CLAIRE LAKE

Bayfield County

UPPER EAU CLAIRE LAKE

Bayfield County



Area map page / coordinates: 15/B-6, 16/B-1

Accommodations: resorts, campgrounds

Surface water area: 996 acres

Shorelength: 9.93 miles

Maximum depth: 92 feet

Mean depth: NA

Secchi disk (water clarity): 26 feet

Water color: clear

Lake type: drainage

Littoral bottom types: gravel & muck

Basic management: walleye, N pike, bass, panfish

Accessibility: 1) Trailer Launch, Two Boat Landings on West Shore, 46° 18' 52" N / 91° 29' 9" W

Accessibility: 2) Trailer Launch, Two Boat Landings on West Shore, 46° 18' 32" N / 91° 29' 13" 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	A	P	P	P				P		C			C					

A=Abundant C=Common P=Present

FISHING INFORMATION

Upper Eau Claire Lake is trophy muskie water that produces good opportunities for other fish species, as well. It's been famous for years for its large muskies, and the Department of Natural Resources stocks the predators on even-numbered years. A 2005 survey netted three dozen muskies longer than 29 inches – some indication of the strength of this fishery. Upper Eau Claire is well-known, too, for a relatively low-density — but large-size — walleye population. In addition, there are some nice angling opportunities for smallmouth bass and some pretty decent panfish in this 996-acre, hard-water lake.

“It’s been famous for years for its large muskies...”

Upper Eau Claire is the largest body of water on the Eau Claire Chain, which comprises 11 interconnected lakes in southwestern Bayfield and southeastern Douglas Counties. The lake doesn't have a lot of central structure; in many areas, the bottom just drops away sharply to its 92-foot maximum depth. There are, however, some broad flats on the northwest and north that drop off sharply into deeper water. Gary Bergman, owner of Jim's Bait & Convenience Store, 2995 Lake Road, Barnes, WI 54873, (715) 795-3150, says you'll find muskies there in the spring. Fish them with crankbaits, bucktails, or Mepps Muskie Killers. Don't, though, ignore the deeper breaks off these flats. The weed line is deep in Upper Eau Claire, down to 20 feet or more, so work the weed line with a crankbait or a weighted jerkbait.

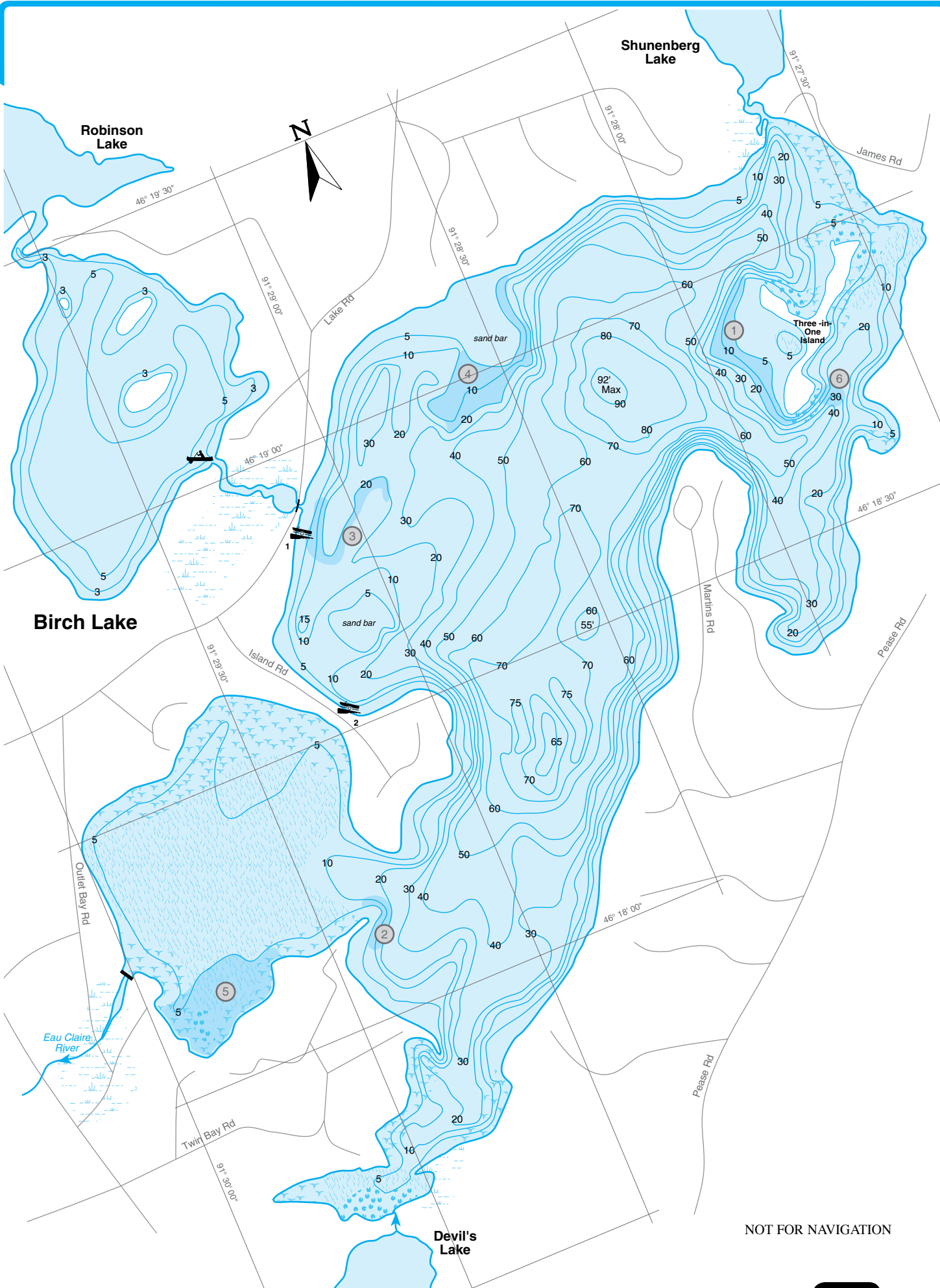
FISH STOCKING DATA			
year	species	age	# released
96	Muskellunge	Fingerling	1,000
97	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	500
97	Walleye	Small Fingerling	49,800
98	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	900
99	Walleye	Small Fingerling	49,800
00	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	1,000
02	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	498
04	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	498
06	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	274

LENGTH OF SELECTED SPECIES SAMPLED FROM ALL GEAR									
Date: 4/21/05									
Gear type: 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
Muskellunge	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	36	40

Comments: This survey specifically targeted muskellunge. Previous surveys indicate a wide range of game fish available.

Upper Eau Claire contains ciscoes, which can present problems for summer muskie anglers. Ciscoes are favored muskie forage, and the big predators will follow the ciscoes into deeper water and suspend, waiting to ambush their prey. Deep trolling is the only way to get to them during the day. You might, however, have some success with topwater lures over the flats in the evening. In the early fall, the muskies will move back to the breaks and flats near deep water. They can be fished then with topwater or jerkbaits. Later, after turnover, you'll want to troll deep-diving crankbaits near cisco schools. Catch-and-release is strongly recommended, especially for muskies, but for all other gamefish, as well.

Meanwhile, Norbert Kearns, an area angler, says walleyes can be found in the shallow southern and northeastern areas in the spring. Later they'll head to deeper water. Troll crankbaits or bottom-troll a jig-and-minnow combination around 20-feet down in both spring and fall. The whole east shoreline is a good walleye troll. The breakline off Three in One Island (**Spot 1**), too, is especially productive, as is the break off the point in the lake's southern end (**Spot 2**). In the evening, fish the break off the channel from Birch Lake (**Spot 3**) or the 20-foot break line off the sandbar on the northwest (**Spot 4**). For largemouth bass, try the bay on the west shore, and especially the southern end of it, south of the dam (**Spot 5**). For smallmouth, jig the tiny hole off the southeastern tip of the island (**Spot 6**).



NOT FOR NAVIGATION