

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."

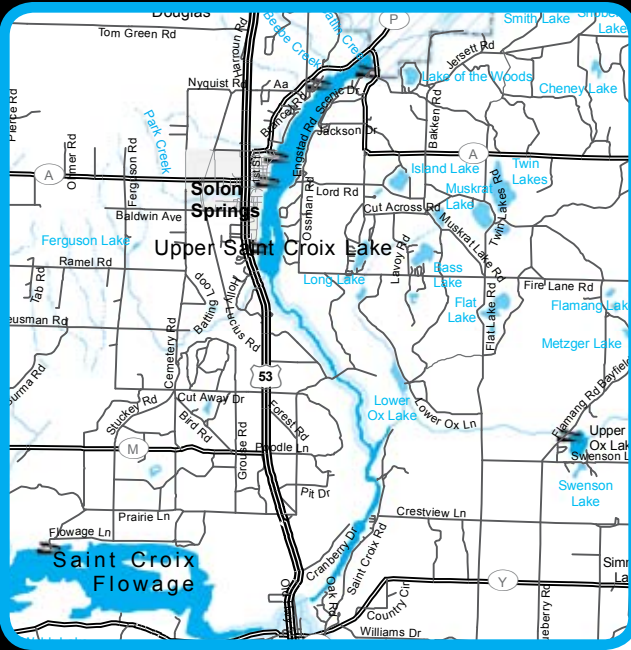
YAR: An acronym for "Young-(to)-Adult Ratio." This refers to the proportion of young-of-year fish in relation to adult or "quality-size" fish within a particular population. For balanced populations, the index should be about 1-to-10. In smaller waters, 1-to-3 is considered a reasonable ratio.

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						

UPPER ST. CROIX LAKE *Douglas County*



Area map page / coordinates: 15/A-4, 15/B-4, 15/A-5, 15/B-5

Accommodations: county park, campground

Surface water area: 855 acres

Shorelength: 9.39 miles

Maximum depth: 22 feet

Mean depth: 13 feet

Secchi disk (water clarity): 7 feet

Water color: clear

Lake type: drainage

Littoral bottom types: 40% sand, 30% gravel, 20% rubble, 10% muck

Basic management: northern pike, walleye, bass, panfish

Accessibility: 1) Trailer Launch, 46° 22' 45" N / 91° 46' 44" W

Accessibility: 2) Trailer Launch, 46° 22' 33" N / 91° 47' 45" W

Accessibility: 3) Trailer Launch, 46° 21' 30" N / 91° 48' 35" W

Accessibility: 4) Trailer Launch, 46° 21' 9" N / 91° 48' 45" W

Accessibility: 5) Trailer Launch, 46° 20' 12" N / 91° 48' 57" 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	P	P			P	P		C	P	A	P			P	P	

A=Abundant C=Common P=Present

FISHING INFORMATION

Upper St. Croix Lake in south central Douglas County is the headwaters of the St. Croix River. Some 14 small inlets bring cool water into the 22-foot depths of this lake, along with various fish species. Natural reproduction is good for walleyes and northern pike. The DNR also stocks walleyes every other year, so rest assured that the population is pretty good. The pike also are fairly numerous, and they share the water not only with the walleyes, but with decent numbers and sizes of largemouth bass and panfish. DNR fisheries personnel for Douglas and Bayfield counties call this “one of the better all-around lakes in the area for both action and size.” A fall 2000 electrofishing survey found good numbers of walleyes, with some 20 percent of sampled fish being at least 15 inches long. Numbers of this species have been augmented by stocking in 2001, 2003, and 2005. Lake Sturgeon have also been stocked here recently, with more than 2,800 large fingerlings introduced since 2002. There are also muskie, smallmouth bass, catfish, and a few brook and brown trout swimming these waters.

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Anglers after walleyes do especially well in spring and fall tossing jig-and-minnow combinations or black and silver Rapalas. The location of the walleyes varies; fishermen usually find ‘eyes around rocky edges and around the islands. They are also active near reefs throughout the year, said Tom Krenze, sportsman’s buyer at Solon Springs Mercantile, 11287 Mertzig Pkwy, Solon Springs, WI 54873, (715) 378-2860. Fish the weed lines around Crowhart Island (Spot 1) toward the south end of the lake or around the breaks and points along both shorelines. There

FISH STOCKING DATA			
year	species	length (inches)	# released
96	Walleye	Fingerling	15,667
99	Walleye	Small Fingerling	42,750
01	Walleye	Small Fingerling	42,750
02	Lake Sturgeon	Large Fingerling	246
03	Lake Sturgeon	Large Fingerling	593
03	Walleye	Small Fingerling	42,750
05	Lake Sturgeon	Large Fingerling	961
05	Walleye	Small Fingerling	43,947
06	Lake Sturgeon	Large Fingerling	1,069

LENGTH OF SELECTED SPECIES SAMPLED FROM ALL GEAR									
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	>30	Total
Walleye	38	72	28	23	42	2			205

Comments: Target fish is walleye. Walleye survey only.

are fish cribs in many of these areas that attract walleyes and crappies. Electronics can help locate these manmade structures.

The northers are aggressive, and will snap up nearly any bait offered. That means Dardevles, Johnson Silver Minnows, and spinnerbaits. And don’t overlook the old reliable sucker minnow for pike. Fish the shallows at both ends of the lake (Spots 2 and 3) or around the inlet north of the state park (Spot 4) in summer. The largemouths can usually be tempted by spinnerbaits in May and topwater lures later in the season. As summer arrives, throw plastic worms, plastic frogs, or surface plugs. Vary your retrieve with the topwater baits to simulate real prey. During summer, weed beds and edges toward the north and south ends of the lake are best for sunfish. The fish are usually found 10- to 14-foot down.

Upper St. Croix’s shoreline is fairly heavily developed with homes and seasonal cabins. The lake also attracts a lot of outside traffic from boaters and anglers, thus, recreational boating pressure on the lake is fairly intense during the summer, especially on weekends and holidays. It is best to fish during the week or early in the day whenever possible, or plan your visit for early or late in the season, when recreational traffic is lighter.

The lake is also a popular ice-fishing destination. The northern pike fishing can be very good in winter, especially along weed edges.

