

# 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.

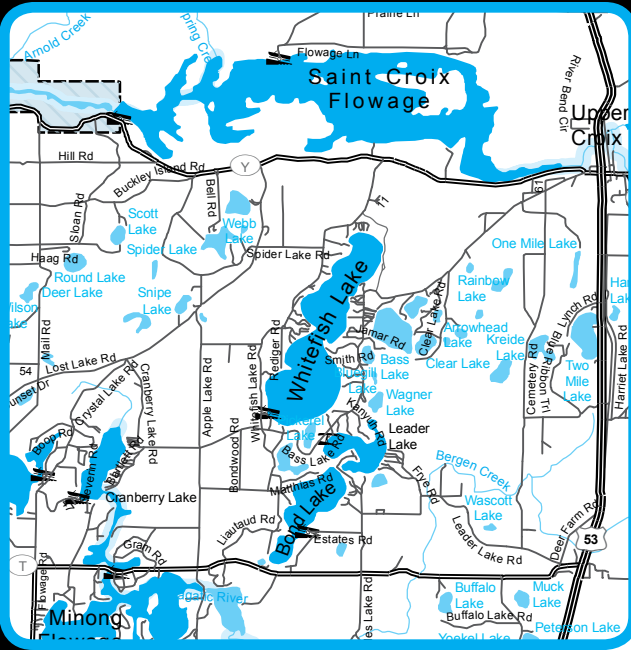
**Secchi Disk:** Used in measuring water clarity, it is a white-colored, plate-size device submerged on the end of a line until it reaches a point where it's no longer visible; the depth at which this occurs is measured and recorded. In this book, secchi disk readings are given in English measure. Of 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						

# WHITEFISH LAKE

## Douglas County



Area map page / coordinates: 15/C-4

Accommodations: NA

Surface water area: 832 acres

Shorelength: 6.9 miles

Maximum depth: 102 feet

Mean depth: 30 feet

Secchi disk (water clarity): 16 feet

Water color: clear

Lake type: seepage

Littoral bottom types: 95% sand, 3% rubble, 2% rubble

Basic management: two story trout, bass walleye, panfish

Accessibility: Trailer Launch, Ramp on SW shore, off of Whitefish Rd.  
46° 12' 1" N / 91° 53' 7" 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	C			P		C	P	A	P		P	C		

A=Abundant C=Common P=Present

### FISHING INFORMATION

Whitefish Lake is a delightful body of water. At 832 acres, it has some size to it, and its water is clear and cold, with depths running down to 102 feet. It is, says DNR Fisheries Technician Chris Sand, a “two-story management success story,” for this lake supports both a warm-water fishery in its shallower parts, and a cold-water trout fishery in its depths. Anglers will find excellent fishing for many species in Whitefish. There are largemouth bass, bluegills, crappies, perch, muskies, good-size northern pike, and some truly mammoth walleyes – fish up to 13 pounds have come from here. In addition, there’s the bonus fishery for brown and rainbow trout (browns are being stocked in odd-numbered years).

During spring, the choice spot to fish for crappies is along the sharp break lines as well as the lake’s shallow areas. In summer, look for suspended crappies over the deep holes. Look for bass around most of the shorelines – 10 feet or shallower – especially during summer. For walleye, try fishing off the southeast bay. For northerns, work the break lines around the shorelines and the southeast bay, said Terry Hogan, owner of Hayward Bait and Tackle, 15737 Davis. Ave., Hayward, WI 54843, (715) 634-2921. Hogan said muskies are prevalent in the weeds and the rock bars on the lake’s north end. Hogan also recommended fishing the sharp break lines for muskies.

During the summer, the key to fishing Whitefish is structure. A couple of bars near deep water in the southern end (**Spots 1**) offer good opportunities for walleyes, as does the sand bar off the point on the west side of the narrows (**Spot 2**). Work the area off the weedbeds with crankbaits or a minnow. Farther up the lake, you’ll find a point on the east side that leads to a long flat adjacent to deep water (**Spot 3**). You can troll a crankbait there, too, in 8 feet of water or so, or work the weeds at the break, if you wish, with jig/minnow combinations. A minnow under a slip bobber works well, too. Meanwhile, despite an overall

### FISH STOCKING DATA

year	species	age	# released
03	Brown Trout	Yearling	2,545
03	Brown Trout	Small Fingerling	14,998
05	Brown Trout	Large Fingerling	4,175

### LENGTH OF SELECTED SPECIES SAMPLED FROM ALL GEAR

species	Date: 6/1/05								Total
	0-5	6-8	9-11	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	>29	
Smallmouth Bass	-	1	19	46	26	1	-	-	93
Walleye	371	59	97	247	291	24	1	-	1090
Largemouth Bass	-	-	2	33	43	-	-	-	78
Northern Pike	-	12	2	7	4	9	10	9	53
Yellow Perch	526	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	527
Bluegill	114	15	1	-	-	-	-	-	130
White Sucker	44	13	2	-	98	66	-	-	223
Rock Bass	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Mimic Shiner	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Common Shiner	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Spottail Shiner	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41
Creek Chub	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Yellow Bullhead	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1

lack of aquatic vegetation, there are a few weedbeds in the littoral fringes. The broad one on the northwest shore (**Spot 4**) is worth a good look. Work the reeds and pads with plastic worms, plastic frogs, or surface baits in the summer. Spinnerbaits work well, too. Trout run to good size in Whitefish. Work the depths with a small spinner, small spoon, small live bait, or a combination thereof. It’s not unheard of, either, for anglers to use fly-fishing gear. Watch for a hatch and have some fun. A couple of “heads-ups” are in order. First, Whitefish has very clear water, so fish during times of low light — early morning and evening or on cloudy days. Second, beware of the ice. Whitefish IS a popular lake, especially at night, for winter walleyes and trout (fished with small tear-drop jigs and minnows), but the ice can be treacherous. One angler lost his truck during the winter of 1997-98, so it might be worth while to chat with a local or call Hayward Bait and Tackle for current ice conditions. After all, it’s a lot easier to ask a question than it is to replace a vehicle. There’s a nice, state-owned boat launch on the west side of the south end, off Whitefish Lake Road. The facility is suitable for most craft.



NOT FOR NAVIGATION

