



Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division

Smelt Dipping Opportunities - Streams & Great Lakes Shoreline

In the following areas, smelt may concentrate in the spring

REMINDER: If you want to fish from private land, you must first obtain permission from the land owner.

County	Water	Smelt Abundance	Opportunity
Alcona	Black River	Scarce	Limited
	Harrisville Harbor	Present	Limited
	Lake Huron shoreline	Present & Improving	Limited
Alger	Anna River	Present	Good
	Bay Furnace Creek	Scarce	Limited
	Rock River	Present	Limited
Alpena	Thunder Bay River	Scarce	Limited
Arenac	Whitney Drain	Present	Limited
	Lake Huron shoreline	Present	Limited
Baraga	Keweenaw Bay	Present	Good
	Falls River	Present	Good
Cheboygan	Cheboygan River	Scarce	Limited
Chippewa	Albany Creek	Present	Limited
	Galloway Creek	Present	Good
	Roxbury Creek	Abundant	Good
	Tahquamenon River	Abundant	Good
Emmet	Carp Lake River	Present	Limited
Iosco	Ausable River mouth	Present & Improving	Limited
Leelanau	Shalda Creek	Present	Limited
Mackinac	Carp River	Present	Limited
	Nunns Creek	Present	Limited
Marquette	Dead River (in Marquette)	Present	Limited
Muskegon	Whitehall North & South Piers	Scarce	Poor
	Muskegon South Pier	Scarce	Poor
Presque Isle	Ocqueoc River	Scarce	Limited
Oceana	Pentwater North & South Piers	Scarce	Poor
Ottawa	Grand Haven (shore/piers)	Scarce	Poor
Schoolcraft	South Town Creek	Scarce	Poor
St. Clair	St. Clair River	Present	Limited
Van Buren	Deer Lick Creek	Scarce	Poor

General Smelt Dipping Regulations

There is no size limit but the daily possession limit is two (2) gallons. Smelt may be dipped with the following equipment during the following times:

March 1 – May 31 Hand nets on all Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River, Detroit River, and St. Marys River including all tributaries to those waters from the mouth to 1/2 mile upstream. Select inland streams as well.

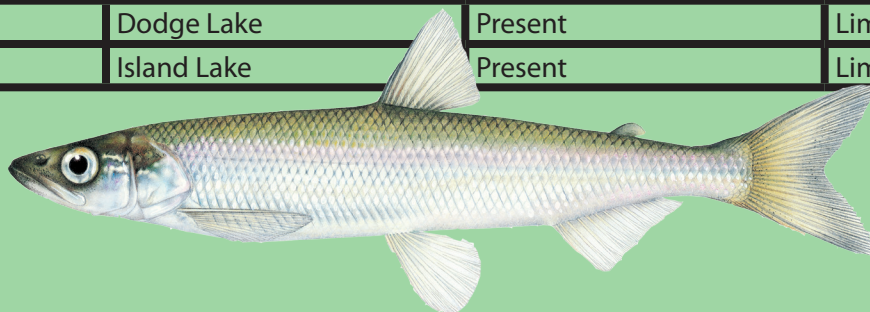
March 20 – May 31 Dip nets on all Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula streams, except Designated Trout Streams.

Entire Year Cast nets on Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River, Detroit River, and St. Marys River.

Smelt Hook & Line Fishing Opportunities - Inland Lakes

REMINDER: If you want to fish from private land, you must first obtain permission from the land owner.

County	Water	Smelt Abundance	Opportunity
Alger	Grand Sable Lake	Present	Limited
Antrim	Bellaire Lake	Present	Limited
Barry	Gull Lake	Abundant	Good
Benzie	Lake Ann	Present	Limited
	Crystal Lake	Abundant	Good
Charlevoix	Lake Charlevoix	Abundant	Good
	Thumb Lake	Abundant	Good
Cheboygan	Mullett Lake	Present	Good
Crawford	Higgins Lake	Abundant	Good
Grand Traverse	Duck Lake	Abundant	Good
	Green Lake	Abundant	Good
Iosco	Loon Lake	Present	Limited
Kalamazoo	Gull Lake	Abundant	Good
Leelanau	Big Glen	Abundant	Good
	Cedar Lake	Present	Limited
	Little Glen	Abundant	Good
	North Lake Leelanau	Present	Limited
Montmorency	Lake Fifteen	Present	Good
	McCormick Lake	Scarce	Good
	Lake Avalon	Scarce	Poor
Otsego	Heart Lake	Present	Limited
Schoolcraft	Clear Lake	Present	Limited
	Dodge Lake	Present	Limited
	Island Lake	Present	Limited



General Smelt Hook & Line Fishing Regulations

Smelt season is open for the entire year for hook and line fishing. There is no size limit but the daily possession limit is two (2) gallons.

For more information on smelt fishing in Michigan, visit michigan.gov/fishing.