

FISHERIES DIVISION  
MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES

# Eastern Lake Superior Management Unit



ISSUE 4

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## 2015-16 Newsletter

Following another cold and snowy winter in 2015, clear skies are ahead with opportunities and better fishing. Staff in Eastern Lake Superior Management Unit (ELSMU) have created this newsletter to inform you of our accomplishments from 2015 and upcoming projects for 2016. This newsletter covers activities primarily in the ELSMU which covers eastern Marquette, northern Alger, portions of Schoolcraft, northern Chippewa and all of Luce County. Thank you for reading and supporting our work this year. Good fishing!



## 2015 Project Spotlight

In 2014, the water stopped flowing over Scott Falls. This small waterfall is a very popular stop for tourist traveling State Hwy. M-28 near Au Train. A small tributary crossing underneath an ORV/snowmobile trail had a failing culvert. In 2015, Parks and Recreation and Fisheries Division collaborated to replace the culvert in order to restore proper flow to Scott Falls. When on your way through the Upper Peninsula be sure to stop and take a look.



In 2015, ELSMU operated two Walleye rearing ponds, Shelter Bay and Deer Lake ponds, both located in Alger County. A total of 61,443 spring fingerling Walleye were harvested with an average length of 1.7 inches. A total of 9 area lakes were stocked. In addition, 4 area lakes were stocked with fish from the Tribal facility in Sault Ste. Marie. Below is a list of ELSMU lakes stocked with Walleye from ELSMU rearing ponds. A complete list of stocked area lakes is attached to this newsletter.

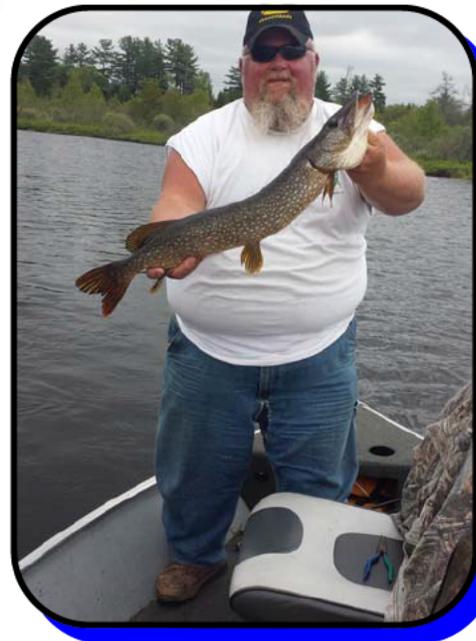
<u>County</u>	<u>Waterbody</u>	<u>Number Stocked</u>
Alger	Grand Marais-West Bay	5,355
Luce	Beaverhouse Lake	984
Luce	Belle Lake I	3,280
Luce	Culhane Lake	4,264
Luce	Muskallonge Lake	13,120



## Happy Angler Board



Another successful Muskellunge angler on the Tahquamenon River!



Still some nice Northern Pike out there!

## Fall Walleye Assessments

In the fall of each year, the ELSMU field crew conducts electrofishing surveys on area lakes to investigate survival, growth, and abundance of stocked and wild Walleye. Many area lakes are stocked with Walleye and this type of assessment allows fisheries managers to estimate the success of that given year's cohort (year class strength). In 2015, ELSMU conducted 9 fall index surveys. Below are results from those surveys.



	Number	Avg. Length (inch)	Catch Per Effort (#/mile)
Bodi Lake	10	6.3	5
Gemini Lake	1	7.5	1
Little Lake	38	5.7	25
Muskallonge Lake	5	6.6	1
Pike Lake	62	6.8	31
Grand Marais-West Bay	0	-	0
Milakokia Lake	77	5.4	12
South Manistique Lake	3	5.5	1
Milecoquins Lake	58	6.1	14

## Wild Fish Transfer Project

Roxbury Pond West and East were managed as trout lakes until the early 2000's. In 2014, ELSMU decided to create warmwater fisheries in these ponds using wild fish transfers. In 2014, Roxbury Pond West received 151 adult Bluegills and in 2015 received 124 Bluegills and 48 Largemouth Bass adults. Also as a part of this project, in winter of 2016 habitat improvements will be made by dropping trees along the shoreline which will provide cover structure for juvenile Bluegill and Largemouth Bass. It is hopeful that these species will reproduce in this pond and become self-sustaining. Roxbury Pond East will also receive tree drops and is planned to receive Black Crappie in 2016. This project addresses Goal 2, Objective 2, Strategy 3 of Fisheries Division's Strategic Plan: Charting the Course.



## Au Train Lake Creel

During the 2015 open water fishing season a creel survey was conducted on Au Train Lake, Alger County. When a creel survey is conducted a Fisheries Assistant (Creel Clerk) interacts with the angling public to gather information and biological data. Anglers participating typically share information like length of fishing trip, number and type of fish caught, method of fishing, resident zip code, to name a few. The Creel Clerk will also request to take scale or spine samples from fish caught by the anglers for age determination. All of this information is extremely valuable to fisheries managers across the state and assists in their decision making processes for that particular waterbody and other statewide implications. Creel survey data can be used to calculate angler catch and harvest rates, angler effort, and in some cases value of the fishery. During the survey, a total of 367 parties were interviewed and total angler effort was estimated at 13,073 angler hours in 6,105 trips. July was the most active month for angler activity (31% of total trips). Walleye were targeted the most (43% of all parties) with a total harvest estimate of 398 Walleye. Also, the majority of the Yellow Perch harvested occurred in July and August (95%).



## Trout Trails

Trout Trails is an interactive web application which allows anglers to find a great trout water verified by fisheries biologists across the state. Currently, 3 regions have been identified for anglers to explore; West UP, SW Lower Peninsula, and North Central Lower Peninsula. In 2016, 2 more regions will be added; Central UP and SE Lower Peninsula. Go to [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr), Click on Fishing, then Fishing In Michigan, and find Trout Trails.



*Find your new favorite fishing spot!*

A new year and new roles! In 2015, the Eastern Lake Superior Management Unit experienced some changes in leadership and the hiring of a familiar face. The Fisheries Technician field staff hired Wayne Heinzman who may look familiar. Starting with Fisheries Division in 2008, Wayne was a creel clerk in the Upper Peninsula and Saginaw Bay and then a Fisheries Assistant out of the Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station working on the S.V. Steelhead. Wayne brings an upbeat personality and a smile that never stops. Another in-house change was the promotion of Shawn Sapp to Fisheries Technician Supervisor following the retirement of Chuck Payment. Shawn, a native of Indiana, has worked for Fisheries Division in Newberry since 2003. He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this new leadership role in which he oversees field crew operations and creel clerks across the Upper Peninsula.

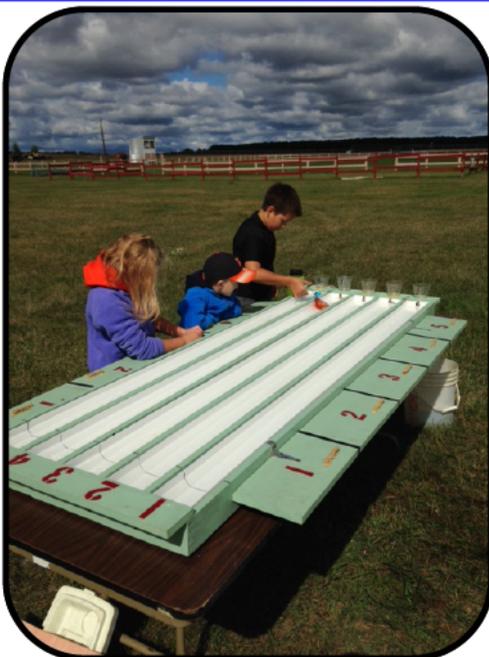


Shawn

Wayne



## Outreach Events



Staff from ELSMU participated in various education and outreach events in 2015. In Fisheries Division's Strategic Plan, increasing public awareness of Michigan's diverse fishing opportunities is an objective under Goal Two: Diverse Fishing Opportunities. Staff worked with local commerce, State Parks, and the Marketing and Outreach Division to promote fishing opportunities in the State of Michigan and educated the public about fisheries biology. Targeting a wide variety of audiences is key in getting our messages out to the public.

## 2015 Survey Summaries

(Some analysis not yet completed. Contact office for additional detailed information.)

### Status and Trends Surveys

#### Brucker Lake

- Captured 2 Yellow Perch and 3 Pumpkinseed Sunfish
- Lake shows signs of frequent winter-kills

#### Panther Lake

- Captured 550 Yellow Perch, 477 Pumpkinseed Sunfish, and 1,375 Black Bullhead
- Yellow Perch averaged 4.6 inches and Pumpkinseed Sunfish averaged 3.9 inches

#### South Branch Betsy River

- Captured 61 Brook Trout ranging from 2-10 inches, average 5.1 inches
- Also collected 7 White Suckers, 17 Longnose Dace, and 9 Mottled Sculpin

#### Chocolay River (year 2 out of 3)

- Brook Trout population estimate calculated at 364/acre
- Captured 47 Brown Trout, 31 Coho Salmon smolts, and 163 Rainbow Trout (steelhead)

#### Rock River (year 2 out of 3)

- Brook Trout population estimate calculated at 399/acre
- Captured 12 Rainbow Trout (steelhead)

#### Tahquamenon River (year 2 out of 3)

- Brook Trout population estimate calculated at 5,648/acre
- Captured 847 Brook Trout of which 43 greater than 7 inches

#### East Branch Fox River (year 2 out of 3)

- Brook Trout population estimate calculated at 3,586/acre
- Captured 157 Brook Trout of which 7 were greater than 7 inches
- Captured 67 Brown Trout of which 3 were greater than 7 inches

### General Surveys

#### East Branch Tahquamenon River

- 10-fish Brook Trout bag limit evaluation study
- Captured 23 Brook Trout, ranged 5-10 inches with an average size of 8 inches

## 2015 Survey Summaries (continued)

### Fox River

- Sampled 3 sites and captured 302 Brook Trout
- Size range 1-19 inches with an average size of 4.5 inches

### Manistique River

- Conducted first survey since 2006 and surveyed 3 locations
- Captured Black Crappie, Brown Trout, Northern Pike, Walleye, Smallmouth Bass, and Yellow Perch
- Also found White Sucker, Longnose Dace, Mimic Shiner, Shorthead and Silver Redhorse

### Bodi Lake

- Spring sample to evaluate Northern Pike population
- Captured 25 Northern Pike and 11 Walleye
- Northern Pike ranged 7-28 inches and averaged 17.5 inches; growth slightly below statewide average

### Blind Sucker Flooding

- Spring sample to evaluate Northern Pike population
- Captured 44 Northern Pike
- Northern Pike ranged 12-25 inches and averaged 21.3 inches; growth well below statewide average

### Deer Lake (Alger County)

- Fish Community Assessment targeting stocked Lake Trout, Rainbow Trout, and Walleye
- Captured 14 Lake Trout, 13 Northern Pike, one Walleye, seven Rainbow Smelt
- Lake Trout surviving well, Rainbow Trout appear to be absent

## Brook Trout Lake Surveys

	Brook Trout Caught	Length Range (inches)	Average Length (inches)	Growth
West Johns Lake	9	14-18	16.3	Good
Syphon Lake	10	9-16	11.5	Good
Addis Lake	14	6-15	9.9	Good
Moon Lake	54	7-15	11.7	Good

## Scheduled surveys to be completed in 2016:

### Lakes

- Clark Lake
- Pretty Lake
- Pike Lake
- Bodi Lake
- Au Train Basin
- Little Lake Harbor
- Grand Marais– West Bay
- Au Train Lake
- Trout Lake (Luce)
- Ward Lake
- Blind Sucker Flooding
- Lake Milakokia
- Nawakwa Lake



Chocolay River survey August 2015.

### Rivers/Streams

- Chocolay River
- Rock River
- Tahquamenon River
- Munuscong Bay-St. Mary's River
- East Branch Fox River
- Little Beaver Creek
- East Branch Tahquamenon River

## Stream Temperature Monitoring

Each year Fisheries Biologists across Michigan place temperature loggers into lakes and streams to capture water temperature trend data. This data helps to understand how stream temperature is impacting fisheries populations. In 2016, six streams will be monitored with temperature loggers.

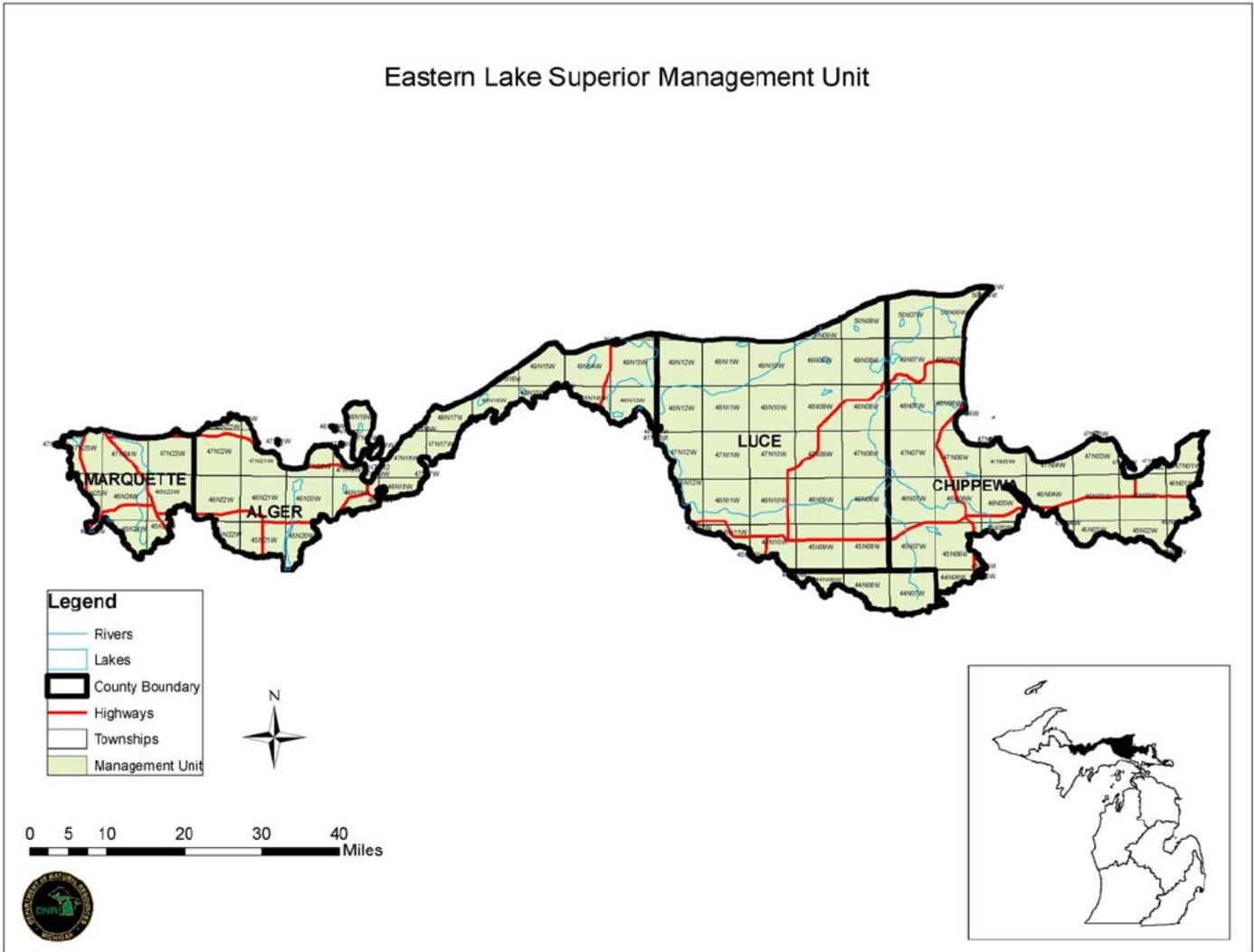


To obtain information on lake or stream surveys from this year or years prior or to ask any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you for reading our 2015-16 newsletter!



### Eastern Lake Superior Management Unit



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906-293-5131

**DNR-Fisheries Biologist**  
Cory Kovacs  
906-293-5131 Ext. 4071

## Fisheries Division Mission

To protect and enhance Michigan's aquatic life and habitats for the benefit of current and future generations.

## Stocking in the Eastern UP: 2015

County	Waterbody	Species	Number	Age	Avg. Length (inches)
Alger	Ackerman Lake	Rainbow Trout (EL)	800	Yearling	6.6
Alger	Addis Lakes (Ponds)	Brook Trout	1,500	Spring Fingerling	2.5
Alger	Anna River	Rainbow Trout (MI)	56,000	Fall Fingerling	3.0
Alger	Au Train River	Brown Trout	1,100	Yearling	6.2
Alger	Bette's Pond*	Brook Trout	450	Fall Fingerling	5.7
Alger	Brians Pond*	Brook Trout	450	Fall Fingerling	5.7
Alger	Cheryl's Pond*	Brook Trout	300	Yearling	8.3
Alger	Cox Pond	Brook Trout	60	Adult	12.5
Alger	Cox Pond	Brook Trout	350	Fall Fingerling	5.7
Alger	Deer Lake	Lake Trout	150	Adult	14.2
Alger	Deer Lake	Rainbow Trout (EL)	5,500	Yearling	6.6
Alger	East Branch Whitefish River*	Brook Trout	1,500	Yearling	8.3
Alger	Grand Marais-West Bay	Walleye	5,355	Spring Fingerling	1.9
Alger	Hike Lake*	Brook Trout	825	Fall Fingerling	5.7
Alger	Indian River (Big)*	Brown Trout	1,100	Yearling	6.2
Alger	Irwin Lake*	Brook Trout	750	Fall Fingerling	5.6
Alger	Kay's Pond*	Brook Trout	450	Fall Fingerling	5.7
Alger	Kingston Lake	Muskellunge	150	Fall Fingerling	9.3
Alger	Lavender Lake	Smallmouth Bass	25	Adult	7.8
Alger	Mirror Lake*	Rainbow Trout (EL)	1,980	Yearling	6.6
Alger	Moccasin Lake	Smallmouth Bass	50	Yearling	11.2
Alger	Munising Bay	Splake	32,700	Yearling	8.8
Alger	Rock Lake*	Brook Trout	1,000	Fall Fingerling	5.7
Alger	Sawaski Pond*	Brook Trout	250	Yearling	8.3
Alger	Sitka Lake	Brook Trout	600	Yearling	7.9
Alger	Skeels Lake	Walleye	3,310	Spring Fingerling	1.8
Alger	Triangle Lake	Walleye	4,000	Spring Fingerling	1.9
Alger	Trueman Lake*	Brook Trout	300	Fall Fingerling	5.7
Alger	West Branch Whitefish River*	Brook Trout	7,000	Yearling	8.1
Alger	West Johns Lake	Brook Trout	720	Fall Fingerling	5.7
Chippewa	Brimley Bay	Walleye	100,305	Spring Fingerling	1.4
Chippewa	Dukes Lake*	Rainbow Trout	300	Adult	11.2
Chippewa	Dukes Lake*	Rainbow Trout (EL)	1,251	Yearling	6.6
Chippewa	High Banks Lake*	Rainbow Trout (EL)	1,782	Yearling	6.6
Chippewa	Naomikong Lake	Brook Trout	400	Fall Fingerling	5.7
Chippewa	Naomikong Pond	Brook Trout	400	Fall Fingerling	5.7
Chippewa	Roxbury Pond West	Bluegill	124	Adult	4.6
Chippewa	Roxbury Pond West	Largemouth Bass	48	Adult	10
Chippewa	St. Marys River*	Atlantic Salmon	73,633	Yearling	5.7
Chippewa	St. Marys River*	Lake Trout	100	Adult	11.1
Chippewa	St. Marys River*	Northern Pike	140	Spring Fingerling	6.6
Chippewa	St. Marys River*	Rainbow Trout	1,540	Adult	11.2
Chippewa	St. Marys River*	Rainbow Trout (MI)	22,000	Yearling	9.1

County	Waterbody	Species	Number	Age	Avg. Length (inches)
Chippewa	St. Marys River*	Walleye	321,255	Spring Fingerling	1.4
Chippewa	Tahquamenon River	Walleye	20,520	Spring Fingerling	1.7
Luce	Beaverhouse Lake	Walleye	984	Spring Fingerling	1.8
Luce	Belle Lake I	Splake	2,800	Yearling	8.5
Luce	Belle Lake I	Walleye	3,280	Spring Fingerling	1.8
Luce	Bodi Lake	Walleye	7,500	Spring Fingerling	1.7
Luce	Brockies Pond	Brook Trout	300	Fall Fingerling	5.7
Luce	Bullhead Lake	Brook Trout	270	Yearling	8.1
Luce	Camp Eight Lake	Rainbow Trout (EL)	2,800	Yearling	6.5
Luce	Culhane Lake	Walleye	4,264	Spring Fingerling	1.8
Luce	Deer Lake	Brook Trout	700	Fall Fingerling	5.7
Luce	Dillingham Lake	Brook Trout	160	Yearling	8.1
Luce	Holland Lake	Brook Trout	350	Fall Fingerling	5.7
Luce	Little Lake Harbor	Walleye	3,000	Spring Fingerling	1.7
Luce	Moon Lake	Brook Trout	1,000	Fall Fingerling	5.7
Luce	Muskallonge Lake	Walleye	13,120	Spring Fingerling	1.8
Luce	North Manistique Lake (Round)*	Walleye	46,000	Spring Fingerling	1.4
Luce	Peanut Lake	Brown Trout	770	Yearling	6.4
Luce	Perch Lake	Splake	3,300	Yearling	8.8
Luce	Pike Lake	Walleye	6,000	Spring Fingerling	1.7
Luce	Pratt Lake	Rainbow Trout (EL)	1,090	Yearling	6.5
Luce	Pretty Lake	Splake	930	Yearling	8.5
Luce	Sid Lake	Brook Trout	600	Fall Fingerling	5.7
Luce	Silver Creek Pond	Brook Trout	1,000	Spring Fingerling	2.5
Luce	Spring Creek Trout Pond*	Brook Trout	600	Fall Fingerling	5.7
Luce	Syphon Lake	Brook Trout	300	Spring Fingerling	1.5
Luce	Tahquamenon River (Falls)	Brown Trout	4,400	Yearling	6.4
Luce	Tank Lake	Splake	1,900	Yearling	8.5
Luce	Teaspoon Creek	Brook Trout	180	Yearling	8.1
Luce	Two Hearted River	Rainbow Trout (MI)	8,850	Yearling	9.0
Luce	Ward Lake	Brook Trout	350	Fall Fingerling	5.7
Luce	West Branch Teaspoon Creek	Brook Trout	270	Yearling	8.1
Luce	Wolverine Lake	Rainbow Trout (EL)	1,000	Fall Fingerling	2.8
Luce	Youngs Lake	Brook Trout	575	Spring Fingerling	2.5
Mackinac	Brevoort Lake*	Walleye	51,262	Spring Fingerling	1.8
Mackinac	Brevoort River*	Rainbow Trout (MI)	8,600	Yearling	8.8
Mackinac	Carp River*	Brown Trout	11,000	Yearling	6.2
Mackinac	Carp River*	Rainbow Trout (MI)	10,000	Yearling	9.1
Mackinac	Castle Rock Pond*	Brook Trout	1,000	Adult	9.1
Mackinac	Castle Rock Pond*	Rainbow Trout	100	Adult	13.2
Mackinac	Castle Rock Pond*	Rainbow Trout (EL)	660	Yearling	6.6
Mackinac	Lake Huron (Hessel)*	Splake	28,000	Yearling	8.2
Mackinac	Lake Michigan (Epoufette Bay)*	Walleye	70,968	Spring Fingerling	1.4
Mackinac	Millecoquins Pond*	Brook Trout	600	Fall Fingerling	5.7

County	Waterbody	Species	Number	Age	Avg. Length (inches)
Mackinac	Millecoquins Lake*	Walleye	25,912	Spring Fingerling	1.8
Mackinac	Millecoquins Lake*	Walleye	32,000	Spring Fingerling	1.5
Mackinac	Nunns Creek*	Chinook salmon	251,012	Spring Fingerling	3.4
Mackinac	Pine River*	Walleye	294,923	Spring Fingerling	1.4
Marquette	Bass Lake (East)*	Walleye	9,500	Spring Fingerling	1.7
Marquette	Bass Lake (West)*	Rainbow Trout (EL)	3,200	Yearling	6.7
Marquette	Big Trout Lake	Rainbow Trout (MI)	2,000	Fall Fingerling	3.0
Marquette	Bryan Creek*	Brook Trout	1,000	Yearling	8.3
Marquette	Escanaba River (Gwinn)*	Brook Trout	6,871	Yearling	8.0
Marquette	Escanaba River (Little West Rd.)*	Brown Trout	8,250	Yearling	6.1
Marquette	Escanaba River*	Brown Trout	24,750	Yearling	6.1
Marquette	Little Lake*	Walleye	13,620	Spring Fingerling	1.7
Marquette	Little Shag Lake*	Rainbow Trout (EL)	3,800	Yearling	6.7
Marquette	Perch Lake*	Rainbow Trout (EL)	1,100	Yearling	6.6
Marquette	Pike Lake*	Walleye	2,610	Spring Fingerling	1.7
Marquette	Silver Lake	Brook Trout	800	Fall Fingerling	5.6
Marquette	South Kidney Lake*	Brook Trout	200	Fall Fingerling	5.6
Marquette	Sporley Lake	Brown Trout	1,100	Yearling	6.2
Marquette	Sporley Lake	Splake	930	Yearling	8.0
Marquette	Strawberry Lake	Brook Trout	750	Yearling	8.3
Marquette	Swanzy Lake*	Brook Trout	600	Yearling	8.0
Schoolcraft	Banana Lake*	Rainbow Trout (EL)	880	Yearling	6.6
Schoolcraft	Bear (19) Lake*	Rainbow Trout (EL)	1,430	Yearling	6.6
Schoolcraft	Big Spring*	Lake Trout	50	Adult	30.5
Schoolcraft	Boot Lake*	Walleye	2,500	Spring Fingerling	1.8
Schoolcraft	Clear Lake*	Walleye	3,000	Spring Fingerling	1.5
Schoolcraft	Driggs River*	Brook Trout	4,410	Yearling	8.1
Schoolcraft	Indian Lake*	Walleye	24,000	Spring Fingerling	1.6
Schoolcraft	Indian River (above lake)*	Brown Trout	3,850	Yearling	6.2
Schoolcraft	Kings Pond*	Brook Trout	600	Fall Fingerling	5.7
Schoolcraft	Lost Lake*	Brook Trout	495	Yearling	7.9
Schoolcraft	Manistique Quarry Lake*	Hybrid Sunfish	1,342	Adult	6.3
Schoolcraft	Manistique Quarry Lake*	Rainbow Trout (EL)	275	Yearling	6.6
Schoolcraft	Manistique River (city)*	Brown Trout	12,000	Yearling	6.0
Schoolcraft	Manistique River (city)*	Chinook Salmon	32,055	Spring Fingerling	3.3
Schoolcraft	Manistique River (city)*	Coho Salmon	19,100	Yearling	5.4
Schoolcraft	Manistique River (city)*	Rainbow Trout (MI)	8,800	Yearling	8.6
Schoolcraft	McKeever Lake*	Muskellunge	210	Fall Fingerling	9.3
Schoolcraft	Middle Branch Stutts Creek*	Brook Trout	800	Yearling	8.0
Schoolcraft	Neds Lake*	Brook Trout	300	Yearling	8.0
Schoolcraft	North Branch Stutts Creek*	Brook Trout	1,000	Yearling	8.0
Schoolcraft	Pete's Lake*	Walleye	4,850	Spring Fingerling	1.7
Schoolcraft	Sand Lake*	Walleye	2,500	Spring Fingerling	1.8
Schoolcraft	Twilight Lake*	Brook Trout	1,200	Yearling	8.0

\* Waters outside of Eastern Lake Superior Management Unit.

This list of stocked waters incorporates State, Federal, Tribal, and private stocking events.