FISH!
Michigan’s Eastern Upper Peninsula

Inland Trout
Walleye
Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass
Muskellunge
Northern Pike
Panfish
A Note About Exotic Species

Before you begin searching this pamphlet for waters containing the fish species you are targeting, please read the following about exotic species in the area.

There are two documented lakes in the Eastern Upper Peninsula that contain exotics. Twin Lake, Luce County, has a burgeoning population of zebra mussels, and East Lake, Luce County, is infested with Eurasian Milfoil.

Please help us prevent the spread of these or any other undocumented exotic species to more waters. Before leaving any lake, 1) please remove all visible aquatic plant material from both the boat and trailer, 2) drain the water from the boat, bilge compartment and live wells, and 3) dispose of any remaining live bait in the trash, NOT in the lake.

Thank you for helping us to protect the natural resources of this state.
INLAND TROUT
Trout have always been considered by many to be one of the top sport fishes in Michigan. Part of this mystique is the solitude, the clean, clear water, the scenic beauty and the challenge of the stalk.

Many thousand hours are spent annually in quest of these fish in District 4; east 1/2 Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac and Schoolcraft Counties. The four species found in the lakes, streams and ponds, of this area, are brook, brown and rainbow trout and splake (brook and lake trout hybrid).

STREAMS
Three species, brook, brown, and steelhead trout, are found in District 4 streams, of which the brook trout are by far the most dominant. These can be taken by a variety of methods: wet or dry flies, nymph (immature insect) patterns, streamers, small spoons, spinners, worms, live insects or insect larvae, small plugs and even small minnows. Small spinners or worms are probably the two most popular methods.

Look for areas that provide good cover such as rocks, logs, stumps, overhanging grass or brush and deep holes. Both species prefer 4-8" of overhead cover near the main part of the current where food items are washed by and where they can dart out to capture food easily.

Use light to medium weight tackle and an extra challenge can be had by using “ultra light” tackle with lines of four pound test or less.

The most productive periods to fish are early evening through late morning. Brown trout generally come out to feed later in the evening and retire to cover earlier in the morning than do brook trout.

Following is a list of the better trout waters. (An asterisk* denotes seasonal runs of steelhead and salmon. A “C” denotes fishable from canoe):
Alger County                         Species
Hurricane River*                  Brook
Seven Mile Creek*                 Brook
Miners River*                    Brook
Mosquito River *                  Brook
Sucker River*                    Brook

Chippewa County                 Species
Ankadosh Creek*                  Brook
Grant Creek                      Brook
Halfaday Creek*                  Brook
Naomikong Creek*                 Brook
Pendills Creek*                  Brook
Pine R, headwaters               Brook
Roxbury Creek*                   Brook
Tahquamenon R, between upper and lower falls Brook
Tahquamenon R, East Br.          Brook
Waiska R, Headwaters             Brook
Waterwheel Creek                 Brook

Luce County                         Species
Two Hearted River *C             Brook
Two Hearted River, Little *      Brook
Tahquamenon River, Above County Rd. 442 Brook

Mackinac County                  Species
Black River*, Headwaters         Brook
Carp River, Headwaters*C         Brook
Cut River*                       Brown
Davenport Creek*                 Brook
Hog Island Creek*                Brook
Little Brevoort River            Brook
Milakokia R, Headwater*          Brook
Millecoquins River, Above Millecoquins Lake Brook
Paquin Creek*                    Brook

Schoolcraft County               Species
Creighton River, Upper           Brook
Driggs River                     Brook
Fox River C                      Brook
Fox River, East Branch C         Brook & Brown
Fox River, Little                Brook
Hickey Creek & Tribs.            Brook
Indian River C                   Brook & Brown
Indian River, Little             Brook
Manistique River below the dam*  Brook
and Headwater Creeks            Brook
Stutts Creek, North Branch      Brook
Thompson Creek*                  Brook

There are many other small tributary streams, too small to mention, that contain fishable populations of brook trout throughout the District.

LAKES AND PONDS
Besides streams there are many small lakes and ponds in District 4 that are managed for trout.

Fishing for trout in lakes is obviously somewhat different than in streams.

The period believed to be best by many anglers in larger lakes is early spring, the first two to three weeks after ice is out, trolling small spinners, spoons or minnow imitation plugs on very light lines (2-6 pound test) at distances up to 150 feet behind a very slow boat at depths less than eight feet. Look for incoming water, (streams or freshets) or some kind of shore outcrop. Casting, satisfying all the above conditions, also produces well at this time.

Later on in the spring trolling and casting in the same manner but at deeper depths produces good results. Flies fished traditionally or trolled are also productive. If fishing is slow try a cowbell spinner or dodger ahead of you lure as an attractor. Fishing at night, with the aid of a light, using live bait and marshmallows on light tackle will also produce some exciting catches from late spring through early summer.

For fall fishing up to ice cover use the same techniques as during spring.

Winter fishing through the ice, on the few trout lakes where it is allowed, can yield very satisfying results on lakes open to winter fishing. Use small baits: wigglers, minnows, worms or cut bait on small jigs or spoons on light line. Normal bluegill tackle works very well. Look for splake in shallow water around springs and creek mouths or just under the ice, rainbow trout
near bottom in 10 to 20 feet depths, and brown trout near bottom in the deepest water available.

Following is a list of managed trout lakes and ponds in the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

**Fishing Regulations Legend**
T -- Designated trout water; open season runs from last Saturday in April through September 30th.
SR -- Special Regulations in effect; check the Trout and Salmon Guide.
ND -- Not Designated, open all year round
NM--Use of motors to propel boats prohibited.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Alger County</strong></th>
<th><strong>Trout</strong></th>
<th><strong>Type</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Big Beaver Lake</td>
<td>ND Rainbow</td>
<td>Splake, Lake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Sable Lake</td>
<td>ND Splake</td>
<td>Splake</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Shoe Lake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highbanks Lake</td>
<td>T Rainbow</td>
<td>Rainbow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Naomikong Lake</td>
<td>T Brook</td>
<td>Brook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Naomikong Pond</td>
<td>T Brook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trout Brook Pond</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Bennett Springs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brockies Pond</td>
<td>T Brook</td>
<td>Brook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp 8 Lake</td>
<td>T, NM Rainbow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dairy Lake</td>
<td>T, NM, SR Brook</td>
<td>Brook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deer Lake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Castle Rock Pond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Millecoquins Pond</td>
<td>T Brook</td>
<td>Brook trout</td>
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<td>Bear Lake</td>
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<td>Dodge Lake</td>
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<td>Splake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dutch Fred Lake</td>
<td>T, SR Brook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Island Lake</td>
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<tr>
<td>King’s Pond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lost Lake</td>
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<td>Brook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ned’s Lake</td>
<td>T, SR Brook</td>
<td>Brook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twilight Lake</td>
<td>T, SR Brook</td>
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**Walleyes** -- the largest member of the perch family -- are probably the most prized and sought after cool-water fish in the Upper Peninsula. This is due to its fine eating quality and the fact that it can be so difficult to catch at times. Because it can be so temperamental, especially during the summer months, it is not one of the best fish for a family fishing vacation. However, with a little know how, they can be taken consistently year-round.
LAKE FISHING
Walleyes are most readily caught during the first few weeks following opening day; at this time they are in shallow water in close proximity to their spawning grounds which are rock-rubble shoals. They will bite during the daylight hours and trolling with a flatfish, rapala or nightcrawler harness works well. In spring trolling is not essential to keep the lure right on bottom as it is at other times of the year. The main ingredient for success in all seasons is to keep moving until you find these schooling fish. Once a fish is caught, then work that area.

During the summer walleye spend most daylight hours in deep water; however, these deep water hideouts have to be near structures such as drop offs, rocky shoals, bars or submerged islands. The best times to fish these deep areas are early morning and early evening. Fishing during midday most often brings little success. For deep water fishing it is essential to fish the bait on bottom. Drifting with bait from shallow areas down into the deep holes seems to work the best. The key to successful hooking, when fishing deep with live bait, is to allow the fish to have free line. Once you feel the bite, then wait a few seconds, slowly retrieve any slack, and finally set the hook. Walleyes are most temperamental in summer and if line resistance is felt, they usually will let go of the bait.

Your chances for success in summer will be greater if you fish the first 1-4 hours after dark. Walleyes move into shallow water shoals and mud flats at night to feed on schools of minnows, crayfish and emerging insects. Casting or fly fishing are good methods, but you have to keep moving until you find the school. These night feeding areas are nearly always very close to drop-offs. When and where available, walleye may be observed surface feeding on insect hatches. Casting a fly or bug, which need not be an imitation, to the exact spot and waiting patiently will almost always result in a strike. Once the cast has been made, leave the fly or bug motionless for as long as one minute if necessary. From mid-September until ice-over, walleye are again in shallow water. Still fishing and drifting with minnows is probably most productive at this time. However, if trolling is preferred, be sure to keep the lure on or immediately next to the bottom.

During the winter walleye are again found in deep water near drop-offs. Minnows on tip ups or slow jigging with a baited lure work well. Sometimes walleye move into very shallow water at night (3-5 feet) and fishing with a jig is productive.

STREAM FISHING
Walleye prefer deep, slow to moderate velocity streams. They lie in deep holes below riffles or faster moving waters. Trolling upstream with a sinking rapala, or spinner bumping bottom works well during the summer months. In spring and fall still fishing with a minnow and slip sinker produces good catches. The fish bite in early morning, evening and at night.

Below is a list of the better walleye waters in the Eastern Upper Peninsula:

**Alger County**
- Beaver Lake
- Kingston Lake
- Nawakwa Lake

**Chippewa County**
- Ashmun Bay, St Marys River
- Brimley Bay
- Caribou Lake
- Carp Lake
- Frenchman’s Lake
- Monocle Lake
- Munuscong Bay, St Marys River
- Potagannissing Bay
- Raber Bay, St Marys River
- Tahquamenon River

**Luce County**
- Bass Lake
- Belle Lake I & II
- Bodi Lake
- Big Manistique Lake
LARGE AND SMALLMOUTH BASS -- the two largest members of the sunfish family *Centrarchidae* -- are highly prized by sport fishermen throughout Michigan. They are a challenge to catch with medium to light weight tackle and have provided many a bluegill fisherman with a memorable and unexpected thrill.

**IDENTIFICATION**
Largemouth can be distinguished from smallmouth by the upper lip. In the largemouth, the lip extends behind the eye when the mouth is closed. In smallmouth the lip extends, at most, to rear of eye. Largemouths have a horizontal black irregular stripe over a generally green background. Smallmouths are generally brownish (or bronze) in color with vertical dark markings.

**FISHING METHODS**
Both bass are voracious feeders and excellent fighters on rod and reel. Largemouths prefer the warmest (80 degrees F) water available, usually near shore around weed beds, stumps, logs, etc. Dusk and night fishing for largemouth is particularly effective on area lakes with noisy surface lures such as jitterbugs, crazy-crawlers, torpedoes with propellers in dark (black) colors. During the day bass may be caught casting rapalas, crank baits, spinners, jigs, rubber worms or still fishing with night crawlers, minnows, crayfish or live frogs. Fish close to structure and fish slowly for largemouth.

The key to finding a smallmouth is to look for rocky outcroppings and gravel and rubble areas near deeper water. The smallmouths’ preferred food is crayfish. They also choose gravel areas for spawning, hence their close association with rock substructures. Similar lures described for
largemouth will also take smallmouth, but they should be smaller in size.

Bass are not as common in Upper Peninsula waters as below the Straits, but there is some good fishing. The following is a list of the better bass waters in the District. Lakes containing smallmouth bass are marked by an asterisk (*)

**Alger County**
Beaver Lake*
Grand Sable Lake*
Kingston Lake -- both

**Chippewa County**
Brimley Bay*
Caribou Lake*
Carp Lake*
Frenchman’s Lake - both
Monocle Lake*
St. Mary’s River*

**Luce County**
Beaverhouse Lake
Belle Lake*
East Lake
Kaks Lake
Long Lake
Big Manistique Lake*
Twin Lakes (1)

**Mackinac County**
Brevoort Lake - both
Epoufette Bay*
Green Island (L. Mich.)*
Kenyon Bay*
Les Cheneaux *
Milakokia Lake - both
South Manistique-both
Millecoquins Lake - both
Millecoquins River - both

**Schoolcraft County**
Bass Lake (Big)
Bass Lake (Little)
Big Island Lake - both (1)
Cookson Lake
Corner Lake*
Grassy Lake
Indian Lake*
Klondyke Lake (1)
McKeever Lake - both
Pete’s Lake*
Triangle Lake - both
Twin Lake

(1) Special Regulations: Artificial lures -- 18” minimum -- 1 fish per day.

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**Northern Pike and Muskellunge**, the two largest members of the pike family (*Esocidae*), are probably two of the most sought after “trophy” fish in Michigan. This is primarily due to their large size and the vigorous battle they put up when hooked. Furthermore, both generally inhabit shallow water and are active feeders throughout the year (which is the opposite of many other species), making them readily available to the angler.

**Identification**
There are three strains of muskellunge found in Michigan: 1) The Great Lakes strain which generally have faint green spots on a light green background.

- **Muskellunge**
- **Northern Pike**

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back ground; 2) the northern or Wisconsin strain which generally have medium green bars on a light green background; and 3) the tiger -- these are a hybrid between a female musky and male pike -- which have distinct green vertical “tiger stripes” on a cream to yellow green background. All three have from dark green to green-bronze backs and creamy white bellies.

Separating pike from muskellunge is easy if you remember that pike possess light colored spots on a dark background and muskellunge have dark spots on a lighter colored background. Also, the pike’s cheeks are fully scaled with the gill covers scaled only in the upper half. In contrast, the cheeks and gill covers of the muskellunge are both scaled only on the upper half.

HABITS
Northern pike and muskellunge are solitary or loners. Pike prefer shallow weedy or stump filled areas while muskellunge prefer to lie along the edges of channels and drop offs. As water temperatures rise above 70 degrees F both species begin to seek deeper waters and may be found as deep as 20 to 40 feet. Fishing for pike and muskellunge is very similar except larger lures are used for muskellunge.

FISHING TIPS
Casting surface plugs, minnow imitation, spinners, spoons or hair-tailed-spinner combinations along the edges of weeds, around stumps, near points and rocky shoals or fallen trees, around brush edges or off the mouths of streams, in the morning and evenings is very productive. As the sun gets higher, try trolling in 6 to 12 feet of water. As the summer wears on, troll large lures, like the rapala, over 12 to 15 feet of water. For muskellunge try trolling with a short line, just as fast as you can without rolling the lure over in the prop wash.

Another popular method that is very productive (especially in the fall) is a large 6-10 inch minnow or sucker below a bobber. concentrate on the same areas as in plug casting and as the sun climbs try drifting along the edges of channels and drop offs in a little deeper water.

When fishing rivers, fish in deep holes below fast runs, bays, sloughs, weeds and brushy channel edges; below bridges and around incoming stream mouths. Both bait casting or minnows produce well. Remember large fish will often live close to cover in waters as little as one foot deep. So, don’t forget to fish the weedy, brush shallows.

Below is a list of the better pike and muskellunge (muskellunge waters noted by an asterisk*) waters in the District.

**Alger County**
- Beaver Lake
- Little Beaver Lake
- Grand Sable Lake
- Nawakwa Lake

**Chippewa County**
- Ashmun Bay
- Brimley Bay
- Caribou Lake
- Carp Lake
- Clark Lake
- Frenchman’s Lake
- Mosquito (Izaak Walton) Bay
- St. Mary’s River - both
- Tahquamenon River*

**Luce County**
- Betsy Lake
- Blind Sucker Flooding
- Bodi Lake
- East Lake
- Kaks Lake
- Muskallonge Lake
- Tahquamenon River*

**Mackinac County**
- Epoufette/Kenyon Bays
- Les Cheneaux Islands Area - both
- Big Manistique Lake
- South Manistique Lake - both
- Milakokia Lake
- Millecoquins Lake
**Schoolcraft County**
Big Island Lake*
Big Island Chain
Crooked Lake
Cusino Lake*
Grassy Lake*
Indian Lake
Ironjaw Lake
McDonald Lake
Ross Lake
Steuben Lake
Triangle Lake

**PANFISH:** Yellow perch, bluegills, sunfish, rock bass and black crappies are the most sought after fish by Michigan anglers. These fish are normally cooperative, scrappy little fighters and good eating while at the same time requiring a minimum of equipment, plus they can be fished year round.

Panfish can be taken in open water by fly fishing, small lures, spoons, spinners or with live bait. Live baits include worms, small minnows, crickets, grasshoppers, leaches, crayfish or cut bait.

In spring and fall, look for the fish around stumps, pilings rock piles, sharp drops, fallen trees and weed beds in shallow water and around similar structures in deeper water in mid-summer.

In the winter, again look for similar structures in deeper water. Perch will be as deep as there is suitable oxygen. Light, simple fishing rods with light lines (the lighter the better) using small jigs, tear drops, files or hooks baited with grubs, small minnows, wigglers (mayfly larvae) and chunks of fish flesh will do the job.

All are either schoolers or at least gregarious so once you locate the, stick with them.
Legend:
BG - Bluegill
SF - Sunfish
YP - Yellow Perch
BC - Black Crappie
RB - Rock Bass

Alger County
Big Beaver Lake (YP, RB)
Grand Sable Lake (YP)

Chippewa County
Brimley Bay (YP)
Caribou Lake (YP, RB)
Carp Lake (YP)
Frenchman’s Lake (BG, YP)

Luce County
Blind sucker Flooding (YP)
Dollarville Flooding (YP)
East Lake (BG)
Kaks Lake (BG)
Muskallonge Lake (YP, RB)
North Manistique (Round) Lake (YP, RB)
Perch Lake (YP)
Tahquamenon River (YP)
Twin Lakes (BG)

Mackinac County
Little Brevoort Lake (BG, YP, BC)
South Manistique Lake (BG, YP)
Garnet Lake (BC)
Big Manistique Lake (YP)
Millecoquins Lake (YP, BG)
Milakokia Lake (YP, RB)
Duel Lake (RB)
Grass Lake (YP)

Schoolcraft County
Bass Lake (BC, YP, RB)
Little Bass Lake (BG, YP, SF, BC)
Big Island Chain (BG)
Colwell Lake (BG, BC)
Cookson Lake (BG, SF, RB)
Crooked Lake (BG, BC, RB, SF)
Dodge Lake (BG)
East Lake (BG)
Indian Lake (YP, RB, BG)
Ironjaw Lake (BC)
Island Lakes (BG)
Leg Lake (BG, SF, BC)
Minerva Lake (BG, SF, YP)
Thunder Lake (BG)
Twin Lake (BG)

St. Mary’s River
Baie De Wasai - Sugar Island (YP)
Brassaw Point - Sugar Island (YP)
Lower Lake George (YP)
Gogomain Bay (YP)
Lake Nicolet (YP)
Munuscong Bay - (YP)
Potagannissing Bay (YP, RB)
Raber Bay (YP, RB)