

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

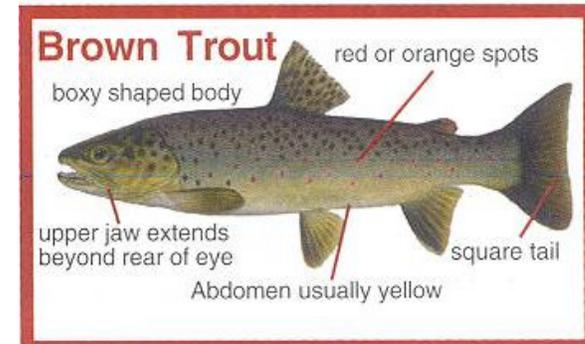
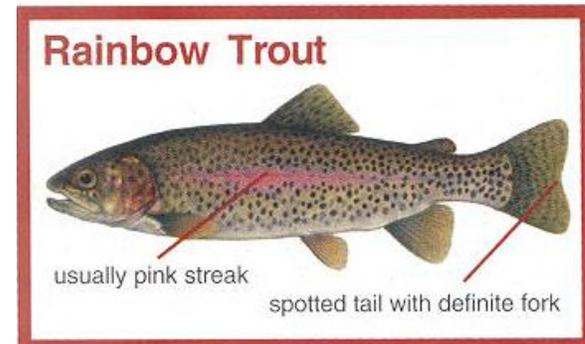
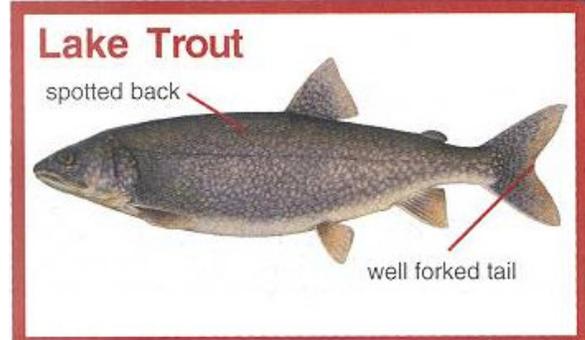
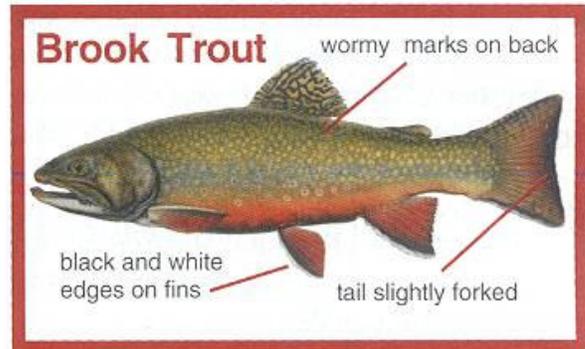
Three species, brook, brown, and steelhead trout, are found in District 4 streams, of which the brook trout are by far the most dominant. These can be taken by a variety of methods: wet or dry flies, nymph (immature insect) patterns, streamers, small spoons, spinners, worms, live insects or insect larvae,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

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.

Alger County	Trout
Big Beaver Lake	ND Rainbow
Grand Sable Lake	ND Splake, Lake
North Shoe Lake	ND Splake

Chippewa County	Trout
Duke's Lake	T Rainbow
Highbanks Lake	T Rainbow
Naomikong Lake	T Brook
Naomikong Pond	T Brook
Trout Brook Pond	T Brook

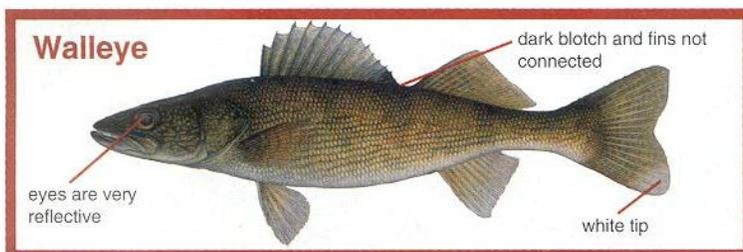
Luce County	Trout
Belle Lake	ND Splake
Bennett Springs	T Brook
Brockies Pond	T Brook
Camp 8 Lake	T, NM Rainbow
Dairy Lake	T Brook
Deer Lake	T, NM, SR Brook

Dillingham Lake	T Brook
Holland Lake	T Brook
Jack Lake	T Brook
Moon Lake	T, SR Brook
Peanut Lake	T, SR Brook
Pratt Lake	T, NM Rainbow
Pretty Lake	T, NM Splake
Sid Lake	T, NM, SR Brook
Silver Creek Pond	T Brook
Spring Creek Pond	T Brook
Syphon Lake	T Brook
Tank Lake	T Splake
Trout Lake	T Brook
Wolverine Lake	T Rainbow
Youngs Lake	T Brook

Mackinac County	Trout
Castle Rock Pond	ND Rainbow
Millecoquins Pond	T Brook trout

Schoolcraft County	Trout
Banana Lake	T Rainbow
Bear Lake	T Rainbow
Dodge Lake	ND Splake
Dutch Fred Lake	T, SR Brook
Island Lake	ND Splake
King's Pond	T Brook
Lost Lake	T Brook
Ned's Lake	T, SR Brook
Twilight Lake	T, SR Brook

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 mid-day 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

Muskallonge Lake
North Manistique Lake
Tahquamenon River (above the Falls)

Mackinac County

Brevoort Lake
South Manistique Lake
Milakokia Lake
Millecoquins Lake

Schoolcraft County

Gemini Lake
Gulliver Lake
Indian Lake
McDonald Lake
Manistique River
Pete's Lake
Steuben Lake
Straits Lake
Thunder Lake

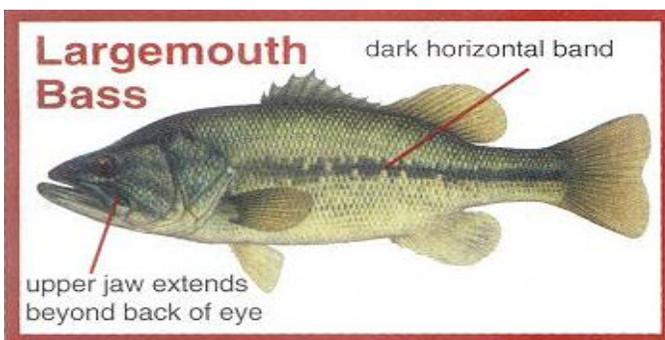
LARGE AND SMALLMOUTH BASS -- the two largest members of the sunfish family **Centrarchidae** -- are highly prized by sport fishermen throughout Michigan. They are a challenge to catch with medium to light weight tackle and have provided many a bluegill fisherman with a memorable and unexpected thrill.

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)

generally have faint green spots on a light green

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

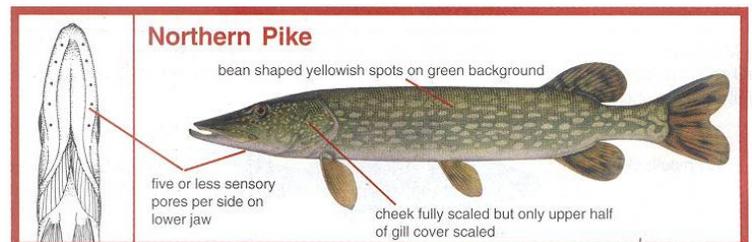
(1) Special Regulations: Artificial lures -- 18" minimum -- 1 fish per day.

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



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

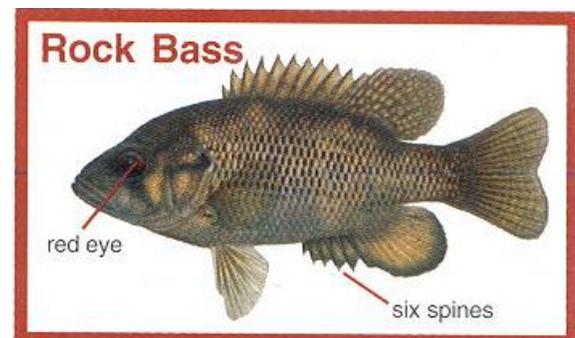
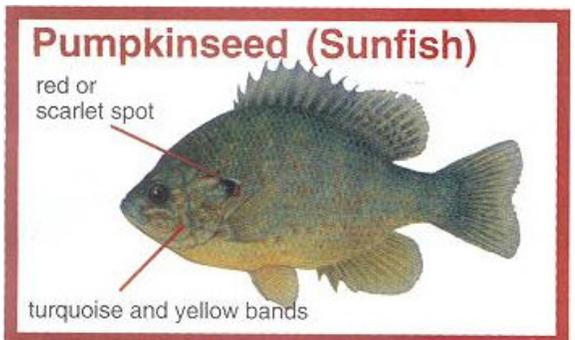
PANFISH: Yellow perch, bluegills, sunfish, rock bass and black crappies are the most sought after fish by Michigan anglers. These fish are normally cooperative, scrappy little fighters and good eating while at the same time requiring a minimum of equipment, plus they can be fished year round.

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)