

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.

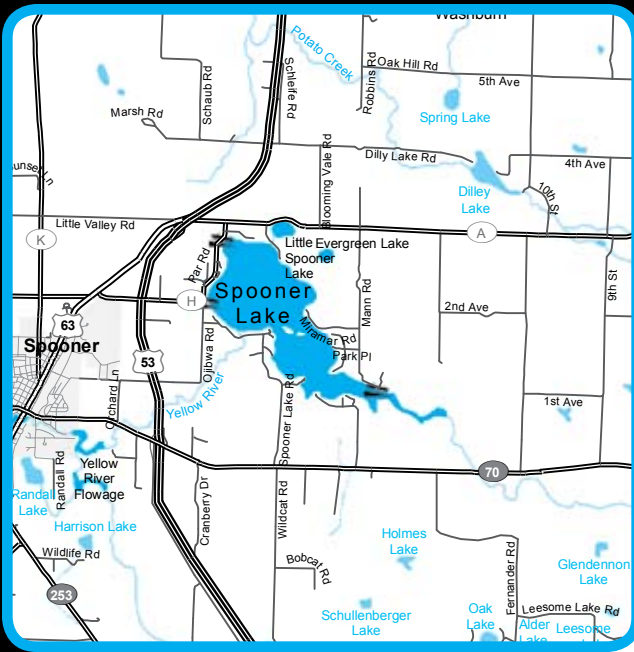
LEGEND

	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						

SPOONER LAKE

Washburn County

Washburn County SPOONER LAKE



Area map page / coordinates: 19/B-4, 19/C-4

Accommodations: resorts

Surface water area: 1,092 acres

Shorelength: 11.2 miles

Maximum depth: 17 feet

Mean depth: 7 feet

Secchi disk (water clarity): NA

Water color: clear

Lake type: drainage

Littoral bottom types: 70% sand, 19% gravel, 1% rubble, 10% muck

Basic management: N pike, walleye, LM bass, SM bass, panfish

Accessibility: 1) Trailer Launch 45° 51' 14" N / 91° 50' 29" W

Accessibility: 2) Trailer Launch 45° 50' 35" N / 91° 50' 41" W

Accessibility: 3) Trailer Launch 45° 49' 40" N / 91° 48' 3" 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
	A	P	C	P				C		A	C	A	A	A	C	C		

A=Abundant C=Common P=Present

FISHING INFORMATION

At nearly 1,100 acres, Spooner Lake is decent-size water. As its name might suggest, it's located just outside the city of Spooner in central Washburn County.

Larry Damman, DNR fisheries manager for Washburn and Burnett counties, said Spooner Lake has "one of the best northern pike populations in the region." It also contains a few walleyes, good numbers of smallish largemouth bass, and about a billion small bluegills and pumpkinseed sunfish.

Guide Pete Mommsen, who works from Spooner Sports, 110 S. River St., Spooner, WI 54801, (715) 635-6500, calls Spooner Lake "a fish factory," because of its high numbers of fish.

"There are bass up the yinyang," says Mommsen, "and the lake is loaded with northerns. I've seen seven northerns over 10 pounds taken out of Spooner in one week."

Winter, however, is the best time to take the pike, as most of the big ones seem to fade away into the deeps during summer months. Use sucker minnows and tipups for good ice action. Northerns can be taken during the spring and summer, though; they're just not as large or as numerous. Good early-season action can be found primarily on the boggy northeast shore. This is a shallow area with a dark bottom, says Mommsen, and it can be fished successfully not only for panfish, but also for early northerns and bass. Use weedless spoons and white #4 or #5 Mepps with hair for the northerns. Spinnerbaits work early for bass.

FISH STOCKING DATA

year	species	length (inches)	# released
96	Northern Pike	Fry	255,000

LENGTH OF SELECTED SPECIES SAMPLED FROM ALL GEAR

Date: 9/25/03

Gear type: Boom Shocker

Number of fish caught for the following length categories (inches):

species	0-5	6-8	9-11	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	>29	Total
Bluegill	342	124	-	-	-	-	-	-	466
Pumpkinseed	6	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
Northern Pike	-	-	-	-	29	32	4	1	66
Largemouth Bass	4	22	35	11	16	-	-	-	88
Pumpkinseed X Bluegill	8	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Black Crappie	2	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	8
Yellow Perch	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
Brown Bullhead	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1

As spring progresses into summer, Spooner Lake "turns into one big weed flat," says Mommsen, so you'll be drifting and casting weedbeds. No one weedy area seems better than another during the dog days. Just pick a weedbed and cast pockets and fingers of clear water. Where there is an opening, chances are there will be a fish. For bass, throw plastic worms and plastic frogs. Weedless spoons are great for northerns.

Kids can have fun catching panfish on worm chunks under a bobber. A lot of sorting will necessary, though, to take home a string of decent-size fish. There are some sunnies in the 8-inch range here, but they'll be very few and far between.

Fishing pressure is heavy on Spooner Lake, particularly from vacationers. Several resorts with rental boats dot the shorelines, and you'll find a lot of water skiers, despite the weeds. Therefore, you'll perhaps want to take the standard advice of fishing early or late in the day. Or of scheduling your visit to Spooner either before or after the peak vacation season.

A good public access is located on the lake's west side, off County Road H. It's a nice setup, with parking for about 10 rigs.

SPONNER LAKE

