# Recreation Opportunity Guide
## Fishing on the Ottawa

Ottawa National Forest
Supervisor's Office

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Over 500 named lakes and nearly 2,000 miles of river and stream await the angler in the Ottawa National Forest. Stream fishing is available throughout the Forest, and lake fishing is concentrated in the southern half of the area. To obtain more detailed fishery information contact Fisheries staff at the above number.

The Ottawa National Forest offers outstanding opportunities for hunting and fishing. These activities are regulated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). ***The information contained in this document is meant to enhance your fishing experience.*** The Michigan Fishing Guide is available wherever fishing licenses are sold.

**WHEN TO FISH:** In the Upper Peninsula, the Michigan trout season runs from the last Saturday in April to September 30. Later seasons are set for bass, walleye, northern pike, and muskellunge. See the MDNR Fishing Guide for exact dates.

Generally, spring (May-June) is the best time for lake fishing on the Ottawa; summer (July-August) is somewhat slower, with fall (September-October) somewhere in between. Stream fishing for lake-run salmon and steelhead usually picks up around April 1 in streams with an extended trout-salmon season, such as the East Branch of the Ontonagon River North of M-28, or those with no closed season, such as the Black River.

The best fishing on these streams starts around mid-September and lasts until the snow flies. Stream fishing for resident trout is generally best near the end of the legal season, especially for brook trout, which start their upstream spawning migration at this time.

**HOW TO FISH:** Walleye and crappie tend to bite under low light conditions (early morning, late evening or on overcast days). Fish for bass, crappie, pike, and panfish near logs, brush, or in weedy areas. In bright sunlight, and after storms or cold snaps, most fish tend to go deeper and are harder to get to bite. Use live bait, and fish deeper and slower under these conditions.

**HERE ARE SOME BAITS YOU MIGHT WANT TO TRY:** ***Walleye*** - live leeches fished on slip-sinker jigs; crawlers on crawler 'harnesses' work well, too. ***Smallmouth Bass*** - twisted tail jigs bounced over rocky drop-offs. ***Largemouth Bass*** - surface plugs, or poppers on warm, calm, summer days. ***Northern Pike*** - bronze and red-white spoons. ***Muskellunge*** - surface plugs. ***Crappie*** - tiny minnows on tiny lead head feathered jigs. ***Yellow Perch & Bluegill*** - tiny feathered jigs with red worm. ***Lake Trout*** - light weight spoons (trolled). ***Brook Trout*** - try spinners, or flies for the skilled fly caster. ***Steelhead & Salmon*** - yarn fly or spawn bags, usually drifted using one or two split-shot. Live bait, although messy, hard to care for, and difficult to fish, generally works best. 'Tough-to-catch' species such as walleye, crappie and smallmouth bass are those that most often require live bait. However, even these species will fall for the right combination of bait and presentation.

**WHERE TO FISH:** Access to the fishing waters of the Ottawa can vary from a paved boat ramp and parking lot to an undeveloped trail. Locations and access provided are denoted on the recreation map.

***Lakes with Forest Service Campgrounds**
****Sylvania (Special Rules Apply)**

**C-Crappie**
**B-Bluegill**
**P-Perch**

**CI – Carry In**
**BL – Boat Launch**
**Size - Acres**

## Lake Fishing

| Lake Name | Size | Depth | Access | Pike | Walleye | Bass | Musky | Trout | Panfish |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **GOGEBIC COUNTY** | | | | | | | | | |
| Albino | 17 | 16 | CI | NP | | | | | |
| Allen | 70 | 40 | BL | NP | W | BA | | | B |
| Banner | 25 | | | | | | | | |
| Barb | 66 | | CI | | | | | T | |
| Bass | 187 | 13 | BL | NP | | BA | M | | C |
| Beaton | 323 | 80 | BL | | W | BA | | T | B, P |
| Big Bateau** | 220 | 34 | | | | BA | | | B |
| Bluebell | 16 | 34 | CI | NP | | | | | |
| Bobcat* | 73 | 15 | BL | NP | | BA | | | C, B |
| Buck | 19 | 20 | CI | NP | | BA | | | P |
| Castle | 28 | 50 | CI | | | | | T | |
| Cisco | 506 | 20 | BL | NP | W | BA | | | B, C |
| Clark** | 820 | 75 | BL | | | BA | | T | |
| Clear** | 38 | 48 | | NP | | | | | P |
| Corey** | 18 | 10 | | | | BA | | | P |
| Cornelia | 14 | 36 | CI | | | | | T | |
| County Line | 62 | 65 | BL | | | BA | | | P |
| Crooked** | 579 | 66 | BL | NP | | BA | | | B |
| Cub** | 28 | 13 | | | | BA | | | P |
| Cyrus | 22 | 26 | CI | | | BA | | | B |
| Dawn | 18 | 62 | CI | | | | | | B, C |
| Deer Island** | 281 | 48 | | | | BA | | | P |
| Devils Head** | 92 | 47 | | | | BA | | | B |
| Dinner | 110 | 25 | BL | | W | BA | | | P |
| Doyle** | 9 | 46 | | | | BA | | | P |
| Dream | 22 | | | NP | | | | | P |
| Duck | 616 | 25 | BL | NP | W | BA | | | C,B |
| East Bear** | 40 | 30 | | | | BA | | | C,B |
| Eel | 44 | 20 | BL | | | BA | M | | C,B |
| Elbow | 20 | 21 | BL | NP | | BA | | | |
| Finger | 60 | 30 | | | | BA | | T | |
| Fisher** | 29 | 31 | | | | BA | | | |
| Florence** | 25 | 22 | | | | | | | P |
| Glimmerglass** | 26 | 10 | | | | BA | | | P |
| Golden Silence** | | | | | | BA | | | P |
| Grass | 52 | 25 | CI | | | BA | | | P |
| Hay** | 14 | 35 | | | | BA | | | P |
| Heart | 175 | 7 | CI | | | | | | P |
| Helen** | 60 | 51 | | | | BA | | | |
| Henry* | 43 | 30 | BL | | | BA | | | B |
| High** | 60 | 95 | | | | BA | | T | P |
| Hiltop | 16 | 56 | | | | BA | | T | |
| Holly | 35 | 13 | | NP | | BA | | | B |
| Honeysuckle | 13 | 22 | | | | BA | | | B,C,P |

| Lake Name | Size | Depth | Access | Pike | Walleye | Bass | Musky | Trout | Panfish |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **GOGEBIC COUNTY (continued)** | | | | | | | | | |
| Imp* | 111 | 80 | BL | | | BA | | T | B |
| Johnson Springs** | 13 | 9 | | NP | | | | | |
| Katherine** | 40 | 55 | | | | BA | | | |
| Kerr** | 8 | 26 | | | | | | | P |
| King | 17 | 42 | CI | | | BA | | | B |
| Kunschke | 15 | 20 | CI | | W | BA | | | B |
| Lac Vieux Desert | 4260 | 38 | BL | NP | W | BA | M | | P |
| Langford* | 470 | 15 | BL | NP | W | BA | | | C, B |
| Little Duck | 41 | 69 | | | | | | T | |
| Little Langford | 14 | 17 | CI | | | BA | | | |
| Little Oxbow | 95 | 85 | BL | NP | W | BA | M | | C, B |
| Little Pomeroy | 28 | 16 | CI | | | BA | | | P |
| Loon** | 358 | 50 | | | | BA | | | P |
| Long | 168 | 51 | BL | | W | BA | | | P |
| Marion* | 317 | 40 | | NP | W | BA | | | B,P |
| Marsh** | 65 | 24 | | | | BA | | | P |
| Mastadon | 13 | 24 | | NP | | | | | |
| Mink | 63 | 6 | CI | NP | | | | | P |
| Mishike | 13 | 30 | CI | | | | | T | |
| Misty | 13 | 48 | | | | BA | | | |
| Moon | 93 | 40 | | | | BA | | T | P |
| Moraine | 77 | 22 | BL | NP | W | BA | M | | C, B |
| Moosehead* | 43 | 27 | BL | NP | | BA | | | C, B |
| Mountain** | 100 | 39 | | | | BA | | | P |
| Orchard | 10 | | | NP | | | | | |
| Ormes | 49 | 65 | BL | | W | BA | | | P |
| Plymouth | 26 | 15 | CI | | | | | T | |
| Pomeroy* | 303 | 15 | BL | NP | W | BA | M | | C, B |
| Presque Isle, Little | 87 | 20 | BL | NP | | BA | M | | C, B |
| Presque Isle Flowage | 65 | 10 | BL | NP | | | M | | C, B |
| Queen | 5 | 56 | CI | | | BA | | | |
| Range | 17 | 26 | CI | | | BA | | | B, P |
| Redboat | 24 | 31 | BL | | | | | T | |
| Scout | 24 | 15 | CI | | W | BA | | | B |
| Snap Jack** | 48 | 62 | | | | BA | | | P |
| Sucker | 439 | 20 | | | | | | | P |
| Summit | 24 | 31 | CI | | | BA | | | P |
| Sun | 31 | 30 | CI | | | BA | | | P |
| Taylor | 110 | 41 | BL | | | BA | | | P |
| Thrush | 17 | 20 | BL | | | BA | | | P |
| Thousand Island | 1078 | | | NP | W | BA | M | | B, C, P |
| Trapper** | 16 | 55 | | | | | | | P |
| West Bear** | 56 | 20 | | | | BA | | | B |
| Whitefish** | 500 | 51 | | NP | W | BA | | | P |

| Lake Name | Size | Depth | Access | Pike | Walleye | Bass | Musky | Trout | Panfish |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **HOUGHTON COUNTY** | | | | | | | | | |
| Bob* | 133 | 15 | BL | | W | BA | | | P |
| Echo | 45 | 41 | CI | | W | BA | | | P |
| Estes | 22 | 54 | CI | | | BA | | | B |
| Hager | 37 | 13 | CI | | | BA | | T | |
| Irish | 12 | 39 | CI | | | BA | | | B |
| Kunze | 13 | 51 | CI | | | | | | |
| Lake-On-Three | 25 | 39 | CI | NP | | BA | | T | P |
| Lower Dam | 17 | 20 | CI | | | | | T | |
| Markey | 51 | 69 | CI | | | BA | | | |
| Penegor | 10 | 55 | CI | | | | | T | |
| Pequet | 13 | 75 | CI | | | BA | | | P |
| Saunder | 8 | 22 | CI | | | BA | | | B |
| **IRON COUNTY** | | | | | | | | | |
| Bass | 96 | 8 | BL | NP | | BA | | | B |
| Bela | 70 | 8 | | | | BA | | | |
| Bennan | 56 | 18 | Hike | | | | | | P |
| Brule | 250 | 20 | BL | NP | W | BA | M | | P |
| East Paint | 225 | 5 | | NP | | BA | M | | P |
| Golden* | 285 | 100 | BL | | | BA | | T | P |
| Hagerman | 584 | 54 | BL | NP | W | BA | | | P |
| Hannah-Webb | 64 | 35 | BL | | | | | T | |
| James | 217 | 15 | BL | NP | | BA | | | |
| Killdeer | 8 | 45 | BL | | | | | T | |
| Little Smokey | 78 | 20 | BL | NP | | BA | | | P |
| Mallard | 318 | 5 | CI | | | | | | P |
| Mitigwaki | 256 | 10 | | NP | | BA | | | P |
| Norway* | 53 | 20 | BL | | W | BA | | | P |
| Ottawa* | 551 | 90 | BL | NP | W | BA | | | P |
| Paint | 332 | 15 | | NP | | BA | M | | P |
| Perch* | 994 | 14 | BL | NP | W | | | | B,C, P |
| St. Kathryn* | 151 | 25 | BL | NP | W | BA | | | P |
| Tepee* | 115 | 40 | BL | NP | | BA | | | B |
| Winslow | 255 | 25 | BL | NP | | BA | | | B |
| **ONTONAGON COUNTY** | | | | | | | | | |
| Bond Falls | 2118 | 80 | BL | NP | W | BA | | | C |
| Courtney* | 33 | 34 | BL | | | | | T | |
| Deadman | 46 | 35 | BL | NP | | | | | P |
| Erickson | 12 | 49 | CI | | | BA | | | P |
| Gogebic | 14782 | | BL | NP | W | BA | | | |
| Prickett | 775 | | BL | NP | W | BA | | | B |
| Six-Mile | 66 | 13 | CI | NP | W | BA | | | P |
| Steusser | 34 | 53 | BL | NP | | BA | | | B, C |
| Sudden | 42 | 15 | BL | NP | W | | | | P |
| Victoria | 260 | 74 | BL | | W | BA | | | |

# STREAM FISHING

| Stream Name | Brook Trout | Rainbow Trout | Brown Trout | Steelhead Trout | Lake Trout | Salmon | Small-Mouth Bass | Walleye |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **GOGEBIC COUNTY** | | | | | | | | |
| Black River | B | R | BN | ST | LT | SL | | |
| Bluff Creek | B | | | | | | | |
| Deadman Creek | B | | | | | | | |
| Duck Creek | B | | BN | | | | | |
| E. Branch Presque Isle | B | | BN | | | | | |
| Gaylord Creek | B | | | | | | | |
| Imp Creek | B | | | | | | | |
| Little Presque | B | | | | | | | |
| Marathon Creek | B | | | | | | | |
| McGinty Creek | B | | | | | | | |
| Mid. Br. Ontonagon | B | R | BN | ST | | | SM | W |
| Montreal | | | BN | ST | | | | |
| Morrison Creek | B | R | | | | | | |
| Pelton Creek | B | | | | | | | |
| Presque Isle River | B | | BN | ST | | SL | SM | |
| Tamarack River | B | | BN | | | | | |
| Slate River | B | | | | | | SM | W |
| Wellington Creek | B | | | | | | | |
| **HOUGHTON COUNTY** | | | | | | | | |
| Silver River | B | | BN | | | | | |
| Sturgeon River | | | BN | ST | | | | |
| West Branch Sturgeon | B | | BN | ST | | | | |
| West Firesteel | B | | BN | ST | | | | |
| **IRON COUNTY** | | | | | | | | |
| Brule River | B | | BN | | | | | |
| Bush Creek | B | | | | | | | |
| Cooks Run | B | | BN | | | | | |
| Defiance Creek | B | | | | | | | |
| Golden Creek | B | | | | | | | |
| Iron River | B | | | | | | | |
| Ketchum Creek | B | | | | | | | |
| N. Branch Paint | B | | | | | | | |
| Pendleton Creek | B | | | | | | | |
| Silver Creek | B | | | | | | | |
| South Branch Paint | B | R | BN | | | | | |
| 33-Creek | B | | | | | | | |
| **ONTONAGON COUNTY** | | | | | | | | |
| Cascade Creek | B | | | | | | | |
| Cisco Br. Ontonagon | B | | | | | | | |
| East Br. Ontonagon | B | R | BN | ST | | SL | SM | W |
| Lambert Creek | B | | | | | | | |
| Leveque Creek | B | | | | | | | |
| Middle Br. Ontonagon | B | R | BN | ST | | | SM | W |
| Newholm Creek | B | | | ST | | | | |
| Sandhill Creek | B | | | | | | | |
| Scott & Howe Creek | B | | | | | | | |
| Sucker Creek | B | | | | | | | |
| Two Mile Creek | B | R | | | | | | |
| West Br. Ontonagon | | | | | | | SM | W |

**Please be sure you are familiar with all rules and regulations related to fees, seasons, species, and licensing by obtaining a Michigan Fishing Guide**

Ottawa National Forest information is available in large print upon request from the Forest Supervisor's Office in Ironwood, Michigan. (906) 932-1330, TTY (906) 932-1301.

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