



# Recreation Opportunity Guide

## Fishing on the Ottawa



O.T.T.A.W.A.  
NATIONAL FOREST

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Ottawa National Forest  
Supervisor's Office

E6248 US Hwy. 2  
Ironwood, MI 49938

Phone: 906-932-1330  
TTY: 906-932-0301  
[www.fs.fed.us/r9/ottawa](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ottawa)

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.

**T**he 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 upstream 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-Panfish  
 Size - Acres

CI – Carry In  
 BL – Boat Launch

**Lake Fishing**

Lake Name	Size	Depth	Access	Pike	Walleye	Bass	Musky	Trout	Panfish
<b>GOGEBIC COUNTY</b>									
Albino	17	16	CI	NP					
Allen	70	40	BL	NP	W	BA			B
Banner									
Barb	66		CI					T	
Bass	187	13	BL	NP		BA	M		C
Beaton	323	80	BL					T	P
Big Bateau**	220	34				BA			B
Bluebill				NP					
Bobcat*	73	15	BL	NP		BA			C, B
Buck	19	20	CI	NP		BA			P
Castle	28	50	CI					T	
Cisco				NP	W	BA			B
Clark**	820	75	BL			BA		T	
Clear**	38	48		NP					P
Corey**	18	10				BA			P
Cornelia								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								T	
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				NP					P
Duck	616	25	BL	NP	W	BA			C,B
East Bear**	40	30				BA			C,B
Eel	44	20	BL	NP		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						BA			P
Imp*	111	80	BL					T	P
Indian (Cisco Chain)	93	15		NP	W				P
Johnson Springs**	13			NP					
Kathrine**	40	55				BA			
Kerr**	8	26							P
King	17	42				BA			B
Kunschke					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				NP	W	BA	M		C, B
Little Pomeroy						BA			P
Loon**	358	50				BA			P
Long	168	51	BL		W	BA			P
Marion*	317	40			W	BA	M		P
Marsh**	65	24				BA			P
Mastadon				NP					
Mink	63	6	CI	NP					P
Mishike	13	30	CI					T	
Misty						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				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				NP		BA	M		C, B
Presque Isle Flowage	65	10	BL	NP	W				C, B
Queen						BA			
Range						BA			B
Redboat	24	31	BL					T	
Scout	24	15	CI		W	BA			B
Snap Jack**	48	62				BA			P
Sucker									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				NP	W	BA	M		B
Trapper**	16								P
West Bear**	56	20				BA			B

### HOUGHTON COUNTY

Bob*	133	15	BL		W				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						T	
Markey	51	69	CI			BA			
Penegor	10	55	CI					T	
Pequet	13	75	CI			BA			P
Saunder	8	22	CI			BA			B
Whitefish**	500	51		NP	W	BA			P

<b>IRON COUNTY</b>									
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		BL					T	
Little Smokey	78	20	BL	NP		BA			P
Mallard	318	5	CI						P
Mitigawki	256	10		NP		BA			P
Norway*			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				C, Perch
St. Kathryn*	151	25	BL	NP	W	BA			P
Tepee*	115	40	BL	NP		BA			B
Winslow	255	25	BL	NP		BA			B

<b>ONTONAGON COUNTY</b>									
Barr						BA			P
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				NP	W	BA			
Prickett	775		BL	NP	W	BA			B
Six-Mile	66	13	CI	NP	W	BA			P
Robbins Pond*								T	
Steusser	34	53	BL	NP		BA			
Sudden	42	15	BL	NP	W				
Tanlund								T	
Victoria	260	74	BL		W	BA			

### STREAM FISHING

<b>Stream Name</b>	<b>Brook Trout</b>	<b>Rainbow Trout</b>	<b>Brown Trout</b>	<b>Steelhead Trout</b>	<b>Lake Trout</b>	<b>Salmon</b>	<b>Small-Mouth Bass</b>	<b>Walleye</b>
<b>GOGEBIC COUNTY</b>								
Black River	B	R	BN	ST	LT	SL		
Bluff Creek	B	R						
Deadman Creek	B							
Duck Creek	B		BN					
E. Branch Preaque 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		
Tamarack River	B		BN					
Slate River	B						SM	W
Wellington Creek	B							

<b>HOUGHTON COUNTY</b>								
Silver River	B		BN					
Sturgeon River			BN	ST				
West Branch Sturgeon	B		BN	ST				
West Firesteel	B		BN	ST				
<b>IRON COUNTY</b>								
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							
<b>ONTONAGON COUNTY</b>								
Cascade Creek	B							
Cisco Br. Ontonagon	B							
East Br. Ontonagon	B	R	BN	ST		SL	SM	W
Labert Creek	B							
Leveque Creek	B							
Middle Br. Ontonagon	B	R	BN				SM	W
Newholm Creek	B							
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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