



Loon Lake

General:

Loon Lake is located 4 miles west of M65 about 2 miles north of Hale. The lake is 417 acres in size and has a maximum depth of 128'. Only 17% of the lake is less than 15 ft. deep. Therefore, vegetation is not a problem in this lake. The bottom of the shoals is gravel, sand, marl and fibrous peat. The shoal drops off steeply. The deeper bottom is mostly pulpy peat. The immediate shoreline is beach, brush and swamp with mostly sand or gravel along the shoreline. The lake is mostly developed with cottages. There is a small-unpaved access site with a small parking area located on the extreme east end of the lake at the Hale/Plainfield Twp. Park. Access is somewhat limited for a lake of this size.

Because of its depth, attempts have been made in the past to manage the lake as a rainbow trout two-story lake. Survival was always poor. Stocking was discontinued.

Loon Lake has been managed as a walleye lake since the early 90's.

Walleye Stocking History:

1991	2,600 FF Walleye	
1992	34,540 SF Walleye-Ohio	
1993	18,620 SF Walleye-Muskegon	
1995	10,500 FF Walleye Muskegon	
1999	40,050 SF Walleye-Tittabawassee	Age-0

SF- spring fingerling FF- fall fingerling

Survey Results:

The Serns index was conducted on September 22, 1999. The crew launched at the Church Camp and shocked the entire shoreline (3.5 mi.) in a counter -clockwise direction (6700 seconds). The conditions were excellent, clear skies, calm lake and excellent visibility. An actual 300 YOY walleye were collected, and an additional 96 were observed but not netted. Therefore, 396 total were present. The YOY walleye ranged from 6.9-8.9 inches. This would give us Serns of 113 per mile indicating an excellent year-class and good survival and growth of planted fish. No walleye of any other year classes were collected or observed.

Other species observed included northern pike, smallmouth bass up to 18 inches, largemouth up to 18 inches, white suckers, small yellow perch, bluegill, pumpkinseed sunfish, bullheads, log perch, abundant minnows, and a mudpuppy.

No angler reports were available.

Management:

1. Continue management for walleye. Serns suggests excellent survival of the 1999 year-class. Status of the adult population remains a mystery.
2. Conduct a netting survey in the future to assess the total walleye population and status of the other species present. First appearances indicate good bass and fair panfish populations.
3. Continue to work to secure additional public access.



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