

Crystal Lake DNR Boat Launch



Fish Species

Lake Trout; Rainbow Trout

Species Description

Crystal Lake is annually stocked with approximately 20,000 rainbow trout and 60,000 lake trout, and has excellent fisheries for both species. The lake trout can exceed 20 lbs, while the rainbows can exceed ten lbs. Crystal Lake also hosts a self-sustaining population of coho salmon, which can reach five to six lbs. Other popular species present in Crystal Lake include smallmouth bass, yellow perch, rock bass, northern pike, and burbot, lake whitefish, and rainbow smelt.

Geographic Coordinates

Lat:44.6365 / Long:-86.12733

Noteworthy

Crystal Lake is a very large (10,000 acres) inland lake in close proximity to Lake Michigan, so it is often subjected to heavy winds and can be dangerous to fish under those conditions. In the summer, most anglers fish Crystal Lake by trolling with Great Lakes techniques, including downriggers, divers, leadcore lines, etc. Lures used usually include spoons and plugs, although cowbells also take lake trout. Vertical jigging with jigging spoons or large twister tails can also be productive for the lakers. Ice fishing is also very popular on this lake. Lake trout are typically caught through the ice by jigging with jigging spoons, or by fishing tip ups baited with smelt, grey shiners, or blue shiners. The rainbow trout are targeted by ice anglers near creek mouths, and are usually caught on spawn or minnows. The Crystal Lake public access site is administered by the Department of Natural Resources. The site has a paved boat launch with parking for 25 vehicles with trailers. It also offers pit toilets. Shore fishing opportunities at this site are very limited.

Fishing Regulations

Crystal Lake is designated a Type E trout lake. Please refer to the Inland Trout and Salmon Lake Regulations in the current Michigan Fishing Guide.

Directions to Site

From Benzonia: Take M-115 west out of Benzonia, and proceed for 1.75 miles. Turn right (north) on Mollineaux Rd., and the entry to the DNR access site will be on the right.

From Frankfort at the M-115 and M-22 intersection, take M-115 west for 4.8 miles. Turn left (north) onto Mollineaux Road, and the entry to