



A
Fishing Map
of

CRYSTAL LAKE

(Peterborough County)



Lake Trout

Description and Habits: A cold water member of the char family. While the colour scheme can vary, the fish usually has a dark grey colour with dappled white spots on a dark background. The tail is deeply forked. These fish grow slowly and do not reach maturity until they reach 6-8 years of age. They spawn over rocky shoals from October to November. The diet of an adult fish consists mostly of smelt, alewife, ciscoe or phytoplankton.

Lake Trout Seasonal Movement

The preferred water temperature for this fish is about 50° F./10° C. In the spring (after ice-out) trout can be found in the shallows at 10' or more feeding on baitfish. As the water begins to warm, they begin a movement to deeper water. By summer after the water has stratified thermally, adult trout will move to or just below the thermocline to feed on suspended baitfish. As the water cools in the fall, trout make their way towards their spawning areas (Oct./Nov.) over windswept gravelly shorelines or shoals. In winter after the ice has covered the lake the water temperature tends to be more uniform throughout the lake and trout can be found in a variety of depths.



Walleye

Description and Habits: This cool water member of the perch family that has an olive green with golden fleck colouration. The lower portion of the caudal (tail) fin is white. The cheeks are not scaled. Its light sensitive eyes are large and glassy. It spawns over rocky rubble in the early spring along windswept shores, shoals and river beds. They feed on baitfish, insects, worms and crayfish.

A Quick and Safe Release

Reel in the fish as quickly as possible. If possible keep the fish in water during hook removal.

Use needle nose pliers. Never tear out the hook. Avoid contact with fish eye sockets and gills. Don't let the fish flop around. Its scales and body slime are needed to protect it from disease.

If the hook is embedded too deeply, cut the line as close as possible to the hook and leave it in.

To revive a fish hold it upright and move it slowly back and forth so that water can pass through its gills. Release it when it can swim away under its own steam.

Getting There

From Toronto: Take Hwy. 401 east to the junction with Hwy. 35/115 (just past Bowmanville). Follow Hwy. 35/115 to the junction. Continue north along Hwy. 35 to the junction with Hwy. 7 (just south of Lindsay). Turn right and follow Hwy. 7 east for several kilometres to the junction with County Rd. 36. Turn left and follow County Rd. 36 to Bobcaygeon. Continue along County Rd. 36 to the junction with County Rd. 45. Follow County Rd. 45 north until you reach County Road 121. Continue along County Rd. 121 north to Crystal Lake Road. Turn right and follow the road to the lake.

Major Fish Species: Lake Trout, Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, Whitefish

Public Boat Launch: See "Directions from Toronto". Follow Crystal Lake Road for approx. 11 km. A sand/gravel based launch is on your left hand side. Limited parking at the site. No fee (at the time of field check). There are also a couple of private marinas on the lake with launches.

There is a slot size in effect for lake trout. A kept fish must be less than 40 cm. (15.7") or greater than 55 cm. (21.7"). You may only use one line when fishing through the ice. You can fish for walleye, lake trout and whitefish during the ice fishing season.

Be sure to check the Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary for annual updates before heading out.

Volunteer Angler Cards: In order to assist the M.N.R. biologists monitor fish populations and develop better management strategies, please fill out the V.A. Cards (available at bait & tackle shops, the M.N.R. office and other supporting businesses). These cards record information on dates, times, lakes fished and the lengths of lake trout caught if any etc.

For Accommodations
Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 147 Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0
1-800-461-7677

Buckhorn District Tourist Assoc.
1-705-657-3288

Nearby Bait & Tackle Shops
Kelly's Bait & Tackle - Crystal Lake Road



Smallmouth Bass

Description and Habits: Smallmouth bass are cool water member of the sunfish family. This bass is brownish green with dark vertical bars on its sides. Their colours can change somewhat based on habitat features. Unlike the largemouth, the upper jaw does not extend past its eye. Smallmouth bass eat primarily crayfish, baitfish and insects.

Smallmouth Bass Seasonal Movements

After the males have finished guarding their nests and the females have recuperated from the spawn, these fish will leave the spawning sites and begin actively feeding.

The general movement is away from their spawning areas towards their summer feeding locations. These areas can be shallow or deep depending largely upon the locations of their forage base. Smallies can be found cruising along shallow shorelines, points or deep weed lines. They can graze over the top of or along shoals, reefs, underwater humps and saddles. On occasion they can suspend in deep water just off of various pieces of structure.

Towards the end of the summer smallmouth start to move towards their fall locations and eventual wintering areas. During this period they put the feed bag so as to survive the dormant winter months. They begin to group up more so than in the summer usually around structure that has access to deeper water.

Smallmouth Bass Tackle

Use a medium to medium heavy action 6' - 6 1/2' graphite rod mounted with a good quality spinning reel loaded with 8lb test line

Protecting Fall Smallmouth Bass

In the fall, smallmouth bass will school up tightly and in larger numbers in the same areas as years previous. These fish are highly vulnerable at this time of year. You should consider releasing these fish to protect the longer term viability of the species and give our children something to fish for in the future.

Ontario Fishing Regulations

Regulations may change from year to year and it is your responsibility to know them before fishing your favourite water. For information on fishing licenses, seasons, sanctuaries, catch and possession limits, slot sizes etc. consult the Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary available at most bait & tackle shops, resorts and the local office of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Ministry of Natural Resources

Hwy. 35 North P.O. Box 820
Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0
1-705-286-1521

Report A Poacher

1-800-222-TIPS

Looking For Other Maps?

For a complete list of fishing maps and order forms, include a stamped self addressed envelope and mail to:

Adventure Fishing Maps
P.O. Box 255
Bridgford, ON
K0L 1H0
1-705-292-6175
www.adventurefishingmaps.on.ca