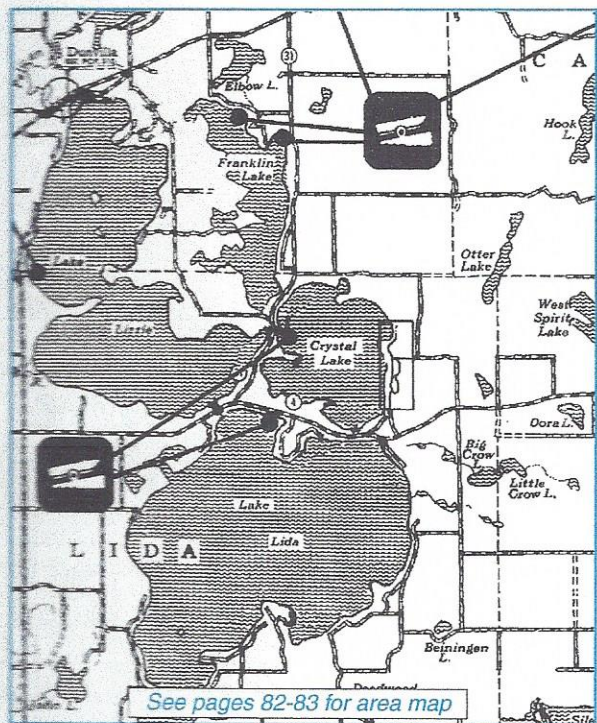


CRYSTAL LAKE

Otter Tail County



Location: Township 136

Range 42

Watershed: Otter Tail

Surface water area: 1,317 acres

Shorelength: 7.9 miles

Secchi disk (water clarity): 8.4 ft.

Water color: Light green

Cause of water color: Algae

bloom

Maximum depth: 55 ft.

Median depth: 20 ft.

Accessibility: State-owned public access on west shore, off County Road #31

Boat ramp: Concrete

Accommodations: None

Shoreland zoning classification: Recreational development

Dominant forest/soil type: Deciduous/sand

Management class: Walleye-centrarchid

Ecological type: Centrarchid-walleye

FISH STOCKING DATA

year	species	size	# released
02	Walleye	fry	674,000
03	Walleye	fingerlings	1,500
04	Walleye	fry	674,000
06	Walleye	fry	674,000

NET CATCH DATA

Date: 07/31/2006

species	Gill Nets		Trap Nets	
	# per net	avg. fish weight (lbs.)	# per net	avg. fish weight (lbs.)
Black Bullhead	0.1	1.18	-	-
Black Crappie	0.6	0.17	0.3	0.37
Bluegill	10.4	0.17	44.8	0.16
Bowfin (Dogfish)	-	-	1.2	4.5
Brown Bullhead	0.8	1.63	0.3	1.17
Green Sunfish	-	-	0.3	0.1
Hybrid Sunfish	0.6	0.31	6.7	0.22
Largemouth Bass	1.8	1.28	0.3	2.96
Northern Pike	13.5	1.44	1.1	1.6
Pumpkin. Sunfish	0.8	0.23	5.8	0.22
Painted Turtle	-	-	-	-
Rock Bass	0.7	0.42	1.5	0.34
Smallmouth Bass	-	-	0.8	0.2
Walleye	5.4	1.83	0.2	3.82
White Sucker	0.1	3.2	0.3	2.92
Yellow Bullhead	2.3	1.12	1.8	1.12
Yellow Perch	0.8	0.1	0.3	0.09

LENGTH OF SELECTED SPECIES SAMPLED FROM ALL GEAR

Number of fish caught for the following length categories (inches):

species	0-5	6-8	9-11	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	>30	Total
Black Bullhead	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Black Crappie	6	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	11
Bluegill	367	291	-	-	-	-	-	-	658
Brown Bullhead	-	-	1	9	3	-	-	-	13
Green Sunfish	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Hybrid Sunfish	32	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	87
Largemouth Bass	-	-	8	10	5	-	-	-	24
Northern Pike	-	-	3	12	113	37	8	2	175
Pumpkin. Sunfish	22	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	79
Rock Bass	4	18	4	-	-	-	-	-	26
Smallmouth Bass	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Walleye	-	-	-	13	43	9	2	-	67
Yellow Bullhead	-	1	10	38	1	-	-	-	50
Yellow Perch	9	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	12

FISHING INFORMATION: Crystal Lake is located northeast of Pelican Rapids among bigger, more popular fishing lakes. But anglers who want to catch nice walleyes and northerns will be making a mistake if they pass it up, for the fishing can be very good. Crystal is managed for walleyes by the DNR, which has been stocking it regularly with fry. The three big points (the north, south, and west ends) on this 1,317-acre lake are all productive in the spring. So are some of the quick offshore breaks such as those you'll find at the north end. There are also several exceptional humps: two at midlake and another in the southeast corner. Use a bottom rig and shiner minnow at these spots in the spring. That's where you'll find old marble-eyes feeding, and you can take him by starting about 10 to 15 feet down and retrieving upwards. Spring northerns will be cruising the outer edges of the weeds waiting to gobble forage fish. Work the flats, giving special attention to the southeast corner. Trolling with spoons is the best way to work the flats most of the season except during those bright, summer days when northerns (and walleyes) suspend deep in the holes. The lake is full of bluegills that you can take with worms on a bare hook or a jig in the spring. Use a slip bobber in deeper water later on, testing for the right depth. There are some largemouths and a few smallmouths in Crystal. They'll be in the weeds early, of course, and, with persistence and good technique, you can haul some in.