



Muskegon Lake
Fisheries Resource Summary, June 1, 2015
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Resource Characteristics

There are 108 inland lakes larger than 1,000 surface acres in Michigan. Muskegon Lake is 4,232 acres in size, and is part of the Great Lakes coastal wetlands. Approximately 1,200 acres of Muskegon Lake and associated wetlands have been filled and converted to land. Additional fill (wood waste) also covers substantial bottom areas of the lake and dredging for boating and commercial interests also occurs.

Primary Resource Concerns

Fisheries habitat protection and restoration, and maintaining and improving public access

Angler-Use and Economic Value

The 108 inland lakes in Michigan larger than 1,000 acres provide more angler-use than all of our Great Lakes waters in Michigan. Of the 108 large inland lakes in Michigan, Muskegon Lake ranks at or near the top of the list in angler-use per acre and harvest rates of fish. Muskegon Lake has very diverse fisheries.

	<u>Angler-Days/Year</u>	<u>Annual Economic Value</u>
Muskegon Lake (2002-2003)	45,819	\$1.3 million
Muskegon Port (1994, 2010, 2011) Lake Michigan including charters	24,044	\$0.9 million
Lower Muskegon River (1999-2005)		
Croton Dam to Muskegon Lake	88,828	\$2.6 million

These estimates of value to the local economy are considered conservative since they do not include night and off-season fisheries. Angler surveys were conducted by Fisheries Division and dollar estimates were based on \$39/angler-day (Lake Michigan) and \$29/angler-day (inland waters) from the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (U.S. Fish & Wildlife 2001).

Special Fisheries

Walleye – largest spawning population in Lake Michigan south of Green Bay
Chinook salmon – greatest amount of natural reproduction in Lake Michigan
Steelhead - very high catch rates compared to other Michigan streams
Lake Sturgeon – originally very abundant with remnant population in restoration phase
Yellow Perch – Good fisheries and important production of young for Lake Michigan
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass – heavily used by anglers including tournaments



Others – northern pike, panfish, white bass, channel and flathead catfish