



2010 Fishing Forecast

West Branch Lake



Portage County
2,642 Acres- unlimited horsepower

Compared to Other Inland Lakes and Reservoirs

Species	FISH POPULATION STATUS			Stocked	Anglers Seeking(%)
	Overall Numbers	This size or Larger	Largest Sampled		
Largemouth Bass	Poor	12"	15.0"	<input type="checkbox"/>	14.2
Crappie	Good	8"	12.3"	<input type="checkbox"/>	10.1
Walleye	Poor	15"	30.0"	<input type="checkbox"/>	23.7
Channel Catfish	Good	16"	28.9"	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.4
Sunfish	Poor	6"	7.0"	<input type="checkbox"/>	4.3
White Bass	Fair	9"	15.5"	<input type="checkbox"/>	1.0
Muskie	Excellent	30"	49.25"	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7.3

Largemouth Bass

OUTLOOK: FAIR

Largemouth bass were sampled by electrofishing during spring 2007. Approximately 21% of the bass sampled were 12" and longer. Only about 3% of those fish also attained 15" or longer.

Crappie

OUTLOOK: EXCELLENT

Black and white crappie were sampled during fall 2008 trap-net surveys. Black crappie comprised 61% of the catch, with 30% of the fish reaching 8" and 4% of them attaining 10". Fifty-nine percent of white crappie measured 8", with 24% of the fish reaching 10". Seven percent of these white crappie were 12" or longer. NOTE: There will be a 9" length limit and daily bag limit of 30 crappie at this lake in 2010.

Walleye

OUTLOOK: FAIR

Walleye have not been stocked here since 1989. However, walleye have been reproducing at this lake since that time, although it appears to be at a low level. The Division of Wildlife will begin to reintroduce walleye fingerlings once again in 2010. We sampled slightly more than 2 young-of-year (6" to 9") walleye per hour during fall 2009 electrofishing, which is below a satisfactory rate of 30 walleye per hour.

Channel Catfish

OUTLOOK: GOOD

Channel catfish were also sampled during fall 2009 gill-net surveys. Nearly 86% of a comparatively small sample of catfish (28) measured at least 16", with 29% of them making it to 24". About 7% of the catfish were 28" or longer!

Sunfish

OUTLOOK POOR

Sunfish were sampled during 2007 spring electrofishing surveys. Approximately 7% of the bluegill sunfish sampled measured at least 6".

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White Bass

OUTLOOK: GOOD

White bass were also sampled during fall 2009 gill-netting surveys. Relatively small (16) numbers of fish were sampled. Forty-four percent of fish sampled measured 9"+, while 6% of the fish also measured 12" and longer. More than 6% of the fish were at least 15"!

Muskie

OUTLOOK: EXCELLENT

A total of 394 muskies were reported caught (as of February 18, 2010) through the 2009 Muskie Angler Log, with a 99.7% release rate! An impressive 58 fish were reported that were at least 42".

NOTES:

Wheelchair accessible shoreline fishing facilities are available.