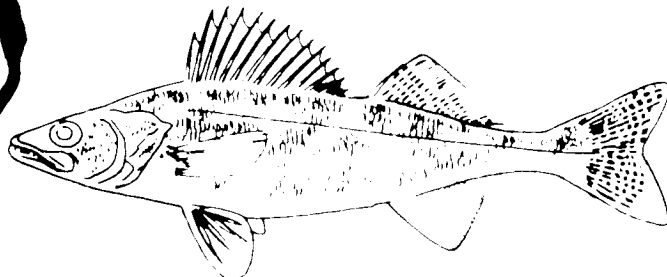
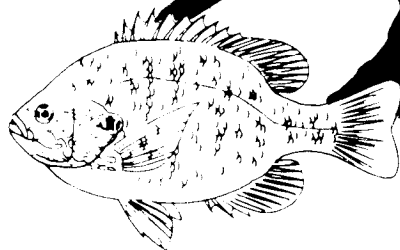
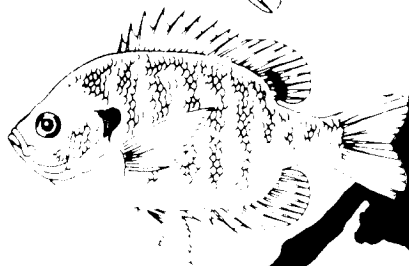
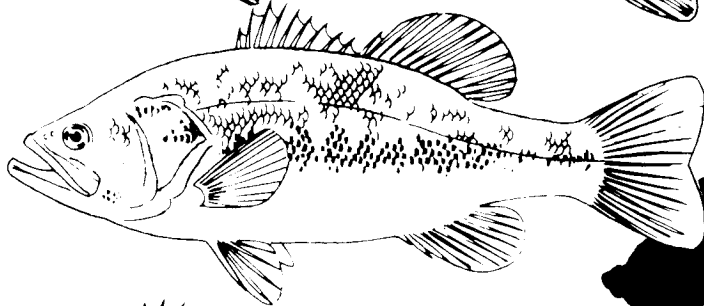
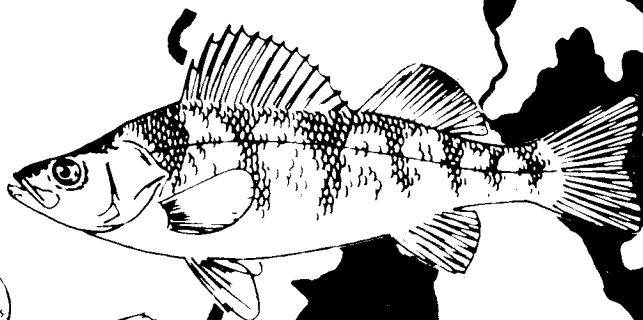
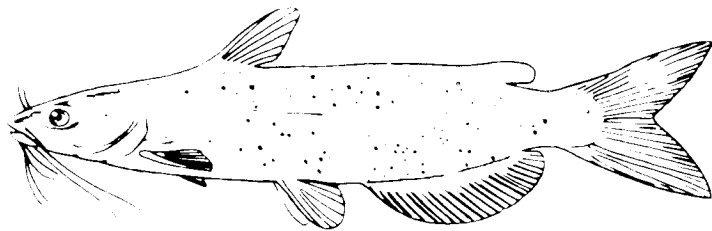
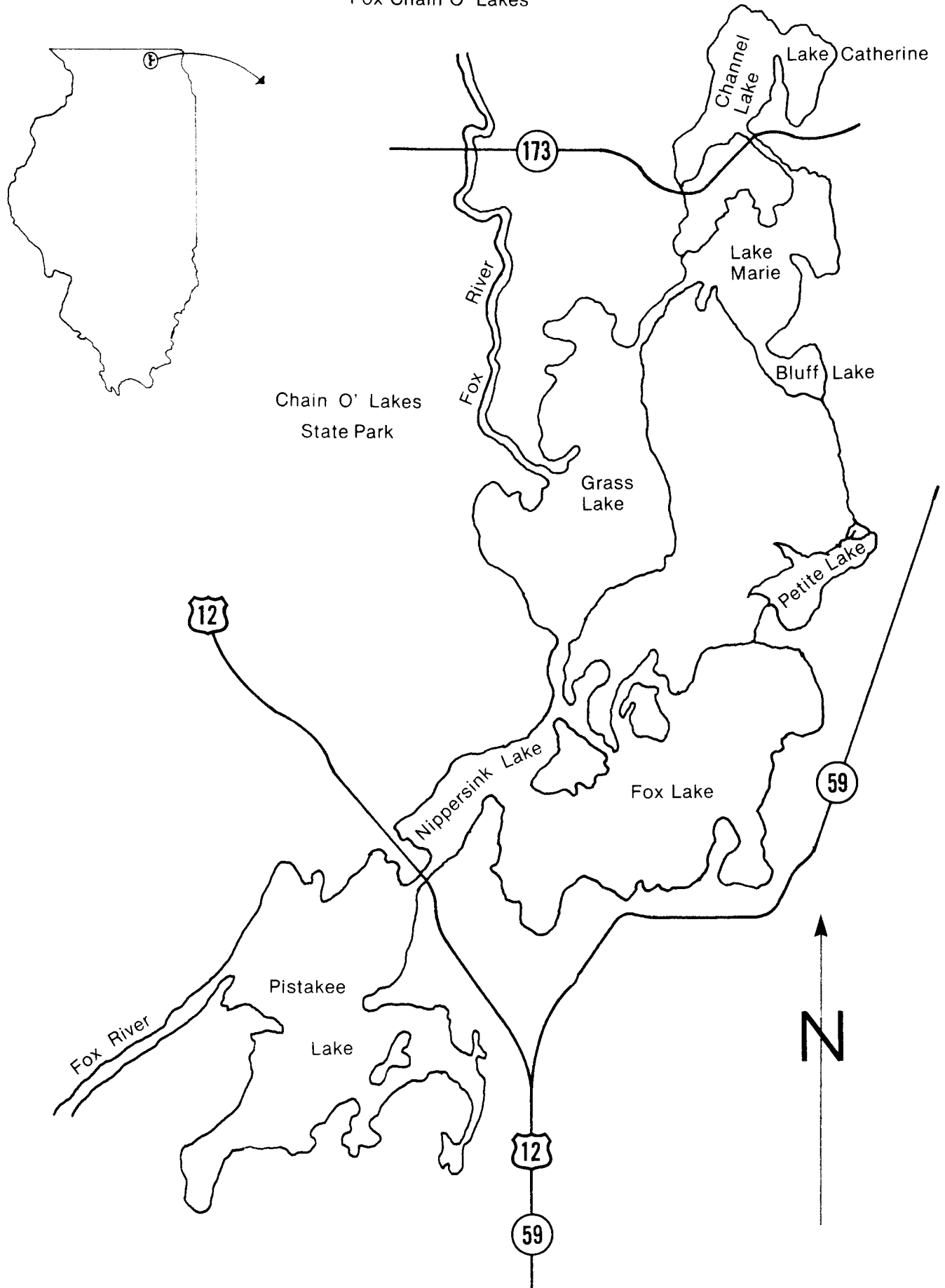


# FOX CHAIN O' LAKES ACCESS AREAS AND FISHING GUIDE



**Illinois**  
Department of  
Natural Resources

Fox Chain O' Lakes



# FOX CHAIN O' LAKES ACCESS AREAS AND FISHING GUIDE

by  
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Revised 1999

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## INTRODUCTION

### HISTORY:

Inching along ever so slowly, the massive sheet of ice had been purposely and relentlessly grinding, gouging and rearranging the landscape for 68,000 years. Everything in its path was either encapsulated or destroyed by the crushing force. The weight of the ice crushed and gouged the earth's surface leaving behind basins or depressions. Then tens of thousands of years ago, the Wisconsin Glacier hit a snag, and the area's weather began to warm, and the ice began to recede northward. Tremendous quantities of melt water, called the Fox River Torrent, swept southward accomplishing a rapid down-cutting of the valley. Today, remnants of this tremendous river torrent exist; the largest became the Mississippi River, and another is our Fox River. The continued glacial recession northward resulted in melted waters filling previously created basins, thus Lake Michigan. In addition, large chunks of stagnant ice broke off and were buried in the upper basin, which upon melting formed what is now the Fox Chain O' Lakes.

Evidence of man's presence (the Mound Builders) has been found which puts him in the area

about 1,000 years after the glacier retreated. From 4,000 B.C. various tribes of Indians arrived and departed from the area. Tribes such as the Fox, Sioux, and Potawatomi hunted and fished in this region.

According to recorded history, Jean Nicolet was the first white man to enter the region and to have contact with the Indians. He is supposed to have arrived by canoe in 1635, via Mackinac, Green Bay and the Fox River.

Spanish, French, and British kings debated over the territory for several centuries. In 1778, the territory became subject to Virginia's laws. In 1782, the U.S. Government subjected the territory to its laws, and in 1787 it became part of the Northwest Territory by Act of Congress. In 1818, the young state of Illinois became the governing factor, and in 1838 Lake County was established, initiated rule and thus ended a long line of varying governmental dominance.

By 1900, railroad service was completed to the village of Fox Lake. Tourists' boats were now operating on the Fox Chain O' Lakes with the highlight being Grass Lake with its spectacular American lotus beds.

In 1900, a Waterway Association was formed,

which by 1907 had gained approval from the federal government to construct a dam across the Fox River to the south of the Fox Chain O' Lakes. In conjunction with construction of a dam, excavation of channels between lakes was planned. By 1911, the only lakes not interconnected were Bluff and Petite, but soon this was completed and in so doing created Spring Lake, which previously had been a small, isolated pond called Mud Lake.

Fishing had become a favorite sport among the local residents and tourists. The connecting channels gave the fisherman a lot of mobility and access to different fishing waters. As the Chain entered its teens, fish were abundant in the lakes. "Hot spots" were plentiful, and all you had to do was anchor around one of them to catch your self-imposed limit.

## **PRESENT:**

Located approximately fifty miles northwest of Chicago on Illinois Routes 173 and 12 near the towns of Antioch and Fox Lake, the 7109.8 acre Fox Chain O' Lakes is the largest single, inland, water orientated, recreational asset in Northeastern Illinois, attested to by a U.S. Coast Guard usage figure of 60,000 people on an average summer weekend. These ranks are swelled on the major holiday weekends to well over 100,000 people.

Easy accessibility to one of the nation's largest metropolitan areas has continued to multiply the importance of the Fox Chain O' Lakes. In addition to the existence of some hotels, motels, and resorts with cottages in the immediate vicinity of the Chain, there are numerous marinas, restaurants, pubs, bait and tackle stores. The fact that the major economic influence of this area hinges upon the recreational value of the lakes in the Chain is readily apparent. The Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission in one of its reports attests that, "there is no area in the six counties with greater potential for meeting the varied recreation needs of the metropolitan area than the Chain of Lakes. . .".

The rapid expansion of usage of the lakes, coupled with the intensive development of the adjacent lands has brought about widespread concern for the quality of the water in the Chain and the possible degeneration in quality of the fish and fishing.

During the 1960's and 1970's pollution problems peaked stemming from enrichment particularly in the form of nitrates and inorganic phosphates introduced from agricultural drainage, sewage effluents and other sources. The enrichment triggered tremendous blooms of planktonic algae, which gave the lakes a bright green appearance by mid-summer. Once the algae exceeded its carrying capacity and outran its food supply, it began to die. Here is where the problems begin, as the dying algae plants often release a bright turquoise pigment and give off a septic odor. Needless to say, both of these conditions sometimes drastically curtail water contact activities, such as swimming and water-skiing, cover and stain the bottoms of boats and foul shorelines, and in some years caused limited fish kills due to a reduction in dissolved oxygen.

However, water quality has greatly improved due to good environmental management practices in the 1980's and 1990's. Construction of housing, which displaced wetland areas essential as biological filters and as fish spawning and rearing areas, has ceased because of federal, state and local legislation. In addition, governmental agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have assisted in controlling pollutants which are introduced into the Fox River Basin.

## **FUTURE:**

With continued public support and governmental regulation, the future of the Fox Chain O' Lakes looks bright. Stocking programs, concentrating on the maintenance and development of walleye, muskellunge, and largemouth bass population have been sustained by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. All in all, if anyone was to ask a fishery biologist where one of the best places to go fishing was in northern Illinois, he would have to recommend the Fox Chain. It still produces over forty species of fish in sizes and numbers desirable to and sought after by anglers.

## **REGULATIONS**

Since the Fox Chain O' Lakes is classified as a public navigable waterway and managed under the authority of the Department of Natural Resources and Fox Waterway Agency, all state boating, hunting, and fishing regulations are applicable and enforced. In addition, the Fox Waterway Agency requires an annual user fee for watercraft (boaters). Further information can be obtained by contacting: Fox Waterway Management Agency, 45 S. Pistakee Lake Rd., P.O. Box 451, Fox Lake, Illinois 60020 (847/587-8540).

**Site specific fishing regulations have been established on the Fox Chain O' Lakes. These special size and creel limit regulations are posted at most access areas and apply to the Fox Chain O' Lake proper and that portion of the Fox River from the Illinois-Wisconsin state line south to McHenry Dam. Anglers should become familiar with these regulations and carry some device for measuring fish length whenever fishing the Fox Chain O' Lakes.**

A comprehensive listing of regulations may be obtained where fishing licenses are sold or by writing to: Department of Natural Resource, Division of Fisheries, Lincoln Tower Plaza, 524 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706 or telephone 815/675-2319.

## **SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE YOUR FISHING TRIP MORE ENJOYABLE AND SUCCESSFUL**

Fishing is a sport enjoyed by people of all ages and walks of life. A recent survey by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources indicated that fishing ranked third as a recreational pursuit. In order to be a successful fisherman, one must expend some time and effort to learn and understand the behavior and habits of various fish, the types of bait and tackle to use, and when, where, and how to fish for them. As the old saying goes, "Ten percent of the fishermen catch ninety percent of the fish". Hence, all fishermen must learn to be patient if they expect to consistently catch fish.

Safety should be given a great deal of consideration, particularly when boat fishing. Make a checklist

to ensure you have all of your equipment and check to see if it is in proper working order. Use only certified life saving gear. Don't overload your boat or run it at high speeds in unfamiliar areas. Be courteous to your neighbors and give assistance where needed. Common sense is the key to a safe enjoyable trip.

## MANAGEMENT

Illinois Department of Natural Resources fishery biologists will occasionally tag fish in an effort to obtain information on growth rates, movements, mortalities and population size. Should you have the experience of catching a tagged fish, please provide the following information to our Regional Fisheries Office, Spring Grove; 815/675-2385: Species of fish, total length, weight, tag number, tag color, date caught, where caught, your name and telephone number.

## SPECIAL MAIL-IN MUSKIE CREEL SURVEY

The Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Muskie Alliance are co-sponsoring a mail-in Muskie Creel Survey for anglers catching any size muskie. Successful anglers should complete one of the postage-paid mail-in cards as soon as possible following the catch. Mail-in cards are available at the site office, concession stand, at most local bait and tackle stores, or by contacting the Department of Natural Resources office at 815/675-2385.

## CHANNEL LAKE:

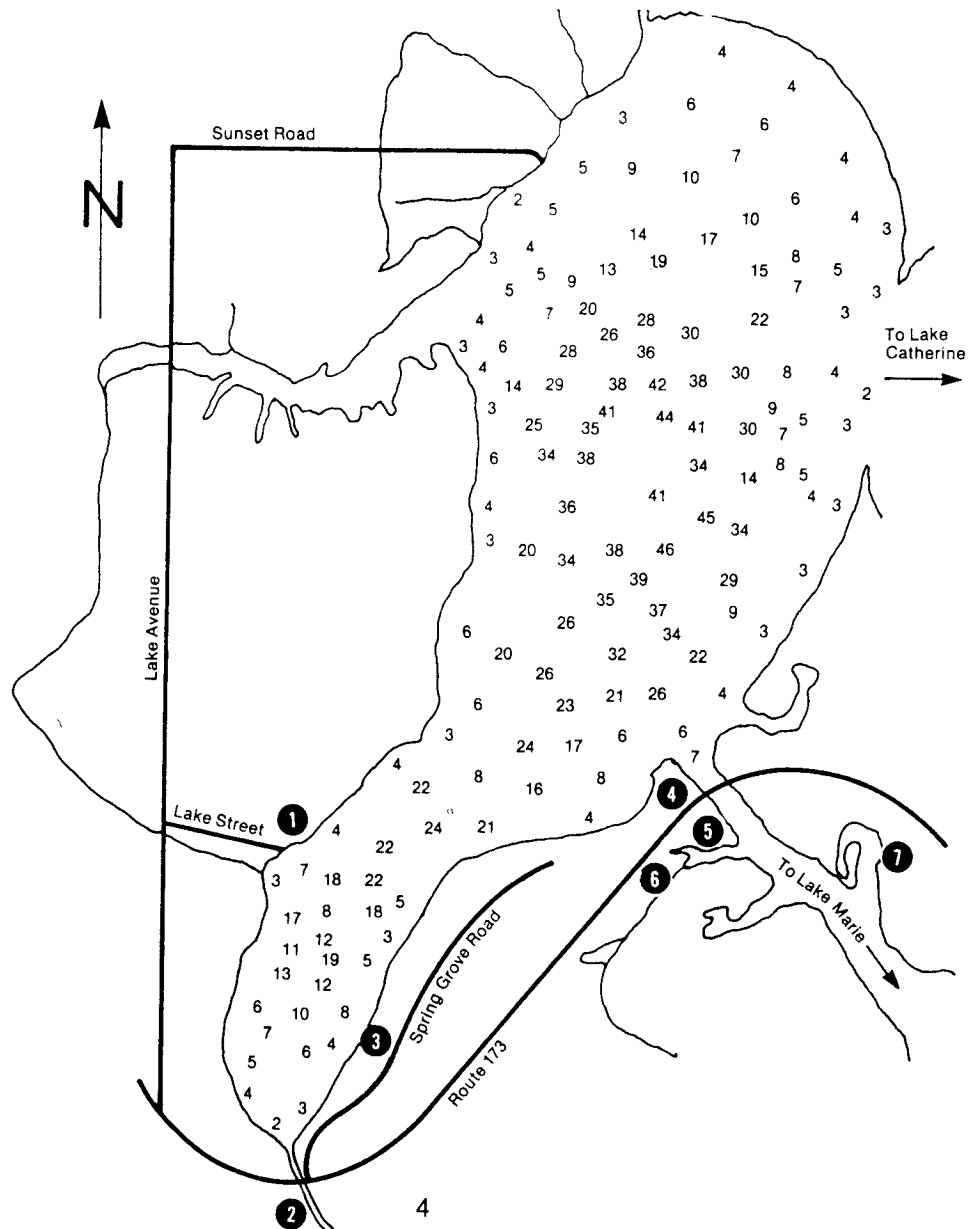
T46N, R9E, Section 1, 2, 11, 12, 14; Surface Area = 348.5 acres; Maximum Depth = 38.0 feet; Watershed = 3,600.0 acres; Shoreline Length = 3.6 miles, also 2.4 miles of channels. The water level was raised 5.0 feet by construction of the existing McHenry Dam in 1939.

Channel Lake lies just north of Illinois Route 173 and about one mile east of the Fox River. Together with Lake Catherine it is the deepest and northernmost lake in the complex known as the Fox Chain. Much of the shoreline is subdivided (70 percent) or in resort ownership. Direct access is available through eight boat liveries and resorts. Free boat access is available at Chain O' Lakes State Park on Grass Lake. No less than 30 species of fish occur in the lake. The most abundant species are: yellow perch, pumpkinseed, largemouth bass, bluegill, and channel catfish. Black crappie, walleye, and northern pike are moderately abundant. Carp and suckers do not appear to be very abundant in Channel Lake, which is probably due to the physical makeup of the lake bottom and the relative clarity of the water. This lake has a reputation as being one of the best areas for ice fishing in northeastern Illinois. In the summer months, largemouth bass, bluegill, and channel catfish dominate the catch.

CHANNEL LAKE	ACCESS AREA	SHORELINE ACCESS	BANK FISHING	ICE FISHING ACCESS	LAUNCHING RAMP	PARKING AREA	BOAT & MOTOR RENTAL	DOCKAGE OR SLIPS	GASOLINE-OIL	REPAIR SERVICE	WINTER STORAGE	PICNIC AREA	CAMPING	BAIT	SWIMMING	FOOD	LIQUOR	LODGING	REMARKS
1	McDermitt's Resort 42311 Woodbine Antioch, IL 847-395-4704	400 Ft. 4 Acres	Fee	X	Fee	100 Cars	Boats Only	X				Fee		X	X	X	X		
2	The Spot 26375 West Rt. 173 Antioch, IL 847-395-1707	300 Ft. 2.5 Acres		X		75 Cars										X	X		
3	Parrot's Cove 26083 West Spring Grove Rd. Antioch, IL 847-838-9886	400 Ft. 3.0 Acres		X	Fee	75 Cars		X	X						X	X		X	
4	Mentone's 25836 West Antioch, IL 847-395-4550	250 Yd. 2.0 Acres		X	Fee	100 Cars		X								X	X		

	ACCESS AREA	SHORELINE ACCESS	BANK FISHING	ICE FISHING ACCESS	LAUNCHING RAMP	PARKING AREA	BOAT & MOTOR RENTAL	DOCKAGE OR SLIPS	GASOLINE-OIL REPAIR SERVICE	WINTER STORAGE	PICNIC AREA	CAMPING	BAIT	SWIMMING	FOOD	LIQUOR	LODGING	REMARKS	
5	Webb's Marina 25837 W. Rt. 173 Antioch, IL 847-395-2217	200 Yd.  2.0 Acres			Fee	100 Cars			X	X	X								
6	Float in Park 25855 W. Rt. 173 Antioch, IL	400 Yd.  80.0 Acres	Fee		Fee	75 Cars		X			Fee	Fee							
7	Storm Harbour Marine 25605 W. Rt. 173 Antioch, IL 847-838-4150	250 Yd.  9.0 Acres			Fee	70 Cars		X		X	Boat Customers Only	Boat Slip Customers Only				X			

## CHANNEL LAKE



## LAKE CATHERINE:

T46N, R9E, Section 1, 12; Surface Area = 149.5 acres; Maximum Depth = 40.0 feet; Watershed = 3,600.0 acres; Shoreline Length = 2.0 miles, also 0.7 miles of channels. Fox River dam at McHenry built in 1939 gave this glacial lake its present depth.

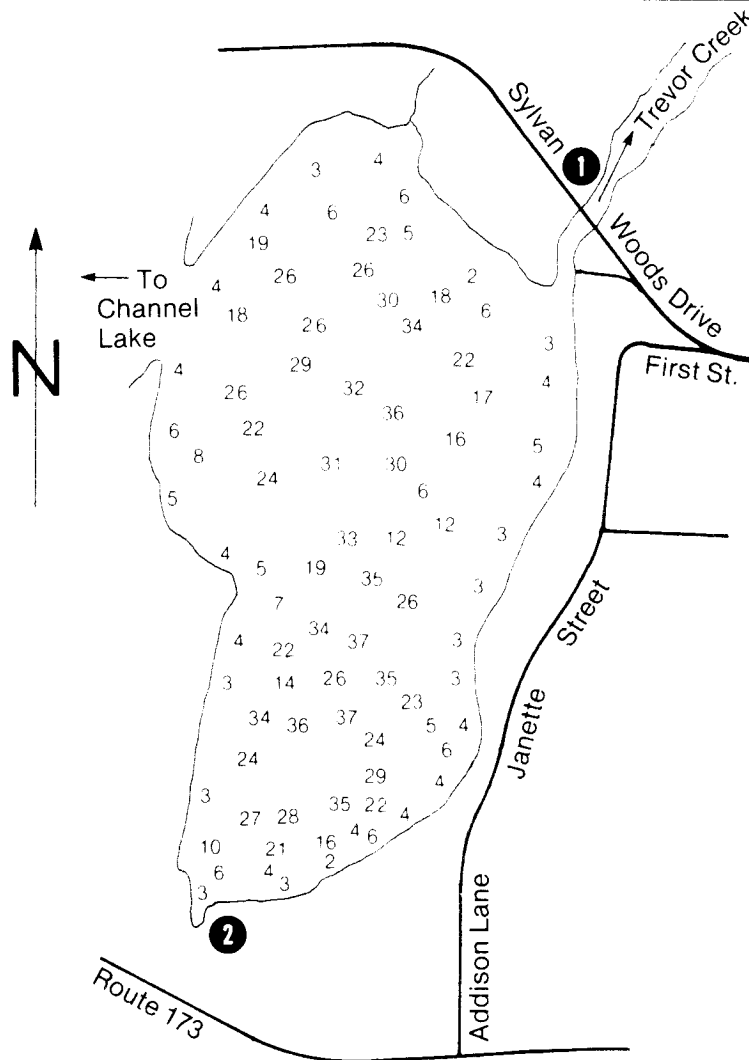
The gravel bar which formerly separated Lake Catherine from Channel Lake has eroded away so that both lakes are now contiguous bodies of water.

This lake receives part of its water supply from

Wisconsin, via Trevor Creek. The lake has a strong population of yellow perch, bluegill, crappie, and pumpkinseed. Channel catfish, walleye, and northern pike are present in moderate numbers. Muskeg lunge are present, but not abundant. Direct public access is available via one marina and one resort or at Chain O'Lakes State Park on Grass Lake. The lake's shoreline is almost 100 percent subdivided, so shoreline angling is limited to a single resort area.

LAKE CATHERINE	ACCESS AREA	SHORELINE ACCESS	BANK FISHING	ICE FISHING ACCESS	LAUNCHING RAMP	PARKING AREA	BOAT & MOTOR RENTAL	DOCKAGE OR SLIPS	GASOLINE-OIL	REPAIR SERVICE	WINTER STORAGE	PICNIC AREA	CAMPING	BAIT	SWIMMING	FOOD	LIQUOR	LODGING	REMARKS
1	Nor Shore II Resort 25164 W. North Ave. Antioch, IL 847-395-8010	150 Ft. 0.5 Acres	X	X	Use At Own Risk	150 Cars										X	X		
2	Bob's Marina 25584 W. Rt. 173 Antioch, IL 847-395-1173	400 Yd. 4.0 Acres			Fee	150 Cars		X	X	X	X	Boat Launch Customers Only	Boat Slip customers Only		X				Sells Boat Supplies

## LAKE CATHERINE



## LAKE MARIE:

T46N, R9E, Section 12, 13, 14, 24; Surface Area = 585.0 acres; Maximum Depth = 26.0 feet; Watershed = 4,200.0 acres, plus the Fox River back-up; Shoreline Length = 6.0 miles plus 3.1 miles of channels.

Lake Marie lies just south of Illinois Route 173 and between Channel and Grass Lakes. Lake Marie is one of the deepest of the Chain lakes and remains somewhat clearer than its neighbors to the south. Shoreline development is not so severe on Lake Marie, due to the amount of sloughs adjacent to the lake. This lake is the direct recipient of the effluent from the Antioch sewage treatment plant, which discharges into the lake via Sequoit Creek. In early spring,

northern pike migrate up the mouth of Sequoit Creek to spawn.

In 1976, Lake Marie produced the state record northern pike (22 lbs. 12 oz.) which stood until 1989. Of the 25 or more fish species known to occur, the top 10 in abundance are: yellow and white bass, black and white crappies, bluegill, largemouth bass, channel catfish, walleye, yellow perch, and carp. Northern pike are present while muskellunge are moderately abundant. Annually each spring the Illinois Department of Conservation collects between 400-700 adult walleye for spawning. The 15 million eggs collected are hatched and the fry are stocked into the Fox Chain O' Lakes. Direct public boating access is available via one marina and five resorts. Bank fishing is available via two resort areas.

LAKE MARIE	ACCESS AREA	SHORELINE ACCESS	BANK FISHING	ICE FISHING ACCESS	LAUNCHING RAMP	PARKING AREA	BOAT & MOTOR RENTAL	DOCKAGE OR SLIPS	GASOLINE-OIL	REPAIR SERVICE	WINTER STORAGE	PICNIC AREA	CAMPING	BAIT	SWIMMING	FOOD	LIQUOR	LODGING	REMARKS	
1	Pedersen Marine 840 Rt. 173 Antioch, IL 847-395-3356	500 Ft. 3.5 Acres			Fee	50 Cars		X	X	X	X	Private								Boat Sales Water Skis
2	Sequoit Harbor 24921 W. Rt. 173 Antioch, IL 847-395-6101	700 Ft. 4 Acres			Fee	150 Cars		X	X	X	X	Only Boat Launch Customers				X				Boat Sales Water Skis
3	Barnacle Bob's 42150 N. 4th Ave. Route 173 Antioch, IL 847-395-2036	175 Yd. 3 Acres		X	Fee	75 Cars	Both		X	X		X		X	X					Tackle Ice
4	T.J.'s Play Pen Dressel Road Lake Marie Antioch, IL 847-395-9800	100 Yd. 1 Acre				40 Cars		X				X				X	X			
5	Sand Bar Resort 40890 N. Douglas Lake Marie Antioch, IL 847-395-3150	250 Yd. 2.5 Acres			Fee	75 Cars		X	X	X	X	X				X	X			
6	Bob Lang's 26264 Forest Antioch, IL	150 Yd. 3 Acres	X	X	Fee	75 Cars	X	X			X	X	Lim- ited	X	X	X	X			
7	Georgeson Spiro's East Marine 26050 Riverview Antioch, IL 847-395-3126	1 Acre		X	Fee	25 Cars	X	X	X	X	X	X	Pop-up Trailers Only	X	X					Boat Sales, Related Equip. Items

# LAKE MARIE



Rt. 173

To Channel Lake

2nd Ave.

Sequoit Creek

1 2 3

6  
Forest Ct.

Lotus Ave.

173

To Grass Lake

West Lake Ave.

Grand Avenue

Beach Grove Rd.

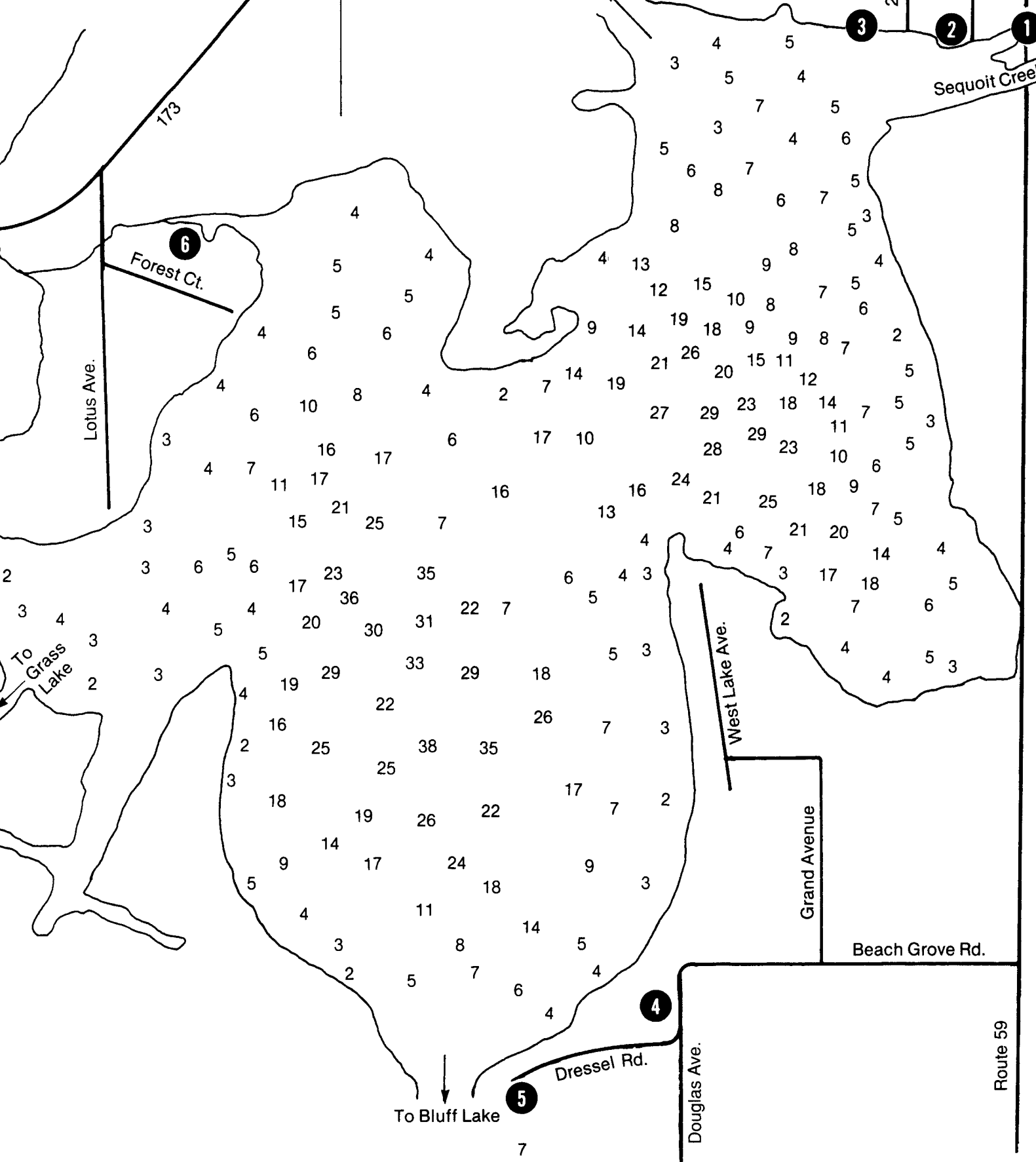
Dressel Rd.

To Bluff Lake

Douglas Ave.

Route 59

4 5 7



**BLUFF LAKE:**

T46N, R9E, Section 24, N 1/2; Surface Area = 92.4 acres; Maximum Depth = 29.0 feet; Watershed = 600.0 acres; Shoreline Length = 1.6 miles plus 1.3 miles of channels.

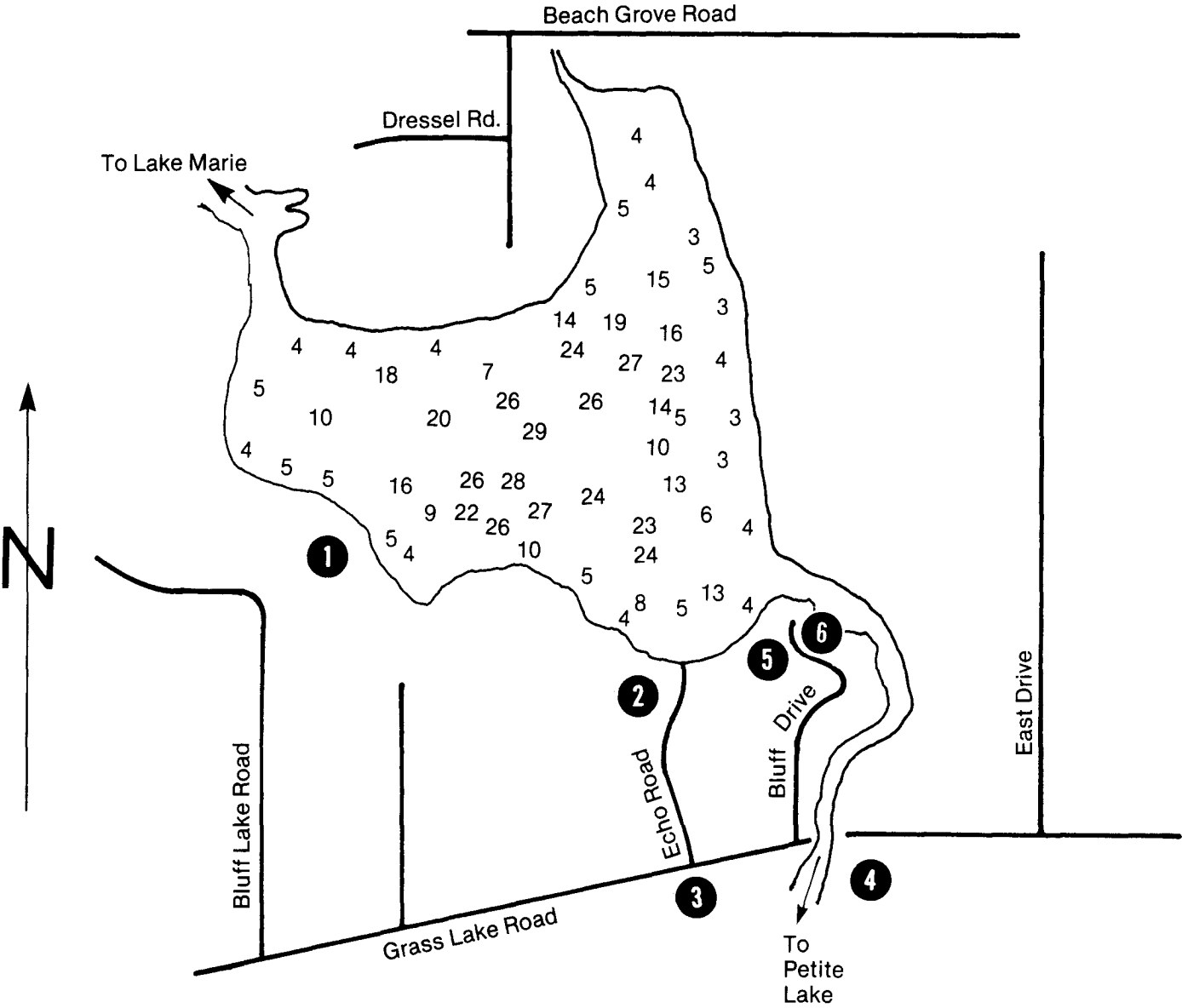
This is the smallest of the principal lakes in the group referred to collectively as the Fox Chain. It is located west of Illinois Route 59 and north of Grass Lake Road. It is linked by channel with Lake Marie to the north and Petite Lake to the south. Bluff Lake's water level was raised and the lake size increased to 86.0 acres by the construction of the existing McHenry Dam on the Fox River in 1939. Although no

public agency owns land on this lake, it is accessible by boat from either Lake Marie or Petite Lake. There are five fee ramps and one boat livery on the lake. Bank fishing access is available via five resort areas.

The last fisheries inventory revealed that 18 species of fish inhabit Bluff Lake. In terms of relative abundance, the fishery is composed of yellow bass, bluegill, largemouth bass, pumpkinseed sunfish, channel catfish, carp, yellow perch, black and white crappie, and walleye.

BLUFF LAKE	ACCESS AREA	SHORELINE ACCESS	BANK FISHING	ICE FISHING ACCESS	LAUNCHING RAMP	PARKING AREA	BOAT & MOTOR RENTAL	DOCKAGE OR SLIPS	GASOLINE-OIL	REPAIR SERVICE	WINTER STORAGE	PICNIC AREA	CAMPING	BAIT	SWIMMING	FOOD	LIQUOR	LODGING	REMARKS
1	New Port Cove 40541 N. Bluff Lake Rd. Antioch, IL 847-838-1122	350 Yd.  10 Acres	X	X	Yearly Fee	500 Cars		X	X	X	X	X	Members Only	X	X	X	X		
2	Lupa's Resort & Marina 25276 Grass Lake Rd. Antioch, IL 847-395-2753	300 Yd.  15 Acres	X	X	Fee	75 Cars		70 Slips		X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
3	CJ Smith's Resort 25315 W. Grass Lake Rd. Antioch, IL 847-395-2753	150 Yd.  1 Acre	Fee		Fee	50 Cars	Boats Only	X	X			X		X					
4	Spring Lake Marina & Campground 25125 Grass Lake Rd. Antioch, IL 847-395-6440	7 Acres	X S/F	X	Fee	30 Cars		X			X		X			X	X		
5	Steitz's Resort 25400 W. Bluff Ln. Antioch, IL 847-395-4050	250 Ft.  12	X	X	Fee	300 Cars		X	X	X	X	X				X			
6	Baker Marine 25276 W. Grass Lake Rd. Antioch, IL 847-838-0066	100 Ft.				12				X									

# BLUFF LAKE



**GRASS LAKE:**

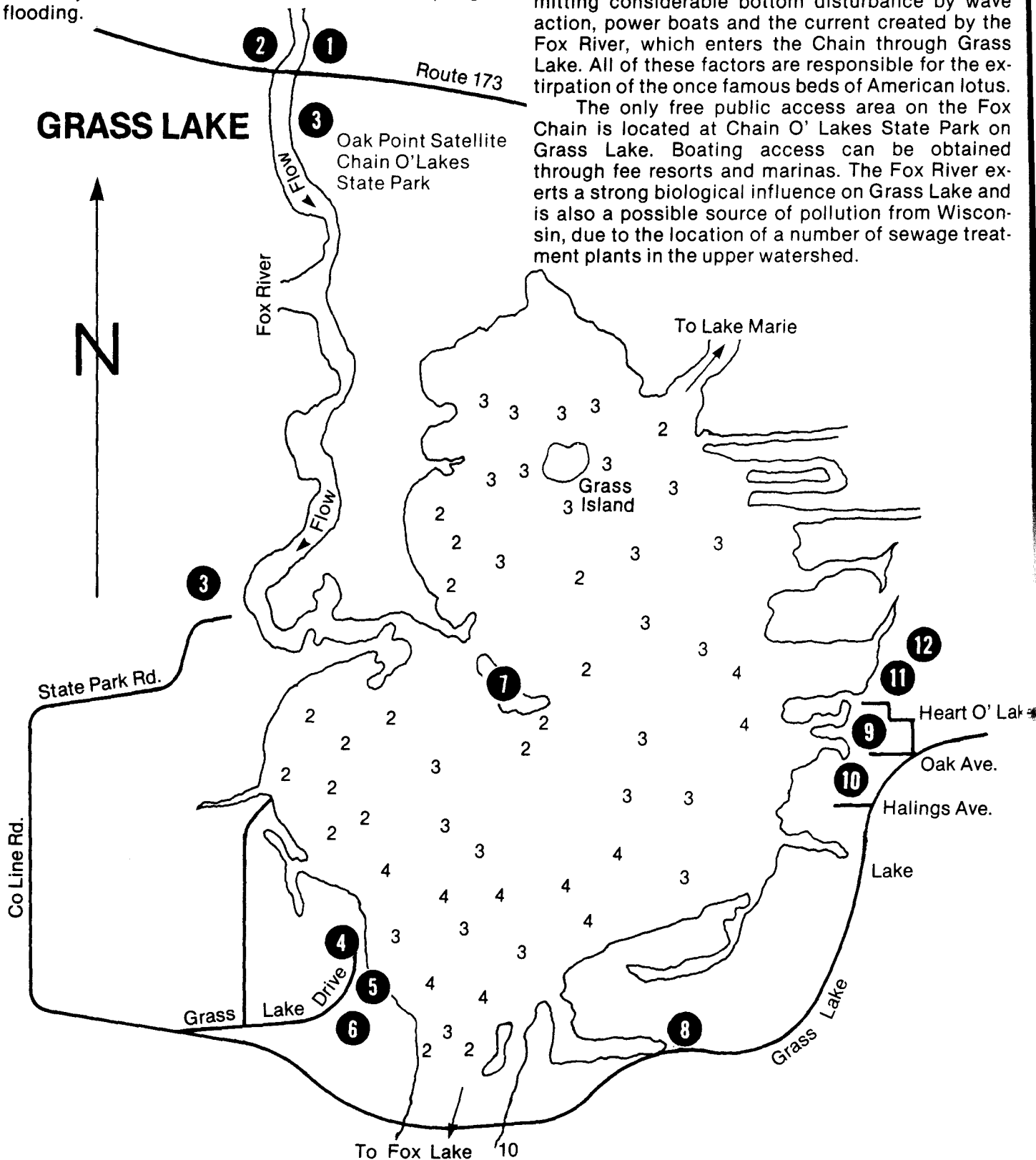
T46N, R9E, Section 34; Surface Area = 1451.4 acres; Maximum Depth = 6.0 feet; Shoreline Length = 8.5 miles and 2.8 miles of channels; Constructed = Flooded natural slough area, created by the damming of the Fox River at McHenry in 1939.

This lake is located three miles east of Spring Grove on Grass Lake Road. It is almost 85 percent ringed by cattail shoreline. Winter fish mortalities, especially in the channels, are common due to the lowering of the water level each winter at the McHenry Dam to reduce the threat of spring flooding.

The top ten fish species in Grass Lake in order of abundance are yellow bass, carp, channel catfish, bluegill, white crappie, pumpkinseed sunfish, largemouth bass, yellow perch, white bass, and black crappie. Although Grass Lake does not maintain an attractive northern pike and muskellunge fishery, the area does play an important role in providing spawning and rearing habitat for these fish.

Grass Lake becomes quite turbid in the summer. This turbidity is caused by many factors, not the least of which is its extreme shallowness. Over 60 percent of the lake is less than four feet deep, permitting considerable bottom disturbance by wave action, power boats and the current created by the Fox River, which enters the Chain through Grass Lake. All of these factors are responsible for the extirpation of the once famous beds of American lotus.

The only free public access area on the Fox Chain is located at Chain O' Lakes State Park on Grass Lake. Boating access can be obtained through fee resorts and marinas. The Fox River exerts a strong biological influence on Grass Lake and is also a possible source of pollution from Wisconsin, due to the location of a number of sewage treatment plants in the upper watershed.



GRASS LAKE	ACCESS AREA	SHORELINE ACCESS	BANK FISHING	ICE FISHING ACCESS	LAUNCHING RAMP	PARKING AREA	BOAT & MOTOR RENTAL	DOCKAGE OR SLIPS	GASOLINE-OIL REPAIR SERVICE	WINTER STORAGE	PICNIC AREA	CAMPING	BAIT	SWIMMING	FOOD	LIQUOR	LODGING	REMARKS
1	Fox River Recreation, Inc. Fox River Bridge 27883 W. Route 173 Antioch, IL 847-395-6090	3/4 mi. 25 Acres	X		Fee	75 Cars	Both plus canoes	X	X	X	X	60-70 Tent, 175 Campers Elec. & Water	X		X			Ice, LP Gas Dump Station
2	Bridge Port Inn Fox River Bridge Route 173 Antioch, IL 847-395-7840	100 Yd. 1.5 Acres	X			20 Cars		X	X						X	X		
3	Chain O'Lakes S.P. 729 E. State Park Rd. Spring Grove, IL (including Oak Point) 847-587-5512	4.1 mi. 6,000 Acres	X	X	Free	200 Car/ Trailer	Both				X	No camping at Oak Point	X		X			Concession 847-587-7165
4	Steve's Resort 29240 N. Jackson Dr. Spring Grove, IL 847-587-8754	1 Acre						X		X					X	X	X	
5	Jackson Bay Resort 39151 Jackson Dr. Spring Grove, IL 847-587-2888	80 Ft. 0.2 Acre				50 Cars		X							X	X		
6	Dorothy's Resort 27717 Grass Lake Dr. Spring Grove, IL	200 Ft. 1.0 Acre			Fee	50 Cars		X				Slip Owners Only				X		
7	Blarney Island Antioch, IL 847-395-4122							X							X	X		Unique Island Resort
8	Mutiny Boat Club 27763 West Grass Lake Road Antioch, IL	1.3 mi. 25 Acres			Fee	100 Cars		X	X	X	X	Yearly			X	X		Boat & Motor Sales
9	Dolphin Harbour 26222 W. Oak Ave. Antioch, IL	700 Ft. 23 Acres			Fee	75 Cars		X	X	X	X	X		X				
10	Haling's Resort 26365 Haling's Road Antioch, IL	550 Ft. 15 Acres		X	Fee	30 Cars		X	X	X	X				X			Boat/Snow- mobile Sale & Service
11	Sunset Point Campground Heart O'Lakes Road Antioch, IL	2.0 Acres	X		Fee	50		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		
12	Grass Lake Landing Ahoy Mate 26250 W. Heart of Lakes Rd. Antioch, IL	1.0 Acre	X			60 Cars		X		X	X					X	X	

**PETITE LAKE:**

T46N, R9, Section 25, 30, 36; Surface Area = 234.5 acres; Maximum Depth = 16.0 feet; Watershed = 1,000.0 acres; Shoreline Length = 2.0 miles; plus 2.1 miles of channels.

Petite Lake is one of the smaller members of the Fox Chain and is located between Bluff and Fox Lake, just west of Illinois Route 59 and south of Grass Lake Road. Prior to the installation of the McHenry Dam, it was much smaller and was isolated from the rest of the Chain except during periods of high water. Its shoreline is approximately

60 percent developed to cottages and permanent dwellings.

Of the 21 species of fish known to occur in the lake, the following are the top 10 in order of abundance: yellow bass, channel catfish, carp, yellow perch, largemouth bass, pumpkinseed sunfish, bluegill, white bass, black crappie, and white crappie. Also important to the fishery but of less abundance are walleye, northern pike and muskellunge.

Boating access is available via one resort while bank fishing access may be obtained from three resorts.

PETITE LAKE	ACCESS AREA	SHORELINE ACCESS	BANK FISHING	ICE FISHING ACCESS	LAUNCHING RAMP	PARKING AREA	BOAT & MOTOR RENTAL	DOCKAGE OR SLIPS	GASOLINE-OIL	REPAIR SERVICE	WINTER STORAGE	PICNIC AREA	CAMPING	BAIT	SWIMMING	FOOD	LIQUOR	LODGING	REMARKS
1	Joal's Resort 25701 W. Herman Antioch, IL	60 Ft.  1 Acre			X	30 Cars					X	X					X		
2	Kempf Resort 25344 W. Richmond Petite Lake Antioch, IL 847-395-2484	60 Ft.  0.5 Acres	X	X		100 Cars	Boats Only	X				X				X	X	X	
3	Olsen's Fishing Boat & Motor Rental 25603 Hermann Ave. Antioch, IL	2.0 Acres	Night fishing by reservation only			20 Cars	Boat & Motor					X							



## FOX-NIPPERSINK LAKE:

T45N, R9E, Section 2, 3, 4, 33, 34; Surface Area = 2376.8 acres; Maximum Depth = 18.0 feet; Watershed = 1,300.0 square miles; Shoreline Length = 12.2 miles plus 12.7 miles of channels. The present water level was established by the construction of the existing McHenry Dam in 1939.

This lake is located on the Fox River and is one of the primary lakes in the Fox Chain. Since Nippersink Lake is in reality just a bay of Fox Lake, the two lakes will be considered as one in this report. Nippersink Lake derived its name from the stream which flows into it, Nippersink Creek. This stream is one of the better quality streams in the area, particularly at the middle and upper reaches, and provides spawning and rearing habitat for walleye, smallmouth bass, and channel catfish, as well as, many other species of Fox Chain O' Lakes fish.

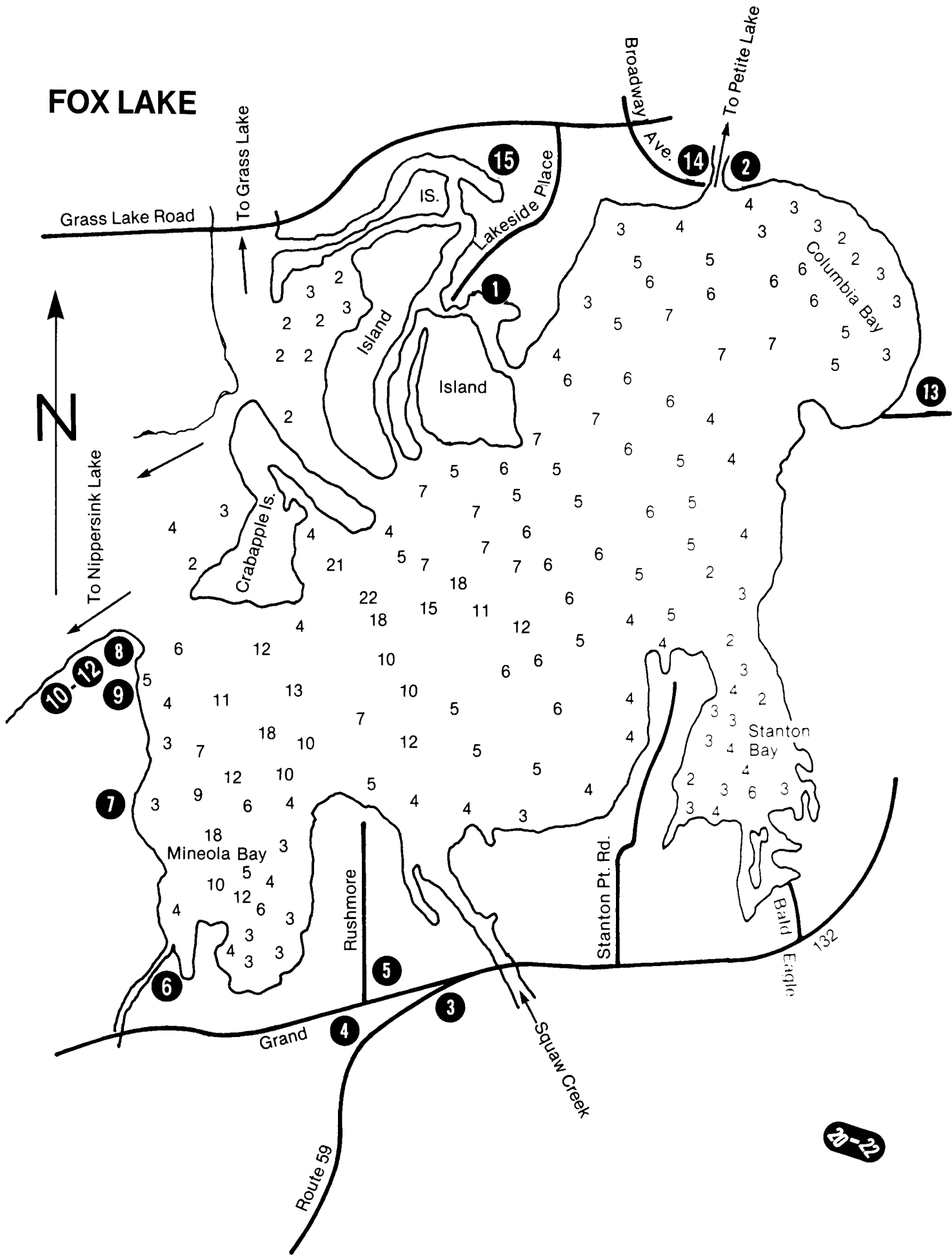
Of the 27 species of fish which are known to occur in Fox Lake, the top species in their order of numerical abundance: channel catfish, yellow bass, carp, yellow perch, bluegill, largemouth bass, white crappie, pumpkinseed sunfish, walleye, and orange spot sunfish. Northern pike and muskellunge, while not currently abundant, are, nevertheless, important to the fishery. The shoreline in front of Mineola Hotel and Crabapple Island is quite rocky and harbors numerous walleye. Largemouth bass are found throughout the lake. Channel catfish are particularly abundant along the sandy gravelly shorelines of Stanton Bay.

Boating access can be obtained through eleven fee resorts and marinas, while bank fishing access is available from six resort areas.

FOX-NIPPERSINK LAKE	ACCESS AREA	SHORELINE ACCESS	BANK FISHING	ICE FISHING ACCESS	LAUNCHING RAMP	PARKING AREA	BOAT & MOTOR RENTAL	DOCKAGE OR SLIPS	GASOLINE-OIL	REPAIR SERVICE	WINTER STORAGE	PICNIC AREA	CAMPING	BAIT	SWIMMING	FOOD	LIQUOR	LODGING	REMARKS
1	Captain's Quarters 38283 N. Bolton Dr. Antioch, IL 847-395-3569	200 Yd. 4.0	X		Fee	100 Cars		X	X	X		X	X			X	X		Host
2	Inland Harbor 38814 N. Broadway Grass Lake Road Antioch, IL 847-395-8070	1,000 Ft. 7.5 Acres	X		Fee	70 Cars		X	X	X	X	X	X						Hoist Travel Life
3	Fagan's Squaw Creek Resort Route 59 Ingleside, IL 847-587-2215	3 mi. 22 Acres			Fee	50 Cars	Boats Only					X		X		X			Tackle
4	Chain-O-Lakes Marina Route 59 & 132 Fox Lake, IL 847-587-6222	500 Yd. 8.0 Acres				150 Cars		X	X	X	X								Hoist Ship's Store
5	Fox Lake Harbour Rt. 59 & 132 Fox Lake, IL 847-587-0200	500 Yd. 10 Acres				150 Cars		X	X	X	X								Snowmobile, Motorcycle, Boat, Motor Sales-Hoist
6	Bergers Harbor 92 East Grand Ave. Fox Lake, IL 847-587-0074	0.5 Acre				30 Cars	X	X	X			X		X		X			
7	Mineola Hotel & Marina 117 Cora Ave. Fox Lake, IL 847-587-2777	200 Yd. 15 Acres		Fee	Fee	100 Cars		X	X	X	X	Customers Only			X	X			Boat Towing Stern Drive OMC Repair Hoist

FOX-NIPPERSINK LAKE	ACCESS AREA	SHORELINE ACCESS	BANK FISHING	ICE FISHING ACCESS	LAUNCHING RAMP	PARKING AREA	BOAT & MOTOR RENTAL	DOCKAGE OR SLIPS	GASOLINE-OIL	REPAIR SERVICE	WINTER STORAGE	PICNIC AREA	CAMPING	BAIT	SWIMMING	FOOD	LIQUOR	LODGING	REMARKS
8	Korpan's Landing 112 E. Lakeview Fox Lake, IL 847-587-2622	500 Yd. 1.0 Acre		X	Fee	125 Cars		X	X	X	X	X				X	X		
9	Mary Nakutny's Resort 109 E. Lakeview Fox Lake, IL	100 Ft. 1.0 Acre				30 Cars						X						X	
10	Leisure Point 200 North Forest Fox Lake,	5.0 Acres			Fee	60		X	X	X	X					X	X		
11	Aquarium Bar & Grill N. Arthur Fox Lake, IL 847-587-4544	50 Ft. 0.4 Acre				15 Cars		X								X	X		
12	Studio One 115 Nippersink Fox Lake, IL 847-587-8822	40 Ft. 0.2 Acre				20 Cars		X								X	X		
13	Electric Harbor 38470 W. Columbia Lake Villa, IL 847-356-2747	3.0 Acres			Fee	25 Cars		X			X	X			X	X	X		
14	Trade Winds Marine Center 38788 Broadway Fox Lake, IL 815-455-2255	4.0 Acres			Fee	100 Cars		X	X	X	X	X	X						Hoist
15	Port O'Blarney 27763 West Grass Lake Road Antioch, IL 847-395-4122	1800 Ft. 12 Acres	X		Fee	200 Cars	Both	X	X		X		RV Yearly Lease			X	X		

# FOX LAKE



20-22



## PISTAKEE LAKE:

T45N, R9E, Section 9, 16, 17; Surface Area = 1715.7 acres; Maximum Depth = 36.0 feet; Watershed = 1,700.0 square miles; Shoreline Length = 11.8 miles plus 3.5 miles of channels; Constructed = Natural glacial lake, impounded in 1939 by McHenry Dam on Fox River.

This large lake is the lowermost member of the Fox Chain and is the second largest in the Chain. It is located on the Lake-McHenry County line and bordered on the north and east by U.S. Route 12. Because it is at the lower end of the Chain, the lake accumulates much more enrichment than the more northern member lakes. This fact becomes very evident by mid-summer, when nuisance algal blooms reach such proportions that visibility in the water is less than 12 inches. There has been a marked reduction in the submersed aquatic vegetation during the past 15 years. The lake has experienced several

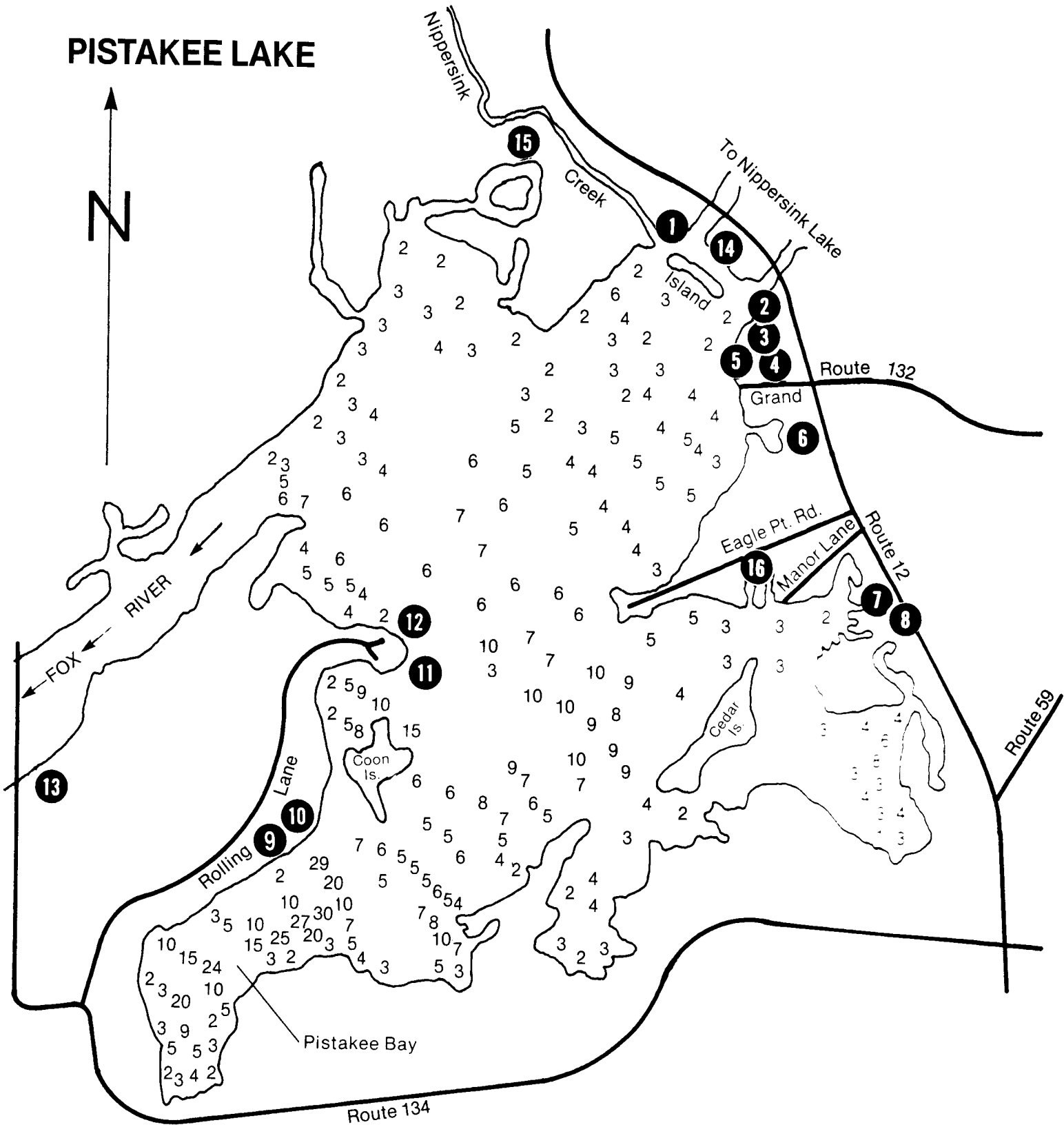
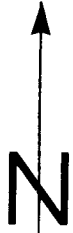
summer and late spring fish mortalities over the past 15 years. The summer mortalities have been attributed to the dieback of algal blooms and the accompanying low oxygen content. The spring mortalities were traced to fish diseases. There are 29 species of fish in Pistakee Lake. The top ten species in their order of abundance are: channel catfish, yellow bass, yellow perch, carp, bluegill, largemouth bass, pumpkinseed sunfish, white crappie, black bullhead, and orange spotted sunfish. Present in moderate numbers are walleye and northern pike. Smallmouth bass and muskellunge occur, but are taken with irregularity.

Boating access may be obtained through ten fee resorts and marinas. Bank fishing access is restricted to two resort areas. Additional indirect access may be obtained from launching ramps located along the Fox River above the McHenry lock and dam. (See Fox River Access Areas and Fishing Guide.)

PISTAKEE LAKE	ACCESS AREA	SHORELINE ACCESS	BANK FISHING	ICE FISHING ACCESS	LAUNCHING RAMP	PARKING AREA	BOAT & MOTOR RENTAL	DOCKAGE OR SLIPS	GASOLINE OIL REPAIR SERVICE	WINTER STORAGE	PICNIC AREA	CAMPING	BAIT	SWIMMING	FOOD	LIQUOR	LODGING	REMARKS
1	Bauske's Boat Basin 152 N. Route 12 Fox Lake, IL 847-587-0190	200 Yd. 1.5 Acres			Fee	50 Cars	Boats Only	X	X	X	X							Boat Sales
2	Kramer Boat Co. 82 N. Route 12 Fox Lake, IL 847-587-2517	200 Yd. 1.0 Acre				75 Cars		X	X	X	X							Boat & Motor Sales
3	Light House Marina 15 W. Oak Fox Lake, IL	140 Ft. 0.4 Acre			Fee	25 Cars		X	X	X	X							Boating Accessories
4	Dick's Marine 32 N. Pistakee Fox Lake, IL 847-587-2102	150 Ft. 0.5 Acre				4 Cars			X	X	X							Service Repair
5	Shoreline Inn 38 W. Grand Fox Lake, IL 815-334-7116	75 Ft. 0.2 Acre				15 Cars		X							X	X		
6	Lagoon Marine 36 S. Route 12 Fox Lake, IL 847-587-0342	1000 Ft. 2.0 Acres				60		X		X	X							Hoist
7	Watt's Marina 116 S. Route 12 Fox Lake, IL 847-587-0211	500 Yd. 5.0 Acres		X	Fee	100 Cars		X	X	X	X							Boat & Motor Sales Hoist
8	Pistakee Marina 410 Kings Rd. Fox Lake, IL 847-587-5814	450 Yd. 3.0 Acres				100 Cars		X	X	X	X							Boat, Motor & Sporting Goods Sales Hoist

PISTAKEE LAKE	ACCESS AREA	SHORELINE ACCESS	BANK FISHING	ICE FISHING ACCESS	LAUNCHING RAMP	PARKING AREA	BOAT & MOTOR RENTAL	DOCKAGE OR SLIPS	GASOLINE-OIL	REPAIR SERVICE	WINTER STORAGE	PICNIC AREA	CAMPING	BAIT	SWIMMING	FOOD	LIQUOR	LODGING	REMARKS
9	Oake Park Hotel & Lounge 801 W. Oak Drive McHenry, IL 815-385-9872	180 Ft. 1.5 Acres		Fee	Yearly Fee	50 Cars		X								X	X		
10	Pink Harrison's Resort 801 West Harrison McHenry, IL 815-385-0323	250 Ft. 2.0 Acres		Fee	Fee	75 Cars	Boats Only	X	X						X	X	X		
11	Bald Knob Resort W. Bald Knob Rd. McHenry, IL 815-344-5223	250 Yd. 3.0 Acres	X	X	Fee	75 Cars		X			X	X	Weekends Only			X	X		
12	Harmony Resort W. Bald Knob McHenry, IL 815-385-1488	75 Ft. 0.4 Acre			Fee	50 Cars		X								X	X		
13	Raymond's 3312 N. Chapel Hill McHenry, IL 815-385-3270	200 Ft. 1.0 Acre			Fee	100 Cars		X								X	X		Bowling Alley
14	One Hundred Club 100 North Route 12 Fox Lake, IL	2.5 Acres				75 Cars		X	X		X								Hoist
15	Rustic Harbor Marina Inc. 210 Broadway McHenry, IL 847-587-7277	600 Ft. 8.0 Acres				300 Cars		X		X	X	X							
16	Lakeside Resort 135 Manor Lane Fox Lake, IL 847-587-7864					25 Cars	X					X				X	X		

# PISTAKEE LAKE



# ATTENTION!!!

## BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THESE EXOTICS

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### RUDD ALERT!

The rudd is a non-native fish which is sometimes sold as bait in Illinois. Some bait dealers sell rudd as "red shiners". It is illegal to import, sell, or possess live rudd in Illinois. This close relative of the common carp is not allowed in the state because of the damage they may cause by consuming aquatic plants, and hybridizing with native species. Rudd tend to become overabundant in lakes because they reproduce quickly and grow too large to be eaten by most predators.

Rudd look very much like golden shiners, but there are differences between the two. The easiest to see is the fleshy ridge or "keel" along the belly. The keel is covered by scales on the rudd but has no scales on the golden shiner.

If you find rudd in your bait, destroy them. If you see rudd in an Illinois lake or stream, notify the nearest Department of Natural Resources office.

It is a violation of Illinois law to import, possess, or sell live rudd.

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### RUSTY CRAYFISH ALERT!

The Rusty Crayfish is expanding its range in Illinois. This aggressive crayfish can interfere with fish spawning, destroy aquatic vegetation, and drive out native species of crayfish. It is ILLEGAL to bring live rusty crayfish to Illinois, to sell them, or to use them for bait. Your cooperation is needed to stop the southward advance of the Rusty Cray fish.

The Rusty Crayfish is easy to identify. Look for rus-

ty red tips on the claws with a black band immediately behind the rusty tips. There is also a rusty red spot on each side of the shell above the rear pair of legs. If you find these crayfish in your bait, destroy them.

It is a violation of state law to import, possess, sell or use as bait live Rusty Crayfish within the State of Illinois.

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### ZEBRA MUSSEL ALERT!

Clogged power plant, industrial and water supply intake pipes; fouled boat hulls, navigation buoys, beaches and commercial fishing gear; and probably declines in the number of some sport and commercial species; this is the scenario that's likely to occur if the prolific, dime-sized, European Zebra mussel becomes established in the waters of Illinois. Where it has become established, such as in Lakes Erie, Ontario, and St. Clair, economic and ecological damages in the millions of dollars is expected to occur, resulting in

greater costs in terms of taxes and recreational expenditures.

While it may be impossible to halt the eventual spread of the zebra mussel, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is seeking the cooperative effort of every Illinois boater or fisherman, who may trailer a boat to and from the Great Lakes, to prevent the accidental introduction of this destructive pest into the Fox Chain O' Lakes and other waters of the State.

For a free copy of the pamphlet entitled *Zebra Mussel Alert and Guide to Boaters*, contact your local Natural Resources office or call 815-675-2319.

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