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## Crystal lake michigan ice fishing report

Crystal Lake click red on the mapfor more information Benzie County Beulah Weather Nothwest Lower Lodging Area: 9711 acres Latitude: N44 39.89' Longest: W86 10.34' Printable Map Are you looking for a great waterbody in northern Michigan that produces unique and exciting fishing opportunities? Look no further than Crystal Lake in Benzie County; Michigan's ninth largest inland lake (at 9,854 acres) and is home to a wide range of common species. This deep, cold lake has a maximum depth of 165 feet with an average depth of 70 feet. Located in the Betsie River basin, it has an outflow flowing from its southern coast into the Betsie River. According to Mark Tonello, DNR aquatic biology out of Cadillac, this lake is an all kinds of fishery anglers that can be appreciated with a variety of opportunities to pursue. The fishing [on Crystal Lake] is very good and popular, Tonello said. It's a real lake stretching from east to west and it's just a mile inland from Lake Michigan. I would warn the fishing people from the small boats that this lake could become rugged as it is near the big lake. Despite these risks, Crystal Lake boasts an almost un heard inland fisheries: coho salmon. The population there is self-sustaining, first noticed in fisheries surveys conducted in the 1980s and perhaps courtesy of fish coming from Lake Michigan. The only other inland lake in Michigan with its own coho population is Lake Glen in Leelanau County. Anglers will troll or jig for coho during the open water season and also jig them through ice. They will also use those methods to target rainbow and lake salmon - both of which are stocked there annually in about 20,000 rainbows and 60,000 lake salmon. Tonello explained that Crystal Lake is known as a lake salmon fishing profession; folks will usually pay for it a visit just to catch them. Anglers also use tip-ups baited with live minnows or syers and put only out the bottom to catch them in winter. Meanwhile, during the winter months, rainbow salmon in Crystal Lake can be found in much shallower waters than lake salmon and they often linger near creek gates. Tonello shared that the lake sees some naturally reproduced rainbow salmon in its tri tri triathrens so that they look like mini steel heads. Crystal Lake is a Category E lake which means it is open for year-round fishing and possession with a minimum size limit of 15-inches for rainbow salmon, a 10-inch minimum size limit for coho salmon, and a daily ownership limit of three fish. In addition to coho, rainbow and lake salmon, a variety of panfish can be targeted at Crystal Lake; including golden perch (both open water and through ice) and rock bass. Tonello said the mermaid regularly catches perch up to and over 12 inches and rock bass appears to be found in every corner of the lake during the open water season. There are pretty good numbers of bass rock being Master Angler size, he said. If you really want to catch a fish-sized angler master, you will have good opportunity to receive Master Angler rock bass on Crystal Lake. If you come to Crystal Lake in the winter months, you still do not have the opportunity to fish nicely. It has a very good synful fishing craft and white fish have been caught by the fishing people while they jig for lake salmon. It also has a pretty good population of burbot with anglers catching them using a tip-up with a dead minnow located at the bottom. There are not many inland lakes where the mermaid can target the burbot, said Tonello. Pike, though low in number, is pretty big at Crystal Lake with some coming in at more than £20. For those interested in visiting Crystal Lake there are a few ways to do so. There are not many fishing opportunities onshore but the best is located in the town of Beulah - Beulah Beach. Tonello says in spring and autumn it's a popular place to surf fish and you can catch rainbow salmon, coho salmon and lake salmon that way. Anglers will fish bags lay eggs at the bottom or cast spoons and body baits when targeting these species from the coast. There is also a public fishing pier located in Beulah, where fishing people catch small mouth bass, rock bass and golden perch. There are very few boat access sites on Crystal Lake and one includes the DNR site that opened in 2012. It is located off Mollineaux Road on the southern shore of the lake and provides parking for 36 vehicles with trailers and 20 other vehicles without trailers. The Crystal Lake Feeders Association co-runs a boat washing station at the site during the summer months – an excellent tool to prevent the introduction and/or spread of invasive species into the water body. Don't miss your chance to fish this amazing Michigan waterbody and experience some of the state's world-class natural resources. It's a great fishing lake - the one we're lucky to have, says Tonello. It can be a bit difficult because of its size, so take the time to learn it and discover this amazing resource. DNR will soon have a fisheries resource status report for Crystal Lake. Stay tuned Michigan.gov/fishing for more information. Benzie, Grand Traverse, Antrim, Leelanau, and Manistee County Most of the species we're targeting in Northern Michigan have been very cooperative. The recent full moon has had a small impact on walleye and perch bites, but we can still take advantage of some small feeding windows. We are seeing a warming in forecasts for next week, including our concerns about what the end of the month will bring to ice conditions. The majority of the lakes listed below remain at the same thickness as outlined in the previous ice report. Snow coverage has been very limited, and at the moment, the ice is in great shape. With the trend of warming forecasts, we feel ice can deteriorate rapidly. We ask all fishing people to remain vigilant for the rest of the season: warm weather and sun, accompanied by rain, create very unsafe ice conditions. Crystal Lake in Benzie County pictured 8 inches of ice covered at the eastern end of Lake. White fish can be found in 43-50 feet of water but in very small schools. Anglers had nice catches of perch in 25 feet of water fishing off the Beulah counter. The rest of the lake is all open water. The only catchable water is located just near the town of Beulah. Because Crystal Lake is 70% unsafe ice, fishing people should be very cautious of fishing in the east as conditions can change with high winds. Long Lake in Benzie County has formed 11-12 inches of ice. Pike fishing has recently improved on Long Lake. Gold minnows on tip-ups have taken most of the fish. Perch and pike were found in 6-9 feet of water. Perch minnows and small tungsten jigs have caught fairly of perch. Green Lake in Grand Traverse County has formed 8-9 inches of ice. Fishing sying has certainly picked up over the past week. The best time to target active fish was from 6-9 p.m. 45-55 feet of water produced the most systieset action after dark. Anglers targeting pike had success in 10 to 15 feet in grass-covered grass flats and along steep breaks. Long Lake in Grand Traverse County has formed 9-10 inches of ice depending on the area of the lake you are on. Long Lake can be very inconsistent in terms of ice thickness. The mermaid should be very cautious when fishing Long Ho. Anglers have had success in finding walleye activity both jigging and fishing tip-ups along steep breaks and adjacent to grass beds in 30-35 feet of water. The hottest depth for both large perch and walleye appears to be 25-35 feet, depending on the time of day. Large perch was found in 18 to 25 feet, mostly on tip-ups and larger blue minnows presentations. Perch was found in 15 to 25 feet depending on the bottom make-up. The more hay cubes have produced nice quality, however deeper, softer, hay-covered depths are producing fish numbers. The northern part of the lake has 5-6 inches of ice. Anglers had some luck finding walleye on drop-offs and perch was found in 25-35 feet of water. Lake Skegemog in County Antrim has 12 inches of ice covering off the south coast approach to the central part of the lake. Anglers using blues, tungsten jigs and wax worms accompanied by an underwater camera have had great success. 11-16 feet of water seems to produce fish that operate on a consistent basis. The larger perch was coming on orange and green tungsten jigs tipped with spikes and deep wax. Portage Lake in Manistee County has formed 10 to 11 inches of insurance tape. Anglers have been fishing mostly off of northern access sites for perch, pike, and walleye. Most perch was found eating on top of grassy areas covered in 16-25 feet. Anglers pursuit perch in smaller schools were targeting 35 to 40 feet of water. This is also a great depth to jig and set up tip-ups for walleye. Some walleyes of a larger size were found in the central part of the lake in 28 to 32 feet of water at first and last light. Lake Bear in Manistee County formed 12 inches of ice. The walleye action has been in a bit of a lull over the past week. Anglers have been targeting walleye and pike off of sites visiting the southwest and north. The more aggressive fish were fed along the hay grass covered drop-offs and changed contours at depths varying from 12 to 18 feet. Pike and walleye seem to be moving together, feeding in the same common area. Lake Mitchell and Cadillac Lake in Wexford County both form 12-13 inches of ice. Lake Cadillac recently produced some very nice catches of crappie during daylight hours. Anglers finessing fish works with very small, dark-colored tungsten that has had the most luck. Walleye was found 19 to 21 feet above Lake Mitchell. Pike was active throughout the day; Larger pikes were coming on tip-ups using 4-5 inch sucker minnows as bait. Grass-covered flats varying from 9 to 12 feet were best for pike action. We at Sport Fish Michigan look forward to many safe and successful days in this 2017 season. With that in mind, we encourage all anglers to take this report as reference and not as a guarantee. Ice conditions vary according to the weather pattern. It is always good to use your best judgment and always check the tape with a good spud and a friend! Line tight and look forward to fishing with you! Benzie, Grand Traverse, Antrim, Leelanau, and Manistee County As we approach mid-February, we at Sport Fish Michigan couldn't be more satisfied with ice conditions and fish activity. As Northern Michigan undergoes such a temperature change this winter, fish seem to avoid lulling between Feb. February on any lake can be a very difficult time to find active fish. Snow coverage, limited daylight, and fishing pressure often contribute to a slower bite. However, most species are already active and still in a very positive mood! We're really looking forward to great fishing this month. Ice conditions seem to be maintained, and snow coverage across most lakes is very limited. As we all know, a day of warm weather and rain can alter the state of the lake: we ask all fishing people to use caution and good judgment when touching ice this month. Crystal Lake in Benzie County has formed 7-8 inches of ice covered at the eastern end of the lake. White fish can be found in 43-50 feet of water, but in very small schools. Anglers had nice catches of perch in 25 feet of water fishing off the Beulah counter. The rest of the lake is all open water. Water with the only catch is located just near the town of Beulah. Because Crystal Lake is 70% open water, anglers should be very cautious fishing the eastern end because conditions will be able to change with high winds. Long Long Lake in Benzie County has formed 11-12 inches of ice. Pike fishing has recently improved on Long Lake. Gold minnows on tip-ups have taken most of the fish. Perch and pike were found in 6-9 feet of water. Perch minnows and small tungsten jigs have caught fairly of perch. Green Lake in Grand Traverse County has formed 8-9 inches of ice. Fishing sying has certainly picked up over the past week. The best time to target active fish was from 6-9 p.m. 45-55 feet of water produced the most systieset action after dark. Anglers targeting pike had success in 10 to 15 feet in grass-covered grass flats and along steep breaks. Long Lake in Grand Traverse County has formed 9-10 inches of ice depending on the area of the lake you are on. Long Lake can be very inconsistent in terms of ice thickness. The mermaid should be very cautious when fishing Long Ho. Anglers have had success in finding walleye activity both jigging and fishing tip-ups along steep breaks and adjacent to grass beds in 30-35 feet, depending on the time of day. Large perch was found in 30 to 40 feet of water, as well. Anglers have not found large numbers of perch. However, perch caught is very nice in size. South Lake Leelanau has only 7-8 inches of ice in the southern part of the lake. The northern end of the lake does not produce safe ice at this time due to inappropriate weather and winds. Anglers have found perch, pike, and walleye off all major boat seam sites. Walleye fishing was best in 18 to 25 feet, mostly on tip-ups and bigger blue minnow presentations. Perch was found in 15 to 25 feet depending on the bottom makeup. The more hay cubes have produced nice quality, however deeper, softer hay-covered deeper lawns are producing large quantities of fish. Lake Skegemog in County Antrim has 10-11 inches of ice covering off the south coast approaching the central part of the lake. Anglers using blues, tungsten jigs, and wax worms that come with an underwater camera have had great success. 11-16 feet of water seems to produce fish that operate on a consistent basis. The larger perch was coming on orange and green tungsten jigs tipped with spikes and deep wax. Portage Lake in Manistee County has formed 10 to 11 inches of insurance tape. Anglers have been fishing mostly out of northern access sites for perch, pike, and walleye. Most perch was found eating on top of grass-covered areas for 16 to 25 feet. Anglers pursuing large perch in smaller schools were targeting 35 to 40 feet of water. This is also a great depth to jig and set up tip-ups for walleye. Some walleyes of a larger size were found in the central part of the lake in 18 to 32 feet of water at first and last light. Lake Bear in Manistee County has formed 10-11 inches of ice. The walleye action has been in a bit of a lull over the past week. Anglers have targeting walleye and pike out sites visiting the southwest and north. The more aggressive was fed along grass grazing and changed contours at depths varying from 12 to 18 feet. Pike and walleye seem to be moving together, feeding in the same common area. Lake Mitchell and Cadillac Lake in Wexford County both form 10-12 inches of ice. Lake Cadillac recently produced some very nice catches of crappie during daylight hours. Anglers finessing fish works with very small, dark-colored tungsten that has had the most luck. Walleye was found 19 to 21 feet above Lake Mitchell. Pike's been active all day. Larger pikes were coming on tip-ups using 4-5 inch sucker minnows as bait. Grass-covered flats varying from 9 to 12 feet were best for pike action. We at Sport Fish Michigan look forward to many safe and successful days in this 2017 season. With that in mind, we encourage all anglers to take this report as reference and not as a guarantee. Ice conditions vary according to the weather pattern. It is always good to use your best judgment and always check the tape with a good spud and a friend! Line tight and look forward to fishing with you! Benzie, Grand Traverse, Wexford County, Antrim, Leelanau, and Manistee County When we enter mid-January in northern Michigan, we are facing a positive warming trend that is threatening ice conditions. For a lot of people in this area is great news, but for ice fishermen it is depressing! Looking at the 10-12 day forecast, it seems that most lakes will face very dry and humid conditions, which will actually lead to potentially unsafe ice conditions. As we all know, weather forecasts can vary from day to day, so keep our fingers through colder temperatures. We ask all fishing people to read the current ice report and understand that it is related to current conditions, as we expect things to deteriorate in the coming weeks. Things will change every day, and so what you can be safe a day or two ago may not be on the next day. Be safe and use your best judgment when vening out on ice. Crystal Lake in Benzie County has formed 4-5 inches of ice covered at the eastern end of the lake. Anglers had nice catches of perch in 25 feet of water fishing off the Beulah counter. The rest of the lake is almost open water. The only catchable water is located just near the town of Beulah. We feel that this will change as forecasted and create unsafe conditions in the very near future. Long Lake in Benzie County has formed 10-11 inches of ice. The pike was found in 7 to 10 feet of water on top of, and adjacent to, grass and flats. Perch and pike were found in 10 to 13 feet of water. Tip-ups with gold minnows placed 1-3 feet bottom were the most produced for pike. Perch minnows and small tungsten jigs have caught fairly of perch. Bass and Otter Lakes in county 9-10 inches of ice. Pike fishing in Bass Lake still produces a lot of action on undersized fish within 18-22 inches. Inch. Bearing and crappie were found in 15-18 feet of water at first and last light in both lakes. Perch fishing perch in Lake Otter has been slow, some fish have been found in 20-23 feet of water. Green Lake in Grand Traverse County has formed 8-9 inches of ice. Fishing has been slow at both end of the lake. Marking fish has been fairly easy however finding active schools has been difficult for most. 60 feet of water produced the most systieset action after dark. Anglers targeting pike had success in 10 to 15 feet in grass-covered grass flats and along steep breaks. Perch was found in 35 to 45 feet of water. Long Lake in Grand Traverse County has formed 7-9 inches of ice depending on the area of the lake you are on. Long Lake can be very inconsistent in terms of ice thickness. The mermaid should be very cautious when fishing Long Ho. Anglers have had success in finding walleye activity both jigging and fishing tip-ups along the steep break and adjacent to grass beds in 30-35ft. The hottest depth for both large perch and walleye appears to be 25-35 feet, depending on the time of day. Large perch has been found in 30 to 40 feet of water as well. Anglers have not found large numbers of perch. However the caught perch was very nice in size. South Lake Leelanau has only 8-9 inches of ice in the southern part of the lake. The northern end of the lake does not produce safe ice at this time due to inappropriate weather and winds. Anglers have found perch, pike, and walleye off all major boat seam sites. Walleye fishing was best in 18 to 25 feet, mostly on tip-ups and bigger blue minnow presentations. Perch was found in 15 to 25 feet depending on the bottom makeup. The more hay cubes have produced nice quality, however deeper, softer hay covered deeper is producing the number of fish. Skegemog Lake in Antrim County has 9-11 inches of coverage off the southern coast of Baggs Road access site. Anglers using blues, tungsten jigs, and wax worms that come with an underwater camera have had great success. 11-16 feet of water seems to produce fish that operate on a consistent basis. The larger perch was coming on orange and green tungsten jigs tipped with spikes and deep wax. Anglers targeting pike and musky have been reported to act more slowly. A warning to adventurous mermaids near the Skegemog and Elk Lake canals - a sleigh that passed just two days ago, and while the person was safely rescued, it suggests that ice near any current could be weaker - such as the case here. The further to the western anglers venture, are prepared for thinner and thinner tape. Portage Lake in Manistee County has formed 8-10 inches of ice cover. Anglers have been fishing mostly off of the northern counter attractions for perch, pike and walleye. Most perch was found eating on top of grass-covered areas for 16 to 25 feet. Anglers pursuing large perch in smaller schools were targeting 35 to 40 feet of water. This is also a great depth to jig and set up tip-ups for walleye. Some walleyes of a larger size were found in the central part of the lake in 18 to 32 feet of water at first and last light. Lake Bear in Manistee County has formed 10-11 inches of ice. The walleye action has been in a bit of a lull over the past week. Anglers have targeting walleye and pike off of sites visiting the southwest and north. The more aggressive fish were fed along the hay covered drop-offs and changed contours at depths varying from 12 to 18 feet. Pike and walleye seem to be moving together in the same common area. Lake Mitchell and Cadillac Lake in Wexford County both form 10-12 inches of ice. Blue bearing and crappie were slow in action and small size in the middle of the day. However, crappie and bluegill were moving in both lakes in the early morning and late evening. Switch from 8-10 foot grass grass flat foot to 16-20 pores and drop-offs throughout the day. Walleye was found 19 to 21 feet above Lake Mitchell. Pike was active throughout the day; Larger pikes were coming on tip-ups using 4-5 inch sucker minnows as bait. Grass grass-covered flats varying from 9 to 12 feet were best for pike action. We at Sport Fish Michigan look forward to many safe and successful days in this 2017 season. With that in mind, we encourage all anglers to take this report as reference and not as a guarantee. Ice conditions vary according to the weather pattern. It is always good to use your best judgment and always check the tape with a good spud and a friend! Line tight and look forward to fishing with you! March is upon us, and so are some great pre-laying ice fishing eggs. We at Sport Fish Michigan had a very good winter of safe, effective fishing with a lot of really great people. We hope that the warm weather will hold back, giving us the opportunity to continue to enjoy what remains of the 2016 ice season. This weekend's two-day thaw has added 1 to 3 inches of water to the ice of most of the lakes listed in the report. This certainly makes conditions and safety very unpredictable. We at Sport Fish Michigan ask all anglers to use caution and good judgment when veneering out to fish! Crystal Lake in Benzie County has lost a lot of ice at its western end. Ice that was caught two weeks ago is now unsafe. The only safe fishing available is at the eastern end of the lake near Beulah. Anglers at the eastern end had good perch action in 25 to 35 feet of water. Steelhead is being caught on wigglers in shallow water near and around some of the creeks' mouths. Long Lake in Benzie County has produced amazing catches of Pike. Most fish are being caught on Golden Minnows in 8-11 feet of water on tip-ups. The Perch being caught is very nice, but few and far between. Upper Herring Lake has continued to be slow for all species. Perch and Walleye are caught occasionally, but not in any large numbers. Most anglers are taking action on Blue Minnows using tip-ups. The operating depth was 18-20 feet. Small trebles and fluorocarbon leaders were key. Perch is being caught running big. Green Lake in Grand Traverse County is still catching very well. The Smelt bite was very consistent, and most anglers are getting good numbers off of both access points. Perch and Pike were operating at the southeast end of the lake. Long Lake in Grand Traverse County has had a bit of a slow streak over the past week. There has been heavy pressure from fishing people in most areas of the lake. Walleye's arrest has been small and mostly undersized. Anglers had some luck finding the large, mature Jumbo Perch in 18 to 30 feet of water in the middle of the morning. These fish have arrived on Blue Minnows with tip-ups. Lake Skegemog is catching very well. There have been a lot of people fishing with great catches over the last few days. Larger perch was found in mud flats 14-17 feet further with grass grass. Wigglers and spikes tipped on tungsten jigs were the best tactic. Most people spearing Pike and Musky Musky reported slow action at the northern end of the lake. Portage Lake in Manistee County has provided some great Perch action over the past week. Most larger fish are being caught on the west side of the lake. Finding hump and changing the depth slightly varies, from 18-25 feet has held most fish species. All traditional tactics for perch have been fishing. Minnows, spikes, jigs, and tip-ups have been the most popular. Lake Mitchell has endured large amounts of water deposited on the ice surface over the past two days. Winds and warming weather have melted recent snowfall that has made fishing conditions very wet and uncomfortable. The ice thickness is still very good. The crappie bite was good in 10-11 feet of water around the isolated depression. Tungsten black tipped with spikes was the best. We at Sport Fish Michigan expect many safe and successful days in this 2016 season. With that in mind, we encourage all anglers to take this report as reference and not as a guarantee. Ice conditions vary according to the weather pattern. It is always good to use your best judgment and always check the tape with a good spud and a friend! Tight line - we look forward to fishing with you! Benzie, Grand Traverse, Manistee, and Wexford County 50 degrees and sunny! That's not exactly what we call the weather doing good ice! We at Sport Fish Michigan would like to take the time to caution all anglers watching this report. The current warming trend has had a quite large impact on most of the lakes listed below. The coast is rapidly deteriorating and the majority of lakes have a large amount of standing water. Most of all the lakes still have a good amount of safe ice - just very slushy conditions. Looking at next week's forecast, it looks like some colder temperatures will come. We hope this will lock the coast back and create a good hard surface to fish on. We ask that all anglers take nothing for granted and use extreme caution when getting back on the water in the coming weeks. If you've used all kinds of off-site vehicles last week, it doesn't necessarily mean it can be done this week. Considering all the recent variables, here's the latest ice report... Crystal Lake in Benzie County was eventually 100% locked out. Before the warm spell of the past two days, Crystal had formed 3-4 inches over the entire western end. But with warmer temperatures, we encourage all fishing people to stick to the eastern end and fish for shallow apartments in Beulah until further notice. The ice at the eastern end is 7-10 thick and the perch action has been very good. The best fishing was found in 35 feet of water. Fluorocarbon perch rigs have been the best work. Long Lake in Benzie County is fishing well. Pike's working. The best bites were from daylight to around 10am .m. Pick back from 12:00-2:00 p.m. Golden Minnows on tip-ups with regular artificial decays under the spear are the best bet. Most fairly consistent with last week's report. Perch is starting to become a little more aggressive with bites before laying eggs gradually begins. Most of the perch caught in school is small, but anglers are getting some big fish flying solo routes on 15-17 leg breaks. Walleye fishing is slow, with most fish coming out of tip-ups and jigging Rapalas in 18-22 feet. Lake Ellis, Lake Dubonnet, Spiders and Lake Arbutus have secure ice. Recent warming trends have added a lot of slush to some areas of these lakes. Use caution when veneering out. The fish bite pan has leveled in a slight mid-winter low. Some fishing people are looking for active pockets of Bluegills in the deeper parts of each lake. Small tungsten presentations with spines are working well. Pike was operating in shallow apartments and weedy contours mostly keying in on Sucker Minnows. Green Lake in Grand Traverse County has been offering some great synful fishing. Sedation was active after dark, mainly eating waxworms and Hali Jigs. Perch fishing has been good for some anglers in 60 feet of water. Pike fishing on grassy flats and drop-offs was pretty good as well. Most anglers have had success using larger presentations. Long Lake in Grand Traverse County is still producing good catches. Walleye being caught is being averaged 13 to 18 inches. Catching goalkeeper has been difficult for most anglers. Perch, on the other side, was running big. Jumbos are caught at the same depth as most Walleyes. This depth was 20-35 feet. Small Jigging Rapalas worked best for Walleye. Wigglers and Blue Minnows were going to for Perch. With recent weather, we ask all fishing people to use caution on Long Lake. Skegemog Lake still produces perch's nice catch. More mature fish are starting to show feeding patterns before laying eggs. Most anglers have reported larger fish and consistent numbers of women. The best fishing hasn't arrived yet! Guides at SFM are excited to take advantage of these hungry jumbos in March! Lake Portage in Manistee County has been consistent throughout the winter. Anglers have acted better on Walleye in the past week. Walleye was most active in 25-35 feet, feeding at first and last light. Perch of different sizes depends on the school and lake location. Larger, mature perch have been actively fed in 17-25 feet of water. These fish are very difficult and have been caught on small and large presentations. Big Blues on tip-ups with size 12 treble hooks with light fluorocarbon leadership were effective. Other anglers have had equally compelling bite success with small tungsten jigs. Electronics were key while jigging adult fish; most ongoing attacks 2-4 feet are suspended off the bottom. Lake Mitchell and Cadillac Lake have slowed down. Before the recent warm spell, the slush finally freezes solid on both lakes. Most mermaids have liked Lake Mitchell in the last two weeks crappie bites better. 10-11 feet of water held active, higher concentrations of fish. We at Sport Fish Michigan expect many safe and successful days in this 2016 season. With that in mind, we encourage all anglers to take this report as reference and not as a guarantee. Ice conditions vary according to the

weather pattern. It is always good to use your best judgment and always check the tape with a good spud and a friend! Tight line - we look forward to fishing with you! Crystal Lake has seen quite a bit of fishing pressure on the ice in the last few weeks since it has frozen over. With a lot of good solid ice, measuring an average of 9, the mermaid can fish wherever they want. Perch fishing has been the most amazing day, with regular slow days here and there. Perch rigs have been well produced when caught in waters anywhere from 24 to 35 feet. White fish and lake salmon are starting to be caught, but they have not moved up shallow yet. Anglers have the most success is fishing anywhere from 100 to 150 feet of water. The act of swaying is heating up in earnest, and reports are that some mermaids already have over 150 evenings/nights slung when fishing for these delicious fish. Long Lake has a lot of ice, but the bite has slowed significantly by the end of the year. Walleye anglers still managed to head out a few here and there, but the walleye bite hot from a few weeks ago is over. Lake Leelanau, however, has taken recent steady walleye action in the Southern Lake. Anglers fishing at dusk both jigging and fishing tip ups have seen the action. North Lake Leelanau has been very poor so far. Big Glen Lake has been producing some spotty perch-perch action that has been caught in good size, even if the numbers have not been high. Little Glen has had better perch numbers over the past week or so. Small jigs tipped with deep wax or wigglers when they can be purchased are manufactured as standard perch rigs with minnows. Portage Lake had some great perch action for some anglers, and terrible perch action for others. From the sound of things, the fishing people are willing to move a lot and chase schools as the fishing people are looking for success. Fishing people with a more fixed approach are looking for bites next to impossible. Standard perch rigs or small jigs tipped with spikes or wigglers are the best bet. Further south, Lake Muskegon has been mostly a dud despite reports to the contrary. Anglers have struggled to find not only perch, but also to get them bitten. Thick ice-fishing people who are also familiar with Lake Muskegon's perch fishing have even found bites difficult. Other lakes and rivers in the area: Crappie, pike, walleye and good-sized perch are being caught on inland lakes. Steelhead fishing pressure is low, making this a great time to beat the crowd. Hamlin Lake: crappie, and perch is under arrest. Cadillac Lake: While bluegill, crappie bites have been slow, pike fishing has been good for tip-ups and teacher anglers. Some walleye and perch are of good size. Lake Charlevoix: A large pressure crack is formed around the drop off at 95 feet. Lake Missaukee: Perch, bluegill, and crappie are all being successfully targeted. Lake Mitchell: The mermaids have targeted perch, pike, bluegill and crappie. Perch anglers are getting the best results by moving to find schools of fish activity. Manistee River: Steelhead fishing on Manistee is providing a great way to get away from the crowds on the lake. Pere Marquette River: While the steel head bite was good, the cooling temperature will likely slow down the bite. Ice Fishing Report: Current ice conditions remain safe for the most part, with many vehicles ejected from the ice still. Over the weekend saw dozens of pickup trucks, SUVs and even an open top out on grand traverse bays, where the ice is about 16 inches thick. While ice remains mostly safe, warm temperatures at the start of the week are made for some softer, slushy conditions, but still more than a foot of drilling can ice on the bay. The current cold snap should have slush freezing back over, as there is little or no snow on top of the Bay. Where there is snow covered with ice, expect slushy traction. With high winds expected, as always, caution should be exercised when traveling or fishing near any pressure cracks. Inland lake ice is thicker than ice on the Bay, but this recent warm, sunny weather has snow on top of slightly slushy ice. The cold midweek temperatures may not freeze the slush where snow insulating it from above. Snowmobiles and ATVs are normal vehicles seen on inland lakes, but this slush can change that quickly. As always, a conservative approach should be taken when venturing out into the ice. GT. Bay: Fishing has been very good as of late. Whitefish bites on the Grand Traverse Bay have been slightly hit or missed, but when they can be found, bites can last most of the day. Lake salmon and burbot action has been hot through ice as of late. Burbot is breeding, and it was fun cashing in on the hot bite for this amazing fish eat. Rumours are being heard that there has been a good yellow perch bite in parts of the bay, with large perch caught. Anglers scoring these jumbos is pretty tight-lipped about the exact locations, but the normal points are likely the best bet. Last weekend was windy, but with a shanty to help break the wind, fishing was great for many fishing people, with almost anything falling under the ice. Inland Lakes: Fishing has been good on some of the inland lakes for late ice walleyes. The typical tip-up and jigging settings have been the keys to favorite side tables. Golden perch has been a little harder to come across in good numbers, but every day is different, and when schools move through the break lines, it can score good points with a variety of baits. Whitefish and salmon pools have been added stingy bit as of late, but action expected to heat up again before the ice comes out. Syng on some inland lakes known for their syng fishing like Crystal Lake has been good. Anglers were able to catch quite a few of the fan favorites. Favorite.

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